

LAST COPY

BULLETIN

St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League of New York



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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS

By HENRY J. ANDERSEN, S.J.

"HE hath accomplished much in a short time." This has often been said of the Saints of God. Truly may we say it of St. Ansgar's League. Twenty-five years is a short time in the life of a Christian who measures his span of years by Eternity. We realize this as we look back over space of time and recall the pleasing countenances of those we knew and loved in St. Ansgar's League and who have passed to their eternal reward in the intervening time since its foundation. As to that estimable gentleman, Mr. Frode C. W. Rambusch, the League's first President, who was inspired to be the founder by the idea communicated to him by Rev. Erik A. Wang of Bergen, Norway, how well we recall the pioneering spirit that possessed him to overcome the handicaps and difficulties of those early days. We remember how he summoned the first meeting, consisting of a handful of Norwegians and Danes on that memorable feast of St. Ansgar, February 3, 1910. A humble beginning it is true, and one that would have discouraged a man of lesser stature than Frode Rambusch. All honor to his memory. Nor ought we forget His late Eminence, John Cardinal Farley, and His Excellency, the late Bishop of Brooklyn, Charles E. McDonnell, who by their inspiration and approbation gave impetus to our infant beginnings. Nor the kind Paulist Fathers, who as it were, provided the cradle and swaddling clothes of the League when they offered the use of the Guild House for its birth. We mentioned previously that the first meeting consisted of Norwegians and Danes, but it was not long before its first Swedish member joined the League, in the person of Mr. Gustave Lindner. Here it is only just to recount the remarkable service this good gentleman rendered the League in its early days. And so we might go on during the years, recalling the devotion

shown the League by its officers, Mr. Albert Straith, faithful Treasurer for a number of years, a sterling example of zeal and faithfulness to duty, Mr. Alexander Amann, its first Secretary, and its first Spiritual Director and warm friend, the late Rev. Frederick M. Lund, a priest of the Diocese of Brooklyn, and the second Spiritual Director, Rev. Louis O'Hara, C.S.P. As the League grew it moved to other more spacious quarters, and today it meets regularly, through the kindness of the Jesuit Fathers at Campion House, in New York's upper West Side. Nor did the officers do their work unassisted. Inspired by zeal for souls several faithful members have followed the League from its infancy. Mrs. Karen-Elise Rambusch, second President, and since 1924 Editor of the Annual Bulletin, an untiring worker for the Faith among Scandinavians who has contributed generously of her time and energy, despite the handicap of ill-health; Father La Farge, former Spiritual Director and now Director of Programs, whose great charity and ability have given added impetus to the spread of the work, and last but not the least the incumbent President, the energetic Mr. Viggo Rambusch, son of the founder and first President. Truly much has been accomplished by these and many others too numerous to mention. Today there are branches of the League in La Crosse, Wis., and Minneapolis, Minn., the founding of which was largely the work of the Rev. George Esterguard, a zealous priest of Big Stone City, S. Dak., who is working without any recompense from the League, and with only the grace of God as his reward, ample enough for one so truly an Apostle. How could Our Divine Lord, through the intercession of His Apostle, St. Ansgar, fail to shower blessings on the travail



(Continued on page 5)

QUEEN ASTRID

By JOHN LAFARGE, S.J.

THE untimely death on August 29, 1935, near Küssnacht, in Switzerland, of Astrid, Queen of the Belgians, born October, 1905, was an incident to arouse sympathy in any kindly heart. Anyone with humanity in their veins will grieve that a young mother of three fine children, a loving and beautiful wife, vibrant with affection, health, and joy of living, should be instantly blotted out of the book of life as the result of a cruel automobile accident. Since the Queen's mother country, Sweden, and the land of her adoption, Belgium, happen both to be monarchical countries where an extraordinary amount of popular affection is centered upon the reigning ruler, it is also natural enough that both peoples should have been plunged into instant grief. There was no feigning in the outpouring of sorrow and condolence that rose in either land as the result of the tragedy.

When in Belgium, Holy Communion was received by 120,000 young men for the late Queen's soul and for the comfort of her bereaved husband it was no conventional gesture, but a proof of an intense affection. This adherence Astrid had gained among a people who are far from being impressionable, indeed one of the most critical peoples in the world, by her devotion to their interests, by her exemplary life, and by her loyalty to the teachings and practice of the Catholic religion which she had embraced subsequent to her marriage with the young Prince of Brabant before 1934 when his royal father's death—also the result of a tragic accident—placed Prince and Princess upon the throne.

As was mentioned at the time that Queen Astrid's memory was celebrated in this country by the Requiem Masses offered by St. Ansgar's League for the repose of her soul, Scandinavian Catholics felt a particular grief at her departure. Although not actually reigning in any of the Scandinavian countries, she was nevertheless the first crowned head of those lands to profess the old religion of the North since Queen Christina of Sweden. Nor was it in any way a "State conversion," if such a thing could be thought still to exist, but a genuine acceptance of Catholicism free from every form of moral, social, or political pressure that might be brought to bear upon her. She was married honorably and joyously as a non-Catholic to the young Catholic Prince, with all the recognition that the Church can give to such a marriage and in friendly relations to her family and associates of both lands. Her conversion was a personal affair. Had it never occurred, she would have remained a Queen honored and beloved by people, Church and State.

That this conversion took place without placing any cloud upon Astrid's cordial relations with her people and relatives in Sweden, was indeed an augury of that newer and more tolerant attitude towards things Catholic which is gradually making headway in Scandinavian countries, one manifestation of which was the invitation recently extended by Sweden's King to the Briggittine nuns in Rome to return to the land of their great Foundress.

Americans may say, "All this talk of kings and queens is good enough for people on the other side of the water. After all, they are just people like ourselves, and Abraham Lincoln was of the opinion that God was not so much concerned with the aristocracy as with the common people, since He made so many of them." I am ready to grant all this,

being an unreconstructed democrat; I have no desire to see any more monarchy in the world than now exists, least of all this side of the ocean, yet I believe that the short life of that gracious lady has a lesson for all of us, and that we need be no monarchists to appreciate it.

The lesson was that she managed to keep intact the purity and simplicity of family life under the terrific pressure of the modern world. The pressure was indeed terrific for the two of them. The late King Albert of Belgium set a standard of "professional" devotion to his King's job that kept everyone with him on their toes. The son inherited the spirit and methods of his father, and the young couple adopted the principles from the beginning that everybody, important and unimportant, who had any kind of business with the King could consult him freely and without the usual formalities. The doors of the great palace at Brussels flew open to anyone who had good reason for calling. But the couple did not live in the Grand Palais. They stayed out at Stuyvenberg or Laeken, where they kept their home life free from the atmosphere of intrigue, favoritism, worldly social scheming that proverbially characterizes royal courts. The King was passionately fond of outdoor sports and science; the Queen of hygiene and nursing, to which she had devoted special studies and practice as a girl in Sweden, and now could apply to the welfare of her own children as well as to that of her subjects. The house was piled with books and magazines, while the King played hide-and-seek with his children at their recreations, and got everybody into a gale of laughter.

In the summer they went to the seashore, near the Dutch border, where after the eight o'clock Mass they took a cup of coffee with the parish priest, and complimented the cook on her cakes. They played golf, went swimming, worked hard, prayed devoutly, and kept business and pleasure in sharply defined compartments. When there was a procession, the Queen stood on the street curb holding her Josephine-Charlotte by the wrists as the little girl craned forward to see the folk march by. They knew what their people expected them to do. They knew what God, Who had made them, expected them to do, and they did it with their whole heart and soul. I do not see what more you can ask of anyone.

To our Holy Father, Pope Pius XI, who sent to the bereaved Leopold III a sublime message of consolation, the latter replied, echoing the Pontiff's words, "I bow before the designs of Divine Providence." More he could not say. The blows of the Divine hammer are at times sharp, well-nigh beyond human endurance. But the design is that of the Resurrection, not of the Fall. In an age whose two dominant notes are the love of pleasure and the revolt from duty, it seems as if the Divine Builder had wished to enshrine forever the memory of devotion to duty and self-sacrifice in those circumstances where the example may be most widely seen, where there are naturally the most temptations for its neglect.

St. Ansgar's League and its friends pray that the example of this Catholic monarch may contribute to that restoration of morals without which there can be no restoration of faith, in Scandinavia or elsewhere. Also that her liberated soul may intercede for the lands of her parentage and of her wedded choice.

PRAY FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE SCANDINAVIANS



THE LATE QUEEN ASTRID OF THE BELGIANS

FRANCISCANS IN NORWAY (1230-1534?)

(Adapted from B. E. Bendixen: "Das Franziskanerkloster zu Bergen in Norwegen," in *Franziskanische Studien*,

Vol. I, pp. 204-230 (April, 1914).

By REV. VALENTINE MENKE, O.M.CAP.

ST. FRANCIS founded his first Order in 1209. Seven years later his friars crossed the Alps and by 1223 were in Denmark. In 1230 they most probably settled in Konghelle, a border town of Norway. By the middle of the century there were certainly two other monasteries, one at Tunsberg, a bustling commercial center, the other at Bergen, then the largest city. Later monasteries were set up at Trondhjem (Drontheim, Nidaros) and Marstrand (which with Konghelle now belong to Sweden). Another—the last—was built in Oslo, 1291 (Oslo was known for several hundred years as Christiania, but recently (1925) received back the old and more historic name).

The Norwegian friars formed the so-called Custody of Norway (established 1280). Its head (custos) together with those of the seven other custodies of the Scandinavian countries was subject to the Minister Provincial of the Province of Denmark (Dacia, Dacien); that is to say, the eight custodies make up the Province, which in 1517 reached the maximum number of twenty-two houses. The head of the monastery was called (as now) the guardian, but the friars, at least in Bergen, Oslo, Tunsberg, were dubbed "The Bare-footed" ("Barfotmuhne") and later "The Grey Brothers" because of their grey habits ("Graabrodre"). This last name for them was also common in Denmark and Germany.

The history of the Franciscans in Norway is woefully incomplete and characterized by many omissions; this is true even of their most important, largest and most flourishing monastery, the one in Bergen. One of the wettest spots on earth is Bergen; it rains there over two hundred days in the year. It is still a great seaport and fish market, but in the days of the friars it was the largest seaport in Norway, and the fish market for most of Europe, furnishing, as it did, dried fish for Fridays and the ember weeks. The city was built almost entirely around the harbor. It had, what was unusual but perhaps not in Norway, three churches dedicated to the same Saint—the great King Olaf: the Church of the Dominicans near the north end—the entrance—of the harbor; the Church of the Franciscans on the south end; and not far away on a hill another, the oldest of them. To distinguish this church from that of the Franciscans it was designated as "paa Bakken" (on-the-hill), while the other was "i Vaagsbotnen" (on-inner-side-of-harbor). Furthermore, the Bergen burghers spoke of this church (the Franciscans) as "inn at broedra" (inside-with-the-Brothers) and of the Dominican Church as "ut at broedre" (outside-with-the-Brothers), since these last were also friars, or begging monks.

Both these churches as well as the monasteries nearby had been built with funds granted by King Haakon Haakonsson V, one of Norway's great kings. In 1262 he died in winter quarters in the Orkney Islands then a Norwegian possession; but the King of Scotland, Alexander III had claimed them and had won a battle against Haakon. His son Magnus Lagaboeter (Law-mender), also a warm patron of the friars, sent two of them to Scotland, Brothers Maurice and Sigurd,

to sue for peace; they were successful. King Alexander in turn sent two Scotch friars to Norway. Brother Maurice was sent again to Scotland. Magnus gave up the Orkneys in return for a small annual tribute. This Brother Maurice was probably a foreigner by reason of his name, which was not Norwegian. After returning from Scotland he accompanied a certain Baron Andres Nikulasson on a journey to the Holy Land. The Baron, however, died on the way and Maurice had to go on alone. Part of his journal (written in Latin) still survives, describing Spain, Syria, and Palestine. Back in Norway (1281) he was sent once more to Scotland, this time to ask for the hand of the Princess Margaret in favor of Prince Eric of Norway. But both parties were still children, so that Brother Maurice had to travel once more to Scotland—to get the marriage contract. Nothing further is known of this Franciscan, except that he was regarded as a man of great wisdom and wondrous ability.

King Magnus died 1280. According to his wish, his tomb was placed in the Church of the Franciscans in Bergen, though the greater part of his remains were to rest in the Cathedral there. There is now no trace left of his tomb; it probably was destroyed by fire. Magnus was the most generous benefactor the friars ever had; he is rather memorable for his donation of 700 marks (about 500,000 German marks).

The Franciscan Custos had his residence in the Bergen monastery and often also the Provincial (of Denmark). Brother Astrad, Provincial (1309-1312), came there so often that it is hard to find record of his having gone to any other monastery.

As in other countries, the friars acted as peacemakers, especially between the bishops, who quarreled frequently. However, Popes Alexander IV and Martin IV gave them so many privileges that they became quite independent of the authority of the bishops; so that for a time they were unpopular both with the bishops and the people.

It is certain that a school was attached to the monastery at Bergen, though all we know of it is the name of one Rector, Brother Thorias (Thorer), for 1312.

The fourteenth century presents an imposing list of benefactors, among which are King Magnus Eriksson, the Barons Gaute of Tolga and Bjarne Erlingsson of Bjarko, Madame Thorbjorg Endrid Simonson. In this century occurred the Black Death (1349-1350) which had such disastrous effects on the history of Norway, since, it is said, two-thirds of the people perished in it. There is not much recorded of the activity of the Franciscans. The Bishop of Bergen ordered a procession to be held for five days ending with Office and Mass for the alleviation of the plague; the friars had to march barefoot. The stations for the various days were: the Dominican Church (Wednesday); the Franciscan Church (Thursday); the Church of the Cistercian Nuns (Friday); the Benedictine Church (Saturday); the Cathedral (Sunday).

The Hanseatic League now quite powerful and rapidly

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growing more so brought German merchants and artisans but also priests and friars to Norway; it also founded the Guild of St. Catherine and St. Dorothy, using the churches of the Franciscans and Dominicans for services. It seems that the church of the latter friars was more frequented because of its altars in honor of the patron saints of the Guild. Generous alms were however given to both Orders, such as flour, malt, Norwegian beer ("Mungått") and money.

For the fifteenth century the names of only three guardians have been preserved, Germans all, according to their names: Gerlak Gutter, Johannes Nyster, Lodevik Franke. Fire attacked monastery and the church in 1463 or 1464, but its ravages must have been repaired because a chapter (assemblage) of the Province of Dacia was held under the leadership of Friar Stephen Laurentsson. In 1488 another fire occurred, but the friars were too poor to repair the damage and there were no alms forthcoming. By 1536 the walls were so weak as to require bracing.

Then came the Reformation. The Franciscans had to go; it is not known when, perhaps 1534. At least they were no longer in Bergen when Geble Pederson, the first Lutheran bishop arrived; he selected the Church of the Dominicans as his cathedral. In succeeding years, one wing of the Franciscan monastery was used by the bishops as a residence; twice

it was damaged by fire; in 1837 what remained of the building was used as part of the material for the Cathedral school. The Franciscan Church is still well preserved though much altered in construction; its style of architecture was made an English gothic in 1880-1882.

The Second Order of St. Francis (Poor Clares, Clarissas, Colletine Nuns) was never established there; Sweden had at least one Poor Clare convent and I think Denmark had more. The Capuchins (a reform branch of the Franciscan Order; there also Capuchinesses) never reached Scandinavia because of the violence of the Reformation; the Capuchins were founded in the sixteenth century. An earlier reform (the Observantine—fourteenth and fifteenth century) found its way to Norway and the other two countries.

Seventy years ago, near the school in the former monastery garden, the seal of the Franciscans was found and placed in the Bergen Museum. On its face can be seen the figure of Christ the King with an adoring angel on each side. The inscription reads: "Seal of the Convent of the Friars Minor of Bergen."

Transcript June 13

CHURCH IN DENMARK IS MAKING PROGRESS

(N. C. W. C. News Service)

PARIS, June 13.—Denmark, the smallest of the Scandinavian countries, is showing the greatest progress in Catholicism. Whereas there are some few thousand Catholics in Norway and Sweden, Denmark now has about 25,000. This is a small minority compared with the total population of 3,500,000, but the constant progress gives high hopes for the future.

This optimistic note was sounded by a young Danish-born priest, Father Geertz Hansen, in an address delivered at the International Foyer for Catholic Students here.

From the ninth to the sixteenth centuries Denmark was a Catholic country. In 1526 Frederick I, King of Denmark and Norway, implanted Protestantism in the country and, in 1600, it was regarded as the most Protestant country in all

Europe. For two and a half centuries Protestantism was the only religion tolerated.

In the last twenty years, Father Hansen said, the number of Catholics in Denmark has doubled, thanks to the untiring and devoted efforts of eighty to eighty-five priests.

The ecclesiastical territory is divided into thirty-two parishes, but counting hospitals and convent chapels, there are about one hundred churches and the generosity of the faithful permits the construction of a new church annually. The apostolate has been exercised in Denmark through the conversion of the elite and corporal works of mercy. The conversion of such a renowned writer as Johannes Joergensen had a wide effect upon the attitude of the Danish people. The hospitals served by six hundred Sisters are among the most modern in Europe.

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(Continued from page 1)

of this little body. And here it is not amiss to say a word about the numerous co-workers of other nationalities, who have seen the work of God in the League and with great charity have taken the sweet yoke upon them of bringing Scandinavian souls to Christ. With such a worthy objective, namely, the religious, social and intellectual improvements of its members and the conversion of Scandanavia, is it any wonder that the work has been carried on with enthusiasm, charity and devotion. Realizing too, as the members do, that they are answering Christ's thirst for souls, as

members of His Mystical Body, they daily share in the graces that flow through the Heart of Christ and recognize with humble acknowledgment that whatever success has been theirs has been the result of His Grace and Love. May His Devoted Servants in St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League behold in the coming twenty-five years a growth one hundredfold as great as that He has vouchsafed to these loyal Scandinavian members of His Church. *Ad Multos Annos!*

HENRY J. ANDERSEN, S.J.,
Spiritual Director of St. Ansgar's League.

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LETTER ON FINLAND

(This beautiful letter had to be carried over from last year for want of space.)

November 3, 1934.

DEAR EDITOR:

Once again it is a pleasure to submit my annual report of the work for the Finns which the St. Ansgar's League has entrusted to me.

How often do we hear of the missions in far-off China, in dark Africa, and even among our own people here in the United States. Only a few days ago I listened to an ardent and zealous young priest speaking on his missionary labors in the Korean missions. During his talk the thought came to me, if only a little more zeal and interest could be aroused "to bring the glad tidings" to the Finns, who are so badly in need of the true Faith, many conversions would probably result. The Finns would make excellent Catholics if prejudice and misunderstanding could be replaced by knowledge and understanding. A large number of the Finns have a fair education and it is very rare to find one who does not read and write his own language. According to educational statistics, 98 per cent of the adult population are able to read. This is the highest percentage of literacy found in any nation of the world, even higher than that of the United States. It is deplorable that such an educated and intelligent people should be without the true Faith which is the source of all true education, and that they should be outside of the Church of Christ, which is the only safe guide to the intelligence.

During the Middle Ages, Finland was a Catholic country with churches and schools where the mysteries of the Faith were explained and taught to the faithful by the priests of God, and with monasteries and convents where holy monks and nuns toiled and prayed for the spiritual and the temporal welfare of the land. There was a native priesthood which is so essential to every country in order to fully win the people to the Church. Many of these were holy and pious men who sacrificed their lives and talents in the service of God by directing their fellow men in the spiritual life. The most famous of these priests and bishops of Finland was Maunu Tavast. (See BULLETINS 27 and 28.)

How is it then that Finland at present is almost entirely Protestant? The answer is the same as in so many other countries at the time of the Protestant Reformation. The princes and the rulers of the land saw in the reformers an excellent tool for their own ambitions. Many of these princes were worldly-minded, over-ambitious, selfish men to whom the Catholic religion was a burden to be gotten rid of in order to more easily gratify their own desires. The Catholic Church was their greatest enemy because she alone did not fear to point a stern and bold finger of reproach at their gross vices. The Church had to be destroyed at any cost. The Reformers were invited to do this.

When the Reformers began their work in Finland they soon found that their destructive work was not so easy as they had imagined. They had to be clever and work underhandedly. At first many of the outward forms of the Catholic worship were retained and only the real heart and soul of the worship, the Mass, was taken away. There still remain many Catholic practices and customs in the Finnish Lutheran Church. Baptism is absolutely essential for salvation, the Lord's Supper is common, the bans of marriage

are published before a marriage, the mother is churched in many instances, private confession is desired usually when in danger of death.

It is a joy that all signs point to a second spring of the Faith in Finland and among the Finns. In 1923 Monsignor Buckx was consecrated the first Bishop of Finland since the Protestant Reformation. On May 17th of the present year the second Bishop of Finland took up his duties to continue the work which the retiring Monsignor Buckx was leaving. The new Bishop is Guill. P. B. Cobben, a former pupil of Monsignor Buckx.

During the thirteen years that Monsignor Buckx has labored in Finland much has been accomplished to make the Catholic Church better known. The beginnings of a Catholic school is to be found there with a half dozen Sisters as teachers; literature has been printed, including a periodical, which appears every two months, and Catholic organizations have been started.

As a sign of the growing Faith among the Finns here in America, as well as in Finland, I shall mention the conversions which have come to my attention during the past year. One of the converts of the past year whom I am happy to report is Arthur Clopatt of Helsingfors, Finland. Mr. Clopatt is an old friend of St. Ansgar's League. He has been in correspondence with the league for several years and translated the article entitled "The Catholic Church in Finland," which appeared in the BULLETIN of 1932.

A letter from Lynden, Wash., informs me of the conversion of a young married woman. The letter was accompanied by a request for Finnish Catholic literature which the writer wished for her mother. A selection of literature was sent for which the recipient was very grateful, since her mother can read only Finnish.

Two other conversations have been reported to me but I am not familiar with the personal details of the cases, so I cannot say anything about them.

On August 31st a young sister of mine was received into the Church at Boston College Chapel. She studied at the college the past two summers and while there became interested in the Church. One of the Jesuit professors gave her her course of instructions during the winter months.

Among my correspondents has been Raymond Cadwallader, S.J., of Montreal, Canada. He has shown his usual interest in the Finns. This Jesuit student expects to be ordained within a year or so. He is known to the readers of *America*, *The Commonweal* and *The Catholic World*, through the articles which he has contributed to these periodicals.

Let us hope that the Church of Christ will again soon be known in Finland, where once to be Christian was to be Catholic.

O, glorious St. Henrik, Patron of Finland, thou who first didst plant the seeds of Faith in this northern country and watered them with thy holy blood, renew once more thy apostolate. Nourish with thy prayers the Faith which thou didst plant so that it may spring forth once more from the soil barren so long, bloom, and bear abundant fruit for the Heavenly Master.

Yours sincerely,

FANNY M. LAITINEN.

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ITEMS OF INTEREST

ON the eleventh of April, the Right Rev Superiors for Central and North Norway, Rev. Patres Cyprian Witte and Johannes Starke were appointed Apostolic Prefects with rank and privileges of Prothonotaries Apostolic, the highest prelate class after bishops. With great joy this was learned by the Catholics in the entire Norway, and considered recognition of the splendid work the two prelates had done since taking charge of their districts three years ago. The members of St. Ansgar's League send their respectful congratulations to the two Prefects Apostolic.

The Scandinavian countries have been noted for their distinguished converts in recent years. Prof. D. Herman Lange, of Erlangen, as reported in the *Lutheran News Bulletin*, expressed the fear this summer that the Nordic countries were abandoning their spiritual life with Germany and were turning to Anglicanism. "Not Wittenberg, but Canterbury, is the place which is attracting the attention of the Northern Churches and their theologians." But Canterbury, in Pro-

fessor Lange's opinion, was but a stepping stone to Rome. The religious conflicts in Germany have helped to turn Scandinavian religious thought more and more toward their ancient religion, to which Queen Astrid had returned before her untimely death.

In Sønderborg, Denmark, the St. Liobe Sisters have settled with the aim in view to erect a baby home for Catholic orphans and thus save these little souls for the Faith. At present, the Sisters of whom one is a native of Denmark, are unable for lack of funds to build the necessary crèche and have opened a temporary boarding house for ladies, but their grand hope is to get their infants asylum. Donations for this purpose may be sent to Rev. Knud Ballin, Kongevej 27, Sønderborg, Denmark.

A second branch of St. Ansgar's League has been opened in Minneapolis, Minn. A report by Rev. G. Esterguard will be found elsewhere in the BULLETIN.

IMPORTANT

ON February 3rd, St. Ansgar's League had been in existence for twenty-five years. As we said in our last year's BULLETIN, we look back on the time passed with gratitude and look forward with hope. God has been with us. We have distributed much apologetic literature in the Scandinavian languages, we have answered many inquiries from far and near, we have sent out our annual BULLETIN for which we have received much credit, and we have seen two branches of St. Ansgar's League founded out West in La Crosse, Wis., and Minneapolis, Minn.

All this seems to prove that Our Lord considers St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League worth while. But our membership list is not long, and as we wish to avoid calling upon our friends for Bridges, etc., to replenish our finances, it has

been necessary to call upon the few members, who are able, to cover the annual deficit. The great expense we have in the printing of the BULLETIN and the purchase of the Scandinavian apologetic literature. The BULLETIN goes out in 600 copies. We have three memberships open for our friends to join: Life membership, regular membership, and subscribing or associate membership. This last is only \$1.00 a year, and if we could have this membership from only 300 of the 600 who receive the BULLETIN we could in connection with the regular members, \$3.00 a year, see our way clear to balance our budget. It is our sincere prayer that we may obtain this wonderful addition to our membership. Send in your name to our Secretary, Mr. Arthur Andersen, 435 76th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.

REVIEW OF YEAR FROM PRESIDENT OF LA CROSSE UNIT

IN March, 1936, the La Crosse Branch of the St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League will celebrate its second birthday. We plan to get together at dinner and invite our Bishop Alexander J. McGavick, our Auxiliary Bishop William P. Griffin, and our Spiritual Director Rev. Leo P. Hirt as honored guests. We shall have an election of officers and present a program for the year 1936-1937.

We have held meetings monthly, including summer months, in the Knights of Columbus Building. We have been operating without payment of dues. An occasional card party has made it possible to become self-supporting—to pay our rent and other small expenditures from time to time.

Our meetings have taken on the discussion plan almost entirely. Our Spiritual Director speaks on some rather controversial topic and our members derive untold good from his explanations. The last two meetings, for instance, were taken up by discussions on Lay Investitures, and the status of the situation in Europe at the time of the Truce of God.

May I take this opportunity of telling what I believe to be our greatest value as an organization and that is, our field work, as it were. I have prepared a collection of clippings, bulletins, and sketches of my own composition, and send it from place to place, as asked for. For instance, the packet has just been returned to me from a young seminary student whom our diocese is educating at St. Francis Seminary, Milwaukee. Among others, a young man from La Crosse, whose father is a Norwegian convert, and our Bishop McGavick has requested him to prepare himself particularly to be ready to work among Scandinavians upon ordination. A member of the faculty at the seminary is Reverend Pater Leo Johnson, who while not himself a convert, is the son of a Scandinavian, and he it was who asked for whatever I had that would tell of the St. Ansgar's League. I sent the package to Austin, Minn., and another is on the way to Racine, Wis., and so it goes. I have inquiries from San Diego to Ohio and I am planning that our group will be able to spend

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a little money more efficiently on this sort of extension work for the coming year. I have thought we might contract for quite a few copies of the BULLETIN for use this way, although I find that the earlier ones—particularly the one that carries the story of the death of Rev. Frederick Lund, etc., might serve us best. My idea would be to get more reprints of some of the earlier numbers. Maybe this is not possible.

We have a most interested and interesting group included in our branch. Our numbers are growing, and only this week I have had three more members listed—by that is meant that

our officers call upon them and tell them of the society and ask them to meet with us, calling for them and making them feel at home.

I feel personally our League is a vital part of Catholic Action as developed in our diocese, and I am happy to have had a part in its work.

Very sincerely and with best wishes,

MRS. JOHN F. (CLARA JACOBSEN) DOHERTY, President,
St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League.

ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE IN MINNEAPOLIS, MINN.

By REV. GEORGE ESTERGUARD, Big Stone City, S. Dak.

OF recent date it was requested that the writer submit a summary of facts relating to the beginnings of this branch of the League for the forthcoming issue of the BULLETIN. The endeavor is to give a short sketch of the things which led up to, and resulted in the final establishment of this latest success of St. Ansgar's which portends an increment that should strengthen courage, and move to greater effort, all those who hold dear the spread of God's Truth to those who were so many years ago robbed of their priceless heritage, the Faith.

Ever since the present writer has been associated with St. Ansgar's League, he has realized the magnificent field that lay in the section that is commonly called the Great Northwest.

After being intimately interested in the work of the League for several years, and being called upon to assist in the foundation at La Crosse, Wis., it has been with deep concern that he has sought a similar establishment in the city of Minneapolis.

In view of this desire, the Most Rev. John Gregory Murray, Archbishop of St. Paul was approached. His Excellency received the suggestion most warmly and that very day, early in April this year, he personally made a search for a number of representative converts into whose hands the new League might be entrusted. Following a considerable number of calls he decided to centralize the work by selecting the parish of St. Stephen, in the heart of the city as headquarters, and appointed the Rev. Robert E. Cogwin, one of the assistants, as the spiritual director.

If only one were able to convey the enthusiasm of His Excellency, perhaps it would be possible to glean some measure of his pastoral zeal for the vast numbers of Scandinavians within his jurisdiction.

It should be realized that Minneapolis, of all the cities in the United States, is most distinctly Scandinavian. Humorously it has been said that many natives of Norway and Sweden have heard of Minneapolis before they knew the names of their own capitals. Seriously, however, this great city of half a million people has a very large Scandinavian population.

The greater part of the immigrants from the country of the Northmen settled in the Northwest and for hundreds of miles around the city of Minneapolis one finds sons and daughters whose antecedents are from the several Scandinavian countries. Danish, Norwegian and Swedish names actually predominate throughout Minnesota, Wisconsin, North and South Dakota, even extending into the neighbor-

ing States. Through all this territory will be found many who have embraced the Faith of their forefathers. It is to be doubted if there is a parish in the whole of this section that does not carry on its lists names that are unmistakably Scandinavian. Either these people are converts, or as often happens, the children of sincere Catholic parents whose conversion dates back, frequently, for decades.

In light of this situation, one can readily understand the harvest that is ready for the reaper, and His Excellency's happiness to find a means of approach to the problem that is presented.

A preliminary meeting was arranged to be held on April 24th, the Wednesday after Easter. To this meeting all those contacted were invited, the purpose of the League was explained to them, and they were urged to give of their time and energy to advance the cause of Mother Church.

One cannot describe the sincerity of that little band who undertook to introduce the work of St. Ansgar's League in this new field. The command of the Archbishop was hardly needed to make them more earnest. It was decided to postpone the official opening until Fall to permit the gathering of others who might wish to join as Charter members of the new organization. A second meeting, to continue the preparation, was held in May and adjourned until Fall, continuing the opening until that time.

In October was held the first official business meeting at which the officers were elected, and thus the inception of an authorized branch meant that the League had found root in the fertile field which will perhaps give great harvest.

Rather than risk the harmful effect of a large gathering, which might include many indifferent persons, the policy of personal contact has persisted that those who join might have an intimate interest, which it is hoped will result in a deeper concern for the life and works of St. Ansgar's League.

True, the foundations in Minneapolis is still in its infancy, but it is established upon the quality, rather than the quantity of its members, to carry on and extend the objects of the League. God's assistance is most certain to give an abundance of fruit, and they are satisfied to bear the burdens of the day and the heats, if only they are permitted to be a part of the active Lay Apostolate. The prayers of the members, all over the world, are asked that God, if it be His Holy Will, might bless this latest foundation and give it His Divine Guidance. This root which has been planted needs cultivation until it will be able to spread its branches in the sun.

PRAY FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE SCANDINAVIANS



ST. CANUTE, PATRON OF DENMARK



ST. ANSGAR, PATRON OF THE NORTH



ST. OLAF, PATRON OF NORWAY

YOU ARE CORDIALLY INVITED TO BECOME A MEMBER OF ST. ANSGAR'S SCANDINAVIAN CATHOLIC LEAGUE OF NEW YORK, TO ASSIST IN ITS GREAT WORK OF BRINGING THE FAITH OF OUR FATHERS BACK TO SCANDINAVIA, AND TO SHARE IN ITS BENEFITS

DENMARK, Norway, Sweden, Finland, Greenland, Iceland and the Faroe Islands were at one time great Catholic strongholds. Their population today is 18,000,000 and of this number 31,000 are Catholics; surely a fertile field for the spread of the faith among a cultured people whose countrysides are rich with old Catholic convents, churches and cathedrals.

St. Ansgar's League has six monthly meetings during the Fall, Winter and Spring, at which communications, reports and papers of interest are read. These meetings are combined with our social gatherings.

A beautiful Bulletin is published yearly, entirely devoid of advertisements, and in this are found summaries of the League's activities, a synopsis of events in Catholic Scandinavia, as well as articles on current and early Catholic history.

The League was started in New York at the suggestion of Cardinal Farley twenty-five years ago, and in recent years has received personal letters of encouragement and

bleasing from the Apostolic Delegate, His Excellency, the Most Reverend Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, D.D.; Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi; Cardinal Hayes; the late Cardinal van Rossum, the late Prefect of the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome, and His Holiness, Pope Pius XI.

The progress of the Church in Scandinavia during the last few years has been very healthy and encouraging. You will truly be helping in a worth while cause in bringing back the Faith of Our Fathers to Scandinavia.

There are three kinds of membership available, Subscribing Member and Regular Member, for which the annual dues are \$1.00 and \$3.00 respectively, and Life Member \$100.00. All funds derived from payment of dues and donations are devoted exclusively to missionary work and to the purchase and distribution of apologetic literature.

Announcements of meetings and copy of the BULLETIN will be sent you regularly. On the Feast Days of the Patron Saints, Masses are said for the League and its members, as well as for its deceased members.



ST. HENRY, PATRON OF FINLAND

TEAR OUT AND MAIL COUPON

I should like to be enrolled in St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League as

- Associate Member \$ 1.00
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Checks may be mailed to
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 69 West Third Street, Bayonne, N. J.



ST. ERIC, PATRON OF SWEDEN

JOIN ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE

ENGLISH CATHOLICS FETED IN NORWAY

(From "Catholic Times" of London, August, 1935)

Holiday Party Welcomed by Isolated Co-Religionists

A GROUP of English Catholics just back from a tour of Norway and Sweden cherish the pleasantest memories of the reception accorded them during their journeyings.

Many are the holy shrines of these two countries, but few the Catholics; Norway having some 3,000 and Sweden only 4,000. The isolation of Catholics scattered over a territory several times larger than England can hardly be imagined.

Through the zeal of Mr. Percy Aldridge the little groups of Catholics in the principal centers had been notified of the coming of the pilgrims and the reception they gave to their brethren from Great Britain was exceedingly touching.

At Oslo we were entertained by the Vicar General and a multitude of his parishioners; at Hamar and Lille Hamar our arrival created the sincerest joy. At the latter place two of the priests accompanying the pilgrims, Dr. Arendzen and Father Rogerson, of Liverpool, were allowed by the courtesy of the public authorities to say Mass in an ancient wooden church of pre-Reformation times.

The church was once a fisherman's chapel on a small island, and was transferred to an open air museum containing ancient buildings in Norway. The famous writer, Sigrid Undset, was present at this historic gathering in which Norse songs mingled with English hymns.

The Dominicans in charge of Hamar and Lille Hamar receive encouragement and help from a valiant English lady, a Miss Scarre, who has resided over twelve years in the country.

In Sweden the English joined with the Swedes in a pil-

grimage to the island of Bjorko, some thirty miles from Stockholm, on the lake Malar. A private steamer took the party from the Capital to this distant island where St. Ansgar first preached the Faith in the ninth century. Although the weather was unfavorable, it was still possible to say Mass close to the spot where St. Ansgar landed. The Mass was sung by Father Rogerson. Father Giles Black, O.P., delivered a short but fervent address.

The party on return to Stockholm sent a telegram of homage to the Holy Father which he deigned graciously to answer with his special blessing.

Leaving Stockholm the party were entertained at the castle of the Count of Bjelke, a convert to the Catholic Faith and a man of foremost standing in the country. At Vadstena, the holy place of Sweden, where St. Bridget and St. Catharine lived, the pilgrims were privileged to say and hear Mass in the convent of the Bridgettines, who have just begun to revive the ancient glories of that historic place.

Both at Oslo and at Stockholm the British Ambassadors are Catholic. Our stay at Oslo was too short to make acquaintance with the representative of His British Majesty, but at Stockholm the Minister and his family most courteously entertained the party to tea.

The pilgrims are convinced that they have not only themselves profited by their varied experience, but that through the prestige of the British name, they have also helped their few scattered Scandinavian brethren.

NEWS FROM SCANDINAVIA

Sweden—The Brigittines in Rome have had a great experience inasmuch as four Indian Novices have been admitted into their Order.

Father W. Meijerinck, S.C.J., Pastor in Malmö, celebrated his silver jubilee in the priesthood on the 21st of May. A Solemn High Mass in the morning and a Parish festival in the evening when Father Meijerinck received his parishioners and many friends, together with large delegations from the outlying districts, filled the day. Dramatic sketches and music entertained the assembly. A gift from the parish, a sum of money to serve as a fund for aid to poor parishioners bears Father Meijerinck's name.

Delegations from all Catholic Youth Societies in Sweden met during the Feast of Pentecost in Gottenburg for a three day's conclave. About one hundred delegates came together. Solemn High Mass in St. Joseph's Church at which all the delegates received Holy Communion, banquet on the terrace of the Horticultural Society's Restaurant and excursion by steamer to the beautiful Archipelago near Gottenburg. Telegrams were sent to His Holiness, Pope Pius, and to their Bishop, and you can imagine the joy among the young folks when a telegram arrived from the Holy Father himself, in which he in amiable terms thanked them for their expressed felicitations and bestowed the papal blessing on the assembly.

The Corpus Christi Procession in Stockholm has year by year taken on the character of a feast for all the Catholics in the city and its suburbs. This year it attracted thousands of spectators, when the procession with its flags and banners slowly proceeded along the street near St. Eric's Church.

On Whitmonday was celebrated with great ceremony the fifth centenary of the dedication of Uppsala Cathedral. Whitmonday, 1435, the cathedral was dedicated by Archbishop Olaus Laurenti and stands even today in its original form, as one of the most beautiful churches of the North. It is dedicated to the Saints Laurentius, Eric of Sweden, and Olav of Norway.

At the death of Astrid, Queen of the Belgians, née Princess of Sweden, Bishop Muller ordered Solemn Requiem Masses to be sung in all the Catholic churches and chapels throughout Sweden. At the Requiem in St. Eugenia Church in Stockholm many members of the Royal Family attended, together with the Corps Diplomatique.

The yearly pilgrimage of the Swedish Catholics to St. Bridget's Shrine and town, Vadstena, had this year taken on an unusual aspect. This year for the first time they were received by St. Bridget's spiritual daughters, the Bridgettine nuns, who after more than three hundred years absence have

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returned to old Vadstena, location of their first monastery and mother house. For this event the Abbess of the Order arrived from Rome. The Abbess is the well-known Mother Elizabeth, and she was received enthusiastically by the many pilgrims from all over Sweden. (This event deserves a special essay, perhaps in the next number of the BULLETIN.) A field Mass was sung in the beautiful Convent garden, close to the old Monastery garden and the many pilgrims felt, in a way that was very convincing, that "history repeats itself."

Twenty English (some Scotch) pilgrims visited Sweden in August and took part in the yearly pilgrimage to St. Ansgar's Cross on the island of Björkö, Lake Malar, not far from Stockholm. Later they visited Uppsala and Gottenburg and the Bridgettine Convent at Djursholm, where the Superior, Mother Reginalda, is of English extraction.

Father Stephen Wullert, from 1931-1934 pastor of St. Mary's parish in Oscarstrom, Sweden, died in St. Sophia's Hospital in Sroda, Poland, the 24th of November, 1934. Born in Poland, he became priest for the Polish Catholics in South Sweden and pastor of St. Mary's. Much beloved by his flock, his passing away was deeply felt by all. *R. I. P.*

After thirty-five years of devoted and faithful service as teacher in the Catholic parish school in Malmö, Sister Desideria of the Grey Sisters' Congregation, passed to her reward in St. Elizabeth's Hospital in Malmö on November 16, 1934. Sister Desideria will long be remembered by the people of Malmö as the Sister "with the noble personality." A true friend of children, she spent a lifetime in the parish school and will never be forgotten by the many pupils once under her loving care. *R. I. P.*

In March Sweden lost one of its most distinguished Catholic laymen when Consul August Smitz, K.S.G., was called away in his home in Malmö. A lifelong member of the Catholic parish there, he took a keen interest in his church and its activities, always ready to lend moral and financial help. He was the founder and president of one of Sweden's largest manufacturing plants of its kind, the Malmö Wool Mills. He also served as director of the South Swedish Hydro-Electric Co., etc. His service to the Church was recognized by the Ecclesiastical Authorities when he was made a Knight in the Order of St. Gregory the Great by Pope Pius XI. *R. I. P.*

Norway—The Young Men's Catholic Association, "*Ora et Labora*," founded in Bergen by Rev. E. A. Vang on February 2, 1900, celebrated its jubilee this year on Sunday, February 10th, attended also by many of the older members. The celebration was introduced in real Catholic fashion with a three days' retreat conducted by Rev. Pater Hol.

The new church at Haugesund, finished and dedicated in 1933, has, during the Autumn of 1934, been decorated by the famous artist and convert, Gösta of Geierstam.

In June, the well-known convert, educator and writer, Lars Eskeland, was by King Haakon VII, created Knight of the Order of St. Olaf.

Rev. Johan Weirig (see BULLETIN No. 33), celebrated on April 23rd, his seventieth anniversary.

With great joy the Catholics of Norway learned that Miss Sigrid Öde, in the beginning of July, had received the King's gold medal of merit. If ever this, the greatest and most distinguished decoration came to adorn a worthy person, this was the time. Miss Öde, a convert to the Church, has, during thirty years, been the capable and indefatigable leader of the Society for the Protection of Women. This society which principally takes care of women who have served time, finds work for them and leads them to be useful citizens, has, during the leadership of Miss Öde, done wonders in touching the hearts of the poor souls who for some reason or other have landed on the shady side of life.

The St. Olav's Pilgrimage (Olsok) to Stiklestad on July 29th, this year, took on an especially festive aspect, as it was nine hundreds years ago St. Olav's Feast was instituted in Norway. His Excellency Bishop Mangers came from Oslo, brought the only existing relic of St. Olav with him and gave the principal speech. Right Rev. Msgr. Witte, Apostolic Prefect for Central Norway, was the host and the leader of the Pilgrimage, and said the Pontifical Mass at Stiklestad. Many people from all of Norway attended and the St. Olav's Union under its President, Bank Director Nils Parmann, having their general meeting in Trondheim in connection with the Pilgrimage, added to the greatness of the ceremony.

Rev. C. Risterer celebrated on August 2nd his golden sacerdotal jubilee. The venerable priest has spent all his priestly time in Norway, where, although born in Alsace, he was the first priest ordained in Norway since the Reformation. He was ordained in Trondheim. He has made himself known, not only within the confines of Norway, but also outside this country, by his writings, fighting for truth (see BULLETIN No. 27), and by his scientific studies of bee culture, etc. He was a favorite lecturer, and is now lector at the St. Joseph's Sisters' Novitiate in Sylling. He was the first to speak in favor of the revival of the old pilgrimages to Stiklestad, and gave the impulse to the erection of the pilgrimage-chapel there. (See BULLETIN No. 28.) He also this year attended the pilgrimage.

Rev. Pater Henri-Dominique Bechaux, O.P., was in July interviewed by a journalist from "*Tidens Tegn*." The interviewer was struck by the atmosphere of peace that met him in what he saw of the convent and the church, and in the whole aspect of the Pater himself. Père Bechaux celebrated his sacerdotal silver jubilee. He has used his lifetime well, studying law in Lille, Rheims and Paris, and social economy and sociology in England and Ireland. He wrote his thesis for his doctorate on the Irish Agrarian question in the beginning of the nineteenth century and it attracted much attention. This was in the year 1905, the same year he entered the Dominican Order, was ordained 1910, twenty-five years ago, and in 1924 he was sent to Norway as prior for the Dominicans in Oslo. He considers his task in Oslo:

First—To be spiritual guide for the Catholics.

Second—To drive away the prejudices against the Church.

Third—To work for the reunion in the Faith of all the Churches.

JOIN ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE

Rev. Pater A. Lutz, O.P., celebrated on September 29th, his sixtieth birthday. For ten years he has been in Norway, he learned the language, preached and lectured, and wrote the many wonderful books for the instruction of Catholics and non-Catholics.

May he be spared for many years yet for the elevation of all those who come into contact with him and his works.

On the 1st of November St. Ansgar's Church was dedicated in Kristiansand with great solemnity. For forty years before, Kristiansand had only a small chapel in the presbytery, now they have a beautiful church which has been made possible through the munificence of Miss Kneip, an old parishioner.

A new and hyper-modern St. Franciscus Hospital and a small St. Theresia Church have been inaugurated on November 17th in Hønefoss by Bishop Mangers. The Norwegian Order, the St. Franciscus-Xavier Sisters, will take care of the hospital.

Two well-known Catholics, bank director N. Parmann and director Rosasca, received the honor of being created Knights of the Order of St. Gregory the Great by His Holiness, Pope Pius XI.

At present a new hospital is being erected at Hammerfest. This will be the northernmost of all Catholic hospitals in the world.

Sister Philomena of St. Joseph's was called away in May, and Our Lady's Hospital in Oslo suffered a great loss. For thirty-two years she has given her untiring zeal to the hospital. She was born in Savoy in 1881 and took her eternal vows in the mother house of Chambéry and came to Norway in 1903, where she worked since. Her funeral was a wonderful testimony of the great love and admiration in which she was held far outside of the Catholic Church. *R. I. P.*

Denmark—The house, Kongevej 27, in Sønderborg, has been repaired and two priests have been appointed. This will be of the greatest consequence for the growth of the congregation, especially as one of the priests has an automobile which will make it possible to have regular church service and religious instruction of the children all around the district, in Graasten, Tønder, and Skaerbaek.

The Directress of the Home for the Crippled, Miss A. M. Speyer, has received the King's Gold Medal for Merit. Miss Speyer, who is a convert to the Church, has in the twelve years she has directed the Home, brought the institution forward to be one of the finest of its kind in Europe, if not the finest.

Mr. Albert T. Amann, member and benefactor of St. Ansgar's League, celebrated on the 29th of December, 1934, the seventieth anniversary of his birth. St. Ansgar's sends him, although somewhat late, the heartiest congratulations.

The pastor of St. Ansgar's Church, Copenhagen, Rev. Ph. von der Kettenburg, celebrated on the 10th of January his sixtieth birthday. Father von der Kettenburg came to Denmark in 1901, where he has worked since with great conscientiousness and love. May he still have many happy years before him!

On the 22nd of December, 1934, were ordained in the Lateran Basilica in Rome, two young priests who are already working in the Danish Apostolic Vicariate. They are Rev. Nicolaus Oppermann, native of Denmark, who has during several years been in correspondence with St. Ansgar's League, and Rev. Petrus van der Stock, born in Holland, who wishes to devote his efforts to the Mission of the Faeroes.

On the 3rd of January the first church of the Little Flower was commenced at Bernstorfsvej by the Sisters of the Assumption.

Danish Women's Catholic Union contemplates establishing a Home or Pension in Copenhagen for ladies and young girls. This would remedy a great want, and we feel certain that many tourists would feel very happy to make use of such an opportunity.

Rev. Gaud Schmiderer, C.S.S.R., has celebrated his seventy-fifth anniversary with great sympathy on the part of the parish of St. Albani Church, Odense, whose pastor he has been three times.

Danish Catholic Women's Union celebrated on February 20th its tenth anniversary. The Union has during these ten years under the most competent direction of its president, Mme. A. Utke Ramsing, made great progress, united almost the whole country's Catholic women Societies under its banner, formed study clubs, arranged lecture tours, and kept a watchful eye on the school books edited by the Department of Education and on laws that might offend Catholic morality. A great work by the Union is the Princess Margrethe's Vacation Home for Girls, Trørødhus, in which annually about sixty school children spend three weeks in two parties during summer time, and a score of younger children pass a couple of weeks before vacation begins. Retreats for adults are also given.

The ceremony, which was attended by his Excellency Bishop Brems, many ecclesiastics and circa 250 members of the Union who had come from far and near and whom the bishop called the "mulieres fortes." A splendid program commenced with a cantata, composed for the occasion by Rev. Dr. Andreassen and rehearsed and presented with great efficiency by Miss Ulla Andersen.

The evening's great event was the address by the bishop to Mme. Ramsing and the presentation to her of the gold cross of the papal decoration *Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice*. Mme. Ramsing in her beautiful speech of thanks for the distinction, expressed that she considered the decoration as given to the League. She addressed a special thanks to Mrs. Anna Backer from Oslo, whom she asked to accept the League's nomination as honorary member.

On March 13th five Sisters received the habit of St. Joseph at the novitiate on the Strandvej, six pronounced their first vows and ten the perpetual.

Pater Nösen, S.J., gave a retreat for men in Holy Week at St. Ansgar's Home for Boys in Horsens. It is the first time the Jutlanders have had the opportunity to attend a retreat in their own part of the country and nobody should be pre-

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vented from attending on account of the expense, as 5 Kr. is all the Brothers demand for the three day's stay at the Home.

Mr. Gunnar Garth-Gruner was on the 27th of April made honorary chamberlain to the Pope.

As successor to Rev. B. Jensen, who has been removed to Fredericia. Rev. Niels Hansen has been appointed pastor of the Rosary Church from June 20th.

The newly ordained Danish born priest, Rev. Father Oppermann, has been called as Chaplain to St. Ansgar's Church, Copenhagen, and Rev. Father Borghols as Assistant at the same church.

The Rev. S. Janssen, pastor in Nakskov, celebrated with great solemnity his sacerdotal silver jubilee on July 10th. The congregation did all in their power to make a real commemoration festival of the day for their beloved pastor.

Whitsunday became a great day for the Catholics in Vendsyssel, as on that day in Frederikshavn a chapel was dedicated to Our Lady. Before this the nearest Catholic place of service was Aalborg, where the Camilians have a beautiful St. Maria Church.

Rev. Johannes Maria Quaedvlieg, S.M.M., celebrated in perfect quiet on the 10th of July his sacerdotal silver jubilee. He came to Denmark in 1914 and has worked there since. In Roskilde, Ringsted and Slagelse, until in 1926, he was to the great joy of the parishioners returned to Roskilde as pastor, where he has displayed a great and blessed work. Under him began regular service in Taastrup.

Sunday, August 4th, in St. Joseph's Church the Bishop bestowed the tonsure and the two first ordinations to the following theologians: Georg Bertling, Anton Blomer, W. Noelke, Heinrich Doods and Joseph Vollenbroeker, all from the Seminary, St. Paulus in Munster, Westphalen, and the same ordinations to Frater August Dohle, S.J. (Stenosgade), while Fridolin Grobetz, who on March 24th, was appointed subdeacon, received the deaconate. Of these, the five first will after the end of their studies, work for the Danish Vicariate.

At present fifteen, mostly Danish born, students at different universities in Europe, intend placing themselves at the service of the Danish Bishop at the end of their studies.

On July 29th, His Excellency Bishop Brems dedicated the new and much needed wing of the hospital of the St. Elisabeth Sisters in Naestved.

The St. Hedvig's Sisters have settled in Nyköbing, Falster. The town had already a St. Joseph's Clinic, but when a well-known eye specialist wished to use this clinic for his patients, there was not room enough. He consequently applied to the St. Hedvig's Sisters to come to Nyköbing and, after having received the necessary permission from the local authorities, three Sisters were sent and the clinic was inaugurated on September 1st. In the same week eleven patients were en-

tered, and the St. Hedvig's Sisters have received a hearty welcome as well from the part of the press as from the inhabitants, and already feel very well in the smiling capital of the island.

As a branch of Danish Women's Catholic Union, Bishop Brems has been asked by the "*Protection Internationale de la jeune fille*" to have this work taken up again in Denmark. The president of same to be one of the Union's directors. The Union has now, according to the Bishop's desire, founded "Protection for Young Catholic Women," and Countess Erikke Scheel, Nordborggade 6, Copenhagen, is elected its President.

The Ursulines at Farumgaard, Denmark, celebrated on November 25th, the feast of their Order, which on this day had existed 400 years.

The Catholics on the Faeroes enjoy greater and greater recognition. The Franciscan Sisters held on St. Olav's Day and the preceding Sunday their first Fair, which proved the popularity they had gained, and to which degree their heroic work for the orphan Faeroe children is recognized. The grand success of the Fair was due not only to the persevering work of the members of the young congregation, but also to the zeal of the pastor, Rev. Bockenooegen.

Pater Pauli, S.J., from Copenhagen, visited the islands in July, and gave a series of lectures of apologetic contents.

Sister Mary Alfonsa, Superior for the Home for the Aged, in Rønne, Bornholm, and belonging to the Order of the Precious Blood, died, and was buried in December, 1934. She lived thirteen years on Bornholm, and made herself, the Sisters, and the religion she professed, respected and beloved.

May she rest in peace!

Mère Marie Constantine, who for twelve years was Superior at the Catholic school in Aalborg, died, and was buried in May from the Catholic church there. Thirty Sisters and all the school children accompanied the body, and Pater Bender spoke the eulogy and performed the interment.

Pater Nielsen, the first Dominican in Denmark since the Reformation, died in Nejmegen, Holland. He spent six years in Denmark, 1905-1911, first in Roskilde, then at Bornholen. He was a cultured, calm and intelligent man whom all who knew him loved, and this message will be received with sorrow. *R. I. P.*

Father V. H. Brouwers died on May 22nd. He was a most lovable character and worked in Denmark from 1910-1934. In Roskilde he worked till 1912, and thereafter in Slagelse for twenty-two years.

May he rest in peace!

Iceland—A bust representing the last bishop before the Reformation was lately dedicated in the Catholic church of Reykjavik. Bishop Jon Arason died a martyr on the 7th of November, 1550. The present Vicar Apostolic, Bishop Meulenburg, held the memorial sermon.

JOIN ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE

Finland—Report by Miss Fanny Laitinen.

The past year has brought me in contact with a convert daughter of a former Finnish Congregationalist minister, Mrs. W. P. Murphy (Lempi Korhonen), of Roseville, Mich. Her father, during his student days and early part of his ministry, had lived and served as minister in the vicinity of Boston, Mass. For three years preceding his death he held a position in Canada.

In her letter Mrs. Murphy reveals a deep sincere desire to spread the Faith, which she herself has received, to others, specially to her family and to the Finnish ministers with whom she is acquainted. She mentions several of the old family friends to whom she has sent literature. Her mother is very bitterly opposed to the Catholic Church, but she hopes to be able to change her attitude toward the Church by Finnish Catholic literature.

The Rev. Michael Nivard, of Dollar Bay, Mich., says in a letter written in August, that he has instructed and convinced a Finnish girl, but she cannot enter the Church until she leaves home to marry.

Monsignor Adolf Carling, Terijoki, Finland, has written two letters during the year and sent a selection of Finnish Catholic literature which I ordered in the spring. Monsignor Carling, a convert, is one of the two native priests of Finland. He says that the Church in Finland is very poor and that Mass stipends would be greatly appreciated. He also remarks that God seems to be using an unusual way of bringing back the Finns to the Church. More conversion among the Finns take place outside of Finland than in Finland. To Monsignor Carlin two things are essential in spreading the Faith, namely, devotion to the Blessed Sacrament and to the Blessed Virgin.

Father Henry Hartwijk sent a communication recently from Holland, also asking for Mass stipends for the mission in Finland. Father Hartwijk has been in Finland for a number of years but at present is on sick leave in Holland. His address is Weverslaan 36, Voorburg, Holland.

If anyone could help these priests with Mass stipends or otherwise I am sure they would be very grateful.

It will, no doubt, be of interest to the members of Ansgar's League to learn that Father Raymond Cadwallace S.J., was ordained to the holy priesthood on June 30th. Loyola College Chapel, Montreal. Father Cadwallader shown a great interest in the Finns for a number of years and has also followed the work of St. Ansgar's League with interest. It was my pleasure to be present at his ordination and first Mass.

Sister Dacien, of Providence Hospital, Seattle, Wash., wrote an interesting letter in February telling how her search for Finnish Catholic literature had finally been rewarded by an article in *The Catholic Progress*, which mentioned our League and its work. Many of the patients at the hospital are Finns or Scandinavians. A former chaplain had had a great influence on these people and had brought many of them into the Church, but it is difficult to instruct some of them since they cannot understand English very well. Literature in their own language is quite a help in the carrying out of instructions.

Sister Dacien mentions a Finnish convert who came to the Church about four years ago, and also another interesting person for whom she asked literature. She promises to make the League known to others with whom she may come in contact.

Father Ryan, C.P., asked for a book on the Passion, since there is no Finnish Catholic book on the subject, I know of, I sent to him several other pamphlets which contained prayers or references to the Passion.

Last spring, while on tour to New Jersey and Washington, D. C., we took a side trip to Silver Spring, Md., to visit Sister Eucharica, of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity. Sister Eucharica is probably the only Finnish religious in America.

May God bless all the endeavors of St. Ansgar's League.

FANNY M. LAITINE

NEW LITERATURE

THE excellent books sent out by the Paulus Circle continue to flow from the pens of such capable writers as: Rev. P. Schindler, Rev. A. J. Lutz, O.P., Dr. Peter Andreassen and others. Series V will begin with the new year and about 10 booklets will be issued during the year for the very low price outside of Denmark of Kr. 8.00. Subscription: Rev. Knud Ballin, Kongevej 27, Sønderborg, Denmark.

Rev. Peter Schindler: Second volume of "Monasticism in the Occident" has been issued, and treats principally of St. Benedikt. The whole work, consisting of three volumes, will be a great scientific work that, considering the very low price, ought to be found in every Catholic library.

The Norwegian St. Joseph's Sister, Margrethe A. Krohn, has sent out the second edition of her splendid book, "Vore Fadres Gamle Kristentro." The book w "St. Olav" calls the "book for all" can be borrowed from Ansgar's League by addressing the Secretary, Mr. Arthur dersen.

Sigrid Undset, the author of Kristin Lauransdatter, written a book about the first eleven years of her own life is a book well worth reading, which shows the reader the child lived with her learned father, and among his books and scientific collections, showing the way for the profound researches that distinguish the prominent writer.

PRAY FOR THE CONVERSION OF THE SCANDINAVIANS

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Silver Jubilee—We are this year celebrating our twenty-fifth anniversary. In looking back over the records we realize with joy that we have been able to help many people and also appreciate the fact that we have hundreds and hundreds of friends throughout the country, upon whose good works we are entirely dependent. The BULLETIN is the one means through which our benefactors can learn of the great good which we accomplish with their help.

We are very happy to be able to announce on this occasion the forming of a second unit of St. Ansgar's League. A few years ago, under the guidance of Bishop McGavick, a branch was started at La Crosse, Wis. During the last year, under the personal direction of Archbishop Murray and with the assistance of Rev. George Esterguard and several Scandinavian Catholics of Minneapolis and vicinity another Unit was formed. This will be our new western outpost. We call it an outpost, but we sincerely hope that, being in the midst of the Scandinavian part of the country, it will soon be a center of great importance. We welcome the Minneapolis Unit and earnestly pray for their success.

Membership—During the year several people manifested their interest in our work and seven enrolled as members. Included in this number is Rev. Patrick Berther, O.M.Cap. This brings the roster up to two Life Members, thirty-seven Regular Members and twenty-six Associate Members.

It is with sincere regret that we record the death of Mr. Andrew Pettersen, of New York City, and Mr. O. H. Brown, of California. Requiem Masses were said for the deceased members.

Finances—This problem during the last few years has been a very serious one, for our income has not been sufficient to meet our expenses. While these are very few, they nevertheless are large, essentially being in connection with the purchase of apologetic literature in the Scandinavian languages, printing and posting of the BULLETIN and stationery.

Fortunately we had on hand a very large supply of apologetic literature and have been able to send out from this source without being forced to replenish our stock. We still have quite a supply on hand. We have, nevertheless, yearly been increasing our deficit, and with the permission of the executive committee, have borrowed from the Life Membership Fund. Under normal conditions we are only permitted to use the income derived from this fund.

Inasmuch as our income from memberships never has covered our expenses, and outside donations during the last years being few, the Executive Committee decided an appeal for funds would have to be made to take care of the increasing demand made on us. We sincerely trust that our members and friends will respond to our appeal for help, the first we have made in twenty-five years.

Mrs. O. H. Brown, in accordance with the request of her seriously ill husband, shortly after his death forwarded us a check for \$25.00. Mrs. R. A. Sewell and son, John D. Sewell, sent us a gift of \$10.00 in memory of Mr. Robert Sewell. The Ladies of the Precious Blood were kind enough again this year to send us a gift of \$5.00, as did Mr. J. Doherty of Massachusetts. These people have all been personally thanked in a letter by our Treasurer; we, however, wish to take this occasion to again thank them.

Activities—The La Crosse Unit has had an active year, as can readily be seen by reading through the very interesting scrapbook which this Unit keeps in duplicate. Photographs, notices and newspaper articles covering everything of local and national interest, as well as matters of Scandinavian Catholic concern being carefully recorded. We compliment La Crosse on this idea and shall in all probability do likewise.

Minneapolis Unit—With tremendous interest and joy we received, read and answered the several communications from Rev. George Esterguard of Big Stone City, S. Dak., telling of his first audiences with Archbishop Murray, and subsequently of the men who were to form the Minneapolis Unit.

We particularly think that they are to be complimented on choosing as their name, "The Arctander Unit." We remember the respect and reverence with which this name was mentioned at our meetings many years ago by the members who knew Father Arctander's splendid character and work.

Bayfield—For several months we have been hearing through the La Crosse Unit and Father Esterguard about Bayfield, Wis. It seems that there are quite a number of Scandinavians who might be interested in hearing more about the teachings of the Catholic Church. Our next report came from Father Johnson, who is stationed at Immaculate Conception Cathedral in Denver, who asked us to send on to Bayfield a large collection of catechisms, pamphlets and books in the Scandinavian languages, setting forth and explaining the teachings of the Catholic Church—this we did. He then spent a week in Bayfield, giving an Eight Day Mission with a series of lectures of Scandinavian aspect. They were well attended, every bit of the literature was distributed and quite a number came seeking additional information.

It is still much too early to attempt to learn the possible result of our combined efforts. Meanwhile may we ask you to include in your prayers spiritual enlightenment for the group in Bayfield?

Constitution—During the year the Constitution was amended to divide the secretary's work between a Recording and a Corresponding Secretary.

An amendment was drawn up creating the post of Director of Programs. Father LaFarge, who for three years has been our Spiritual Director, is now our Director of Programs.

The Executive Committee and the members as a whole have for several months been devoting considerable time to the drafting of an amendment which will allow for the creating of units or branches and the establishing of their respective responsibilities and privileges.

Spiritual Director—As successor to Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., now our Director of Programs, our beloved Archbishop, Patrick Cardinal Hayes, appointed as Spiritual Director, Rev. Henry J. Andersen, S.J., now undergraduate dean of Fordham University. Father Andersen, the son of one of our very early members and as some of the older members recall, as a boy, frequently attended our Christmas parties. During his years of study we from time to time exchanged correspondence with him. His interest in the League's growth and work cover the last ten years.

Election of Officers—Except for our Spiritual Director, the people who served during 1934 were reelected to hold office during 1935. Their names are as recorded at the end of the BULLETIN.

JOIN ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE

Christmas Festivities—Reviving a custom of long standing and pleasant memories, we last year had a Christmas Party. It was celebrated in the typical North European manner with a lighted Christmas tree and the singing of Scandinavian hymns and songs. Our delightful host and hostess, Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Andersen, not only turned over their entire home to us, but also provided wonderful refreshments in the form of "kringler"—snaps—tea and coffee. Almost all of the members were there and a few of the League's friends. We also had the great pleasure of having Father Esterguard with us. He spoke on the newly formed chapter at La Crosse. This is the one social gathering of the members during the year; it was a very pleasant and happy one. The group singing and refreshments were enjoyed by everyone.

Publicity—Our Spiritual Director addressed a personal letter to several of the Bishops in the middle west. In this he very briefly told of what St. Ansgar's League had done and might be able to do. This we annually do in accordance with the instructions of the former and present Apostolic Delegate. As Father Andersen pointed out, we and the units are prepared to assist clergy and laymen with individual or group problems.

In line with our usual effort of annually securing national publicity for the League and its work, by the preparing of an article of real interest about Catholic Scandinavia, we, during 1934, made a broadcast over station WLWL, and this year prepared a several page article on the Catholic Church in Scandinavia before and after the Protestant Revolt. Catholic Missions released this as their feature article in 80,000 copies throughout the country. A large, beautiful picture of St. Ansgar decorated the outer cover.

Month's Mind Mass for Queen Astrid—The world was stunned to learn of the tragic death of Queen Astrid, Queen of the Belgians. This young, beautiful wife, mother and queen, was loved by all. She was the first Catholic Scandinavian Queen since the Reformation. For years

she annually received a copy of ST. ANSGAR'S BULLETIN.

Immediate and elaborate arrangements were made in Diplomatic circles for a Requiem Mass. St. Ansgar's League, not wishing to compete with this, arranged for a Month's Mind Mass at St. Francis Xavier's Church in New York City, Saturday, September 28th, with Reverend Cyril C. Roosens, of the Belgian Bureau, Celebrant; Rev. Henry J. Andersen, S.J., Deacon; Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., Subdeacon, and assisted by the Schola Cantorum of the Liturgical Arts Society. Representatives of the Swedish and Belgian foreign offices were present, as well as the members of the League, and some three hundred others who had read the official notices in the diocesan and local newspapers.

A Month's Mind Mass was said simultaneously by the Units in the west, and offered by several of our friends situated about the country.

Official Prayer—As a League, we have for several years had a short set of prayers which we used at the beginning and end of our meetings. While searching for a more significant prayer, one of our members, Miss O'Neil, suggested a translation of the already approved Norwegian prayer for the conversion of Scandinavia. This carries with it an indulgence of 300 days. The idea was immediately accepted and our Spiritual Director has since obtained an Imprimatur for its use in our Apostolate.

Program—Our Director of Programs, Reverend John LaFarge, S.J., worked out a series of connected talks dealing with various phases of Catholic Life. At alternate meetings Father LaFarge and Father Andersen give a half hour talk which is followed by open discussion. Formerly most of our time was devoted to a discussion of the League's business. As much as possible of this is now being handled by the Executive Committee with short reports being given at the meetings. In this way we hope to bring to the meetings greater Spiritual value and make them such that many others will wish to attend and eventually join the League.

GENERAL ANNOUNCEMENTS

MASS was said by our Spiritual Director for the intentions of the League on the Feasts of St. Canute, January 19th; St. Ansgar, February 3rd; St. Olav, July 29th, and St. Bridget, October 8th.

VERY IMPORTANT

One of the objects of our League is "the work for the conversion of Scandinavians by such lawful means as may be available." The most important means we have been using is the free distribution of Catholic apologetic literature in the Scandinavian languages.

We ask leave to remind the clergy and lay people who come into contact with Scandinavians interested in getting further knowledge of our Holy Faith to send in such names and addresses, and we will feel very happy to mail literature and enter into correspondence with them.

Literature in the Finnish language can be had by applying to Miss Fanny Laitinen, Farnham Avenue, Peabody, Mass.

The List of Officers of the League reads:

REV. HENRY ANDERSEN, S.J., <i>Spiritual Director</i> Fordham University, New York	MR. VIGGO F. E. RAMBUSCH, <i>President</i>
REV. JOHN LAFARGE, S.J., <i>Director of Programs</i>	MRS. G. A. ESTERGUARD, <i>Treasurer</i> 69 West Third Street, Bayonne, N. J.
REV. GEORGE ESTERGUARD, <i>Field Secretary</i> Big Stone City, S. Dak.	MR. G. A. ESTERGUARD, <i>Vice-President</i>
REV. LEO P. HIRT, <i>Spiritual Director of La Crosse, Wis., Unit</i>	MRS. ANDREW PETTERSON, <i>Recording Secretary</i>
REV. ROBERT E. COGWIN, <i>Spiritual Director of Minneapolis, Minn., Unit</i>	MR. ARTHUR ANDERSEN, <i>Corresponding Secretary</i> 435 76th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y.
	MRS. FRODE C. W. RAMBUSCH, <i>President Emerita</i>