

BULLETIN

St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League of New York



Copies of Bulletin sent free to League members; also to others upon request.
Catholic literature in the Scandinavian languages sent free of charge. Apply to any of the League's officers.

No. 38.

NEW YORK, N. Y.

DECEMBER, 1939.

BISHOP THEODOR SUHR, O.S.B. Vicar Apostolic for Denmark

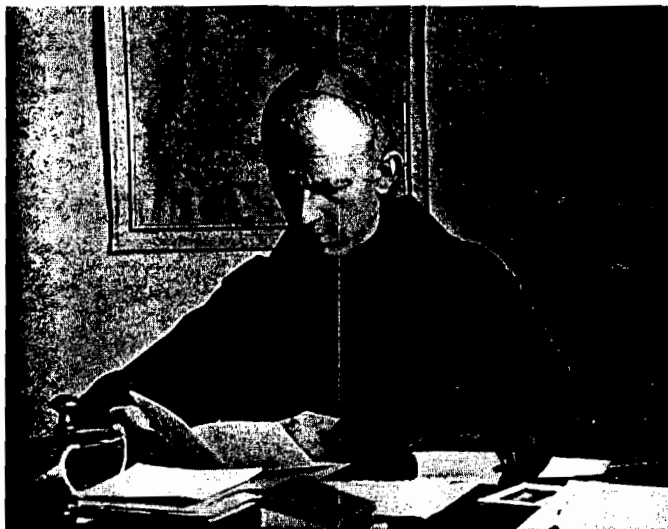
By SVEND EGEDE-LASSEN

JOHANNES THEODOR SUHR was born in Nyborg, Denmark, on January 24, 1896, the son of a proprietor of a small landed estate. He graduated from the State School in Odense, but did not continue his studies at the University in Copenhagen. After a year as a bank clerk in Nyborg, he had to do the compulsory army service, and due to the World War this service lasted more than two years. After his discharge, he decided to take up farming like his father, and after a year as an apprentice on a Danish estate, he emigrated to Argentine with two friends. Here he bought a farm in a remote part of the country, located in a region newly opened for settlers. Mr. Suhr now spent five years living the hard life of a pioneer settler. Dust storms were frequent, and once the future Bishop of Denmark spent twenty-four hours under an improvised canvas covering with his companions, during a long journey to the nearest railroad station, while a terrible storm lashed the pampas. He found this life endurable, but too empty intellectually, yet it was not without spiritual profit, as he made the acquaintance of a priest and through him became deeply interested in the Catholic Church, to the extent that he decided to leave Argentine and his farm. He returned to Denmark for a short visit, but soon went to Rome, where he arrived in November, 1925, the year of the jubilee.

Monsignor Olrik, the rector of the parish church in Horsens, tells in *Nordisk Ugeblad* of December 25, 1938, of noticing in the congregation, during his sermon, at a service in the chapel of the Brigittine Sisters on Via delle Isole in

Rome, a tall and slender young man, with a serious face and attentive eyes. At a reception after the service he met Mr. Suhr and started the conversation by mentioning the Suhr family, well known in Denmark for many generations as a cultured family of merchants. Mr. Suhr was unwilling to talk about this but said at once that his great interest was the Church. The following day the instruction began and when Monsignor Olrik left for Denmark, it was continued by the present Pater Messerschmidt of Copenhagen, who was not, as yet, a priest. On January 17, 1926, Pater Messerschmidt entered the priesthood in Rome and on the same day received the new convert into the Church. The seed sown on the windswept pampas of Argentine flowered in the glorious light of Rome.

Mr. Suhr returned to Denmark for a visit to his first instructor, Monsignor Olrik, and showed a deep interest in the Benedictine Order and their cloisters, particularly Clairvaux, and he announced his intention to enter this Order. Monsignor Olrik and also Pater Messerschmidt, who had now returned to Denmark, both advised against it, fearing what is sometimes said to happen, that recent converts in their fresh enthusiasm want to enter the cloistered life and later cannot endure its severity, tire of it and even run the risk of losing the Faith, but the future Bishop of Denmark was not a man to be persuaded from what he wanted to do. A few months after his arrival in Clairvaux, Mr. Suhr entered the Benedictine Order as Brother Ansgar, and now followed years of intense study, not only of theology, but also, as becomes a Benedictine, the



music of the Church, in which he is deeply interested. He also spent some time in Paris to complete his knowledge of church music.

On April 1, 1933, he entered the priesthood in Clairvaux and in 1935 was among the Benedictines called to San Girolamo (St. Jerome) in Rome, the unique cloister instituted by Pius XI in 1933, to complete the revision and the reconstruction of the ancient text of the Vulgate, St. Jerome's great translation of the Bible manuscripts into Latin.

Pater Ansgar's practical knowledge and great administrative ability, not to mention his success in landscaping the cloister gardens, soon attracted the attention of the hierarchy in Rome, and from Procurator for the cloister, he advanced to be its Prior. When the time came to find a successor to the Apostolic Vicar in Denmark, Bishop Brems, who was about to retire, it was our late Holy Father, Pius XI, who personally made the final decision in the choice of Theodor Suhr for the Apostolic Vicariate in Denmark. It is told in *Nordisk Ugeblad* of December 25, 1938, that His Eminence, Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi and his secretary, Archbishop Celso Constantini, when informing Pater Ansgar of his elevation, also told him that the Holy Father said as the final words: "He is a convert, it is to be him." The consecration took place in San Girolamo, Rome, on January 15, 1939, with Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi officiating. It is a most remarkable career to be a Bishop seven years (less two days) after having entered the Church.

As Apostolic Vicar, Bishop Suhr is Titular Bishop of Balecio in Dalmatia; not as Bishop Brems of Roskilde, the old seat of the Danish Archbishops. While some Danish Catholics regret the lapse of the historic title, it must be said that Rome has shown fine tact in avoiding its use, as many sincere Protestants in Denmark took offense over its use by a Catholic Bishop.

On January 30, 1939, the Bishop was received by the Pope in a long, private audience, and at the public audience the Holy Father welcomed the many Danish visitors, ending his address with these words: "You are very dear to me. Your country had a glorious, noble and great Catholic past, and it is now your task, by faith and perseverance in the Apostolate, to carry it back to that religious past. We will contribute to this work by giving you our beloved Monsignor Suhr. Tell your people that in him the Holy Father gives Denmark a great and valuable gift, that in him, we ourselves, go as it were to Denmark, to work for the welfare of the souls."

The solemn reception of the Bishop in his own Church of St. Ansgar in Copenhagen, took place on February 3, 1939, the feast day of St. Ansgar. He was received at the entrance by the Provicar, Pater Flynn. The Bishop entered while the choir sang the "Ecce Sacerdos" and presided at the Pontifical Mass celebrated by the priests of St. Ansgar.

The first Danish-born Bishop since the Reformation was the saintly Niels Steensen, who could not return to work among his own people. Bishop Suhr is the first to do so, and since the BULLETIN's space does not permit mention of the many occasions where Danish Catholics have shown their pride and joy of having, after centuries, a Bishop of their own nationality, we shall only add to this report the final lines of the previously mentioned article by Monsignor Olrik, which read: "It is my deep conviction that we have received exactly the right man as Bishop and we must thank God, for He has heard our prayers."

Acknowledgment of the Greetings Sent by St. Ansgar's League to the New Bishop of Denmark

Det Apostolske
Vikariat
for Danmark.

Köbenhavn-Valby 4-2-39.
VALBYHUS
Bjerregaards Sidevej 1.

To ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE.

DEAR CATHOLICS:

Bishop Suhr heartily thanks you for your friendly greetings and your prayers for the conversion of Denmark. It is a great joy for him to return to Denmark as Bishop. He begs that you continue to think of him in your prayers, that the Lord will give him the power and strength to bear the heavy responsibility that rests upon him, and that the souls under his leadership may find the way forward to the God of Truth and Peace.

FATHER A. LAURITZEN,
Benedictine Monk.

LEIF ERICSON CELEBRATION

THE ninth of October has come to be looked upon by Norwegians in the United States as Leif Ericson Day, and celebrations by Leif Ericson Associations are annual occurrences of ever-increasing number and importance. Due to their efforts, Leif Ericson now has become widely known as a great Norwegian explorer and discoverer of America.

It should, however, be noted that he came not as an explorer, but as a missionary, for the fact is that King Olaf sent him from Trondhjem to bring the Catholic Faith to his people in Greenland. That is why he is frequently represented with the crucifix in his hand.

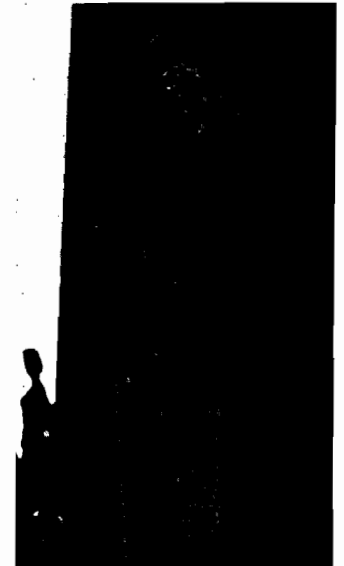
The statue here illustrated is a replica of the one presented to Iceland by the Congress of the United States in 1930, on the occasion of the one thousandth anniversary of the founding of the Icelandic Althing (the Congress). This replica was the main external feature of the Iceland Exposition at the New York World's Fair.

Leif Ericson, on his return voyage to Greenland, was driven off his course and eventually reached Vineland, A. D. 1000.

Would it not seem most fitting for each unit of St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League to initiate study leading to an annual program and if possible, a public Mass and public celebrations, thereby giving due recognition to this great Viking who was not only the "first discoverer" but also "first missionary"?

Have not the Catholics in America too long overlooked and neglected him? Should not we be the leaders of the Leif Ericson Day?

VIGGO F. E. RAMBUSCH.



SOLEMN CELEBRATION OF THE FEAST OF ST. ANSGAR

By REV. HENRY J. ANDERSEN, S.J.

ON February 3, 1939, the members of St. Ansgar's League celebrated his feast with a Solemn Mass at 9 o'clock, in the Church of Our Lady of the Angels, Fourth Avenue and 74th Street, Brooklyn, N. Y. The privilege of celebrating this event in this edifice which is considered to be one of the most beautiful and liturgically correct in the Diocese of Brooklyn, the largest diocese in our country, was due to the unfailing kindness of its pastor, the Right Reverend Monsignor Francis J. O'Hara.

For many years a close friend of our late lamented Secretary, Mr. Arthur J. Andersen, who was one of his most valued parishioners, the good Monsignor not only generously donated the use of his church, but also the services of his choir and organist, the assistance of one of his zealous curates as deacon, and in addition addressed some kindly words of congratulation and encouragement to the assembled members and friends of St. Ansgar's League. Before a crowded congregation the Mass was sung by the Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., Director of Programs of the League, assisted as deacon by the Rev. Henry J. Andersen, S.J., Spiritual Director of the League, and the Rev. Joseph X. Spellman, as subdeacon.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. John C. Madsen of Prairie Center, Nebr. Father Madsen, a native Dane, drove from his little country parish in Nebraska to New York for this League event, and gave a sermon equally fitting the occasion and the locale. Reviewing the history of Catholicity in Scandinavia, Father Madsen presented a challenge to his hearers that was intended to encourage them to bend all their efforts to restore Catholicity to its rightful place among the descendants of the Vikings. The Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., also addressed a brief exhortation to the members and friends of the League to give thanks to God for the great hope engendered by the large attendance at the Mass for the future conversion of Scandinavia. He was followed by the Right Reverend Monsignor O'Hara, who expressed his pleasure in being able to render assistance to the League. Mr. Arthur Andersen, our late lamented Secretary, was present and active in arranging the details of the Mass. To all named and to others who gave their charitable assistance, the Officers and Members of the League are deeply grateful.

The privilege of celebrating solemnly the Mass of St. Ansgar was a gift to the League from the late Supreme Pontiff Pius XI. through his representative in the United States, the Most Reverend Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate. This was granted on May 11, 1936. There was also granted at the same time to all members, under the usual conditions, the faculty of gaining a plenary indulgence on the Feast of St. Ansgar. These privileges no doubt accounted for the splendid attendance at the Mass in Brooklyn on February 3rd, and the members of the League are grateful to the Holy See for its generosity towards their humble organization, and to its friends for their support on this occasion.

It is the hope of the officers that as large an attendance will gather for the annual celebration this coming year, the time and place of which will be announced later.

May divine Providence continue to shower His many blessings on our Society to the end that many of our separated Scandinavian brethren may return to the Church founded by Our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ.

CREDO

THE Rev. Knud Ballin, parish priest of Assens, Denmark, has issued an artistic little stamp designed by the painter Birgitte West. On a background of gold, a blue cross surmounts a half-circle containing the word "Credo." These are sold in packages of fifty for one krone. In this day when Christianity must fight the forces of evil which are sweeping over the world, this stamp is intended as a reminder of our faith in the God of our Fathers, a battle cry of Christians: I believe therefore I am a Catholic. Credo in unum Deum! . . . Et expecto resurrectionem mortuorum, et vitam venturi saeculi. Amen. Every time this little seal is pasted on the back of a letter, our faith is affirmed with thanksgiving in our hearts that through the mercy of God we are members of the Church founded by Jesus Christ, unchanged and unchanging in this changeful world.

The proceeds of the sales will be used to provide an altar for a little parish church in Assens and to cover the expense of painting and lighting, so that when the church bells summon the people to Mass they will enter a suitable home for Him who said: "Behold I am with you all days, even to the consummation of the world."

Father Ballin will be pleased to send the seals upon receipt of order. His address is the Rev. Knud Ballin, Assens, Denmark.

In preparation for the annual statement of administrative expenses on January 1, 1940, attention of all members is invited to the amendment to the Constitution of the League, appearing on page 14, BULLETIN No. 35, covering the year 1936.* All Units will please comply and send in the annual dues per member, and members are requested to assist in this action by forwarding dues promptly to their units.

Please regard this request as urgent as bills for printing, postage, etc., must be paid immediately. To continue and improve our missionary work is the wish of each member, and wishes to become fruitful entail some sacrifice. The joyful zeal with which all members enter into the work of the League makes this notice almost superfluous, but the Treasurer reports practically a deficit.

* . . . 2. They shall annually contribute to the National Headquarters \$1.00 per member, which money shall be used to defray the general (not local) administrative expenses (BULLETIN, apologetic literature, stationery and postage). "Member" included members of branch units.

Mass for Finland

Finland, a Christian country, is in need of the prayers and assistance of all Christians throughout the world. Attacked by the atheistic Soviet Union, this small country is fighting the cause of her own independence and also the cause of Christian civilization. Preparations are now being made by St. Ansgar's League of New York for a public Mass for her people. Americans feel a deep sympathy with the Finns who represent all that is fine in manly character and honesty of purpose. Industrious and courageous they deserve our help, and it must not be forgotten that in fighting for them we are fighting for ourselves, fighting the cause of God against the forces of anti-Christ, now rampant in other lands. New York members will be notified of the date of the Mass, and perhaps other local units can make similar arrangements.



Rome, November 3, 1939.

Dear Mr. Rambusch:

I received your letter of October 16th regarding the condition and the work of the St. Ansgar's League. As you are aware, my interest in that work is not recent, but dates from the time I was the Apostolic Delegate in Washington when the prospect of working for the conversion of the people of Scandinavian origin in the United States had my full sympathy.

Now, as Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, my interests are directed rather to the return of the Scandinavian countries to the old Faith which once flourished so brilliantly in them. Any activity which helps the return of these countries to the Rome from which they have unhappily been snatched away is blessed. So your efforts to assist the struggling Church of Scandinavia through the St. Ansgar's League may count on my interest, my encouragement and my prayers.

Asking God to bless and direct the members of the League, I remain,

Sincerely yours in Christ,

P. Card. Tumasoni-Biondi
Prefect of the S. Congregation "de Propaganda Fide"

Mr. Viggo F. E. Rambusch,
St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League,
2 West 45th St.,
New York, N. Y.

ST. ANSGAR'S SCANDINAVIAN CATHOLIC LEAGUE
NEW YORK, N. Y.



An Appeal to the Bishops of the United States

To Their Excellencies the Archbishops and Bishops:

That Our Divine Lord may shower abundant blessings on all of you who answered our earlier calls for help is the sincere wish of the National Director of St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League, and all those associated with him in this work. You have responded generously to our appeals for surplus Mass stipends for the Bishops of the Scandinavian countries. May others be encouraged by your example. If anything, the situation in Scandinavia is now more critical because of the present crisis in Northern Europe. Hence any assistance we can now render will be doubly appreciated.

Trusting that our good friends of the past may be joined by other good friends in the coming months so that the good work may spread, I remain,

Devotedly your servant in Our Lord,

HENRY J. ANDERSEN, S.J.,
980 Park Avenue, New York, N. Y.

The attention of our readers is respectfully directed to the desperate plight of the Catholic Church and the clergy in Scandinavia. There are today only 31,000 Catholics among the 16,000,000 Scandinavians. The money formerly received from the various mother houses and the mission-minded people of Germany for the support of the clergy has been stopped by the present Nazi Government, and the war clouds which threaten Belgium and Holland interfere with assistance from these countries with the result that the Catholic clergy in Scandinavia are left with practically no means of support. In this predicament they find themselves obliged to care for the Sisters now arriving as refugees from the menace of Soviet hatred in Finland.

May we, therefore, ask your prayers for these our brethren in such distress. Those who wish to help by Mass stipends, gifts or donations in memory of their own family or friends may send these direct to the Bishops of Denmark, Sweden, Norway and Finland, or to the New York Headquarters of the League, in care of the Treasurer, Mrs. G. A. Esterguard, 69 West Third Street, Bayonne, N. J.

ARTHUR J. ANDERSEN, 1889-1939

By JOHN LAFARGE, S.J.



IT has been difficult fairly to estimate the loss sustained by the St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League in the sudden death of Arthur J. Andersen on June 26th of this year. Mr. Andersen was corresponding secretary of the parent unit of the League in New York from 1930 until his death. In that capacity he became known to hundreds of persons all over the country with whom he conducted a voluminous, painstaking

correspondence. By the same token he was in close contact with the newly-formed units of the League in the Middle Western States. All the League's members, near and far, were witnesses of the relentless devotion with which he pursued the progress of a work so dear to his heart.

Mr. Andersen was born in Brooklyn, N. Y., on May 15, 1889, of Norwegian parentage and was a convert to the Catholic Faith. For the first ten years of his extraordinarily happy married life he was a fervent Lutheran, having imbibed from his parents since childhood a deeply religious spirit. At the time of his marriage in 1916 with a charming Catholic lady, Miss Isabel Beggs, Arthur protested to his friends and parents that he would never become a Catholic, although he respected and honored his wife's religious convictions and practices. Others who knew his serious character prophesied differently. He became interested in the work of Laymen's Retreats, carried on at Mount Manresa, Staten Island, and for some seven years before entering the Catholic Church attended a Retreat annually and became a most efficient organizer of retreat groups himself.

On Christmas Eve, in 1926, Mr. Andersen appeared at the parish rectory and announced out of a clear sky to the Rev. Henry W. Churchill that he had decided to become a Catholic and wished to make at once, on Christmas Day, his first Holy Communion. In kindly fashion the Pastor told him to return the following week for instruction, and prepared to close the door. To his astonishment Arthur Andersen planted his stalwart Viking form in the doorway and reiterated his desire for the Christmas Communion. Taking him into the parlor, Father Churchill found Mr. Andersen not only sufficiently but pre-eminently instructed in the Catholic Faith. He was received into the Catholic Church then and there, and never did Father Churchill have occasion to regret such a step.

Mr. Andersen's own experience gave him deep insight and sympathy into the religious problems of non-Catholics. As a non-Catholic he had experienced the benefits of the Retreat and was convinced that others should share the same and was tireless in his efforts to include his non-Catholic as well as his Catholic acquaintances in the group of retreatants which he organized annually for Mount Manresa. He particularly delighted in presenting the cause of religious and personal reform tactfully but firmly to men for whom reli-

gion had become but a name, men who in their life had never spoken to him on that topic. Great as were the obstacles, his efforts were usually crowned with success.

That Andersen's was no blind zeal, but rested upon thorough knowledge and spiritual insight, appears from a letter, one of hundreds such written in the late hours of the night after a grueling day's work at his exacting contractor's profession. It is directed to a non-Catholic acquaintance:

"I admit . . . that you would be perfectly justified in denying my invitation, questioning its tendency to conversion to a Faith you have doubtful knowledge of.

"First, let me assure you, while the Catholic Faith welcomes everyone, I have not yet found a single convert in which it offers itself, that it uses any subtle or subversive means of diverting anyone's present beliefs. The Catholic Doctrine is,—all will be saved that live in good faith. Least of all is a Retreat an apostolate. It is a means of contemplation used for the examination of conscience through spiritual exercises and points of mediation—discourses on the simple truths accepted by all Christians from the teachings of Christ. . . .

"I attended these retreats for many years before I embraced the Faith. My circumstances were unknown, except as I made them manifest. When I did, it seemed the greater was the consideration and welcome that I received. It was only after years of study of its doctrines and only upon my own deliberate resolve that I was admitted to the Faith.

"You will note that I have gone to considerable pains to assure you you have nothing to fear. I myself would not do a hand's turn in bringing about the conflict that follows doubt. Faith is a gift of God and the processes of change are equally His Will."

"Of course I will accept. And gladly," wrote the Presbyterian recipient of this letter. One only regrets that space forbids quoting many more passages from Mr. Andersen's letters which shed a shining light upon the man and the ideas which he represented.

Writing in the Catholic quarterly *Thought*, for December, 1939, Michael de la Bedoyere, noted English Catholic journalist, observes that there are three kinds of Catholic laymen. Some are fervently at home in religious matters and with the clergy, but keep their religion away from contact with their daily lives. Others are wholly secular-minded and merely fulfill their religious duties as a necessary and troublesome formality. A third type, unfortunately much less common but the only true examples of the Church's lay idea: unite their religious and secular life into one integrated whole. Religion penetrates their work, their pleasure, all the human relationships quite as much as it inspires their worship on a Sunday.

Of this third and genuine breed was the late Arthur Andersen. Since his all-round religion was combined with a disarming simplicity of outlook and modesty of personal bearing, one can truly say, as Our Lord said of the little children, that of such is the Kingdom of Heaven. With childlike wonder Arthur one day, in conversation with his wife, discovered that he had completed nine times consecutively, without a single interruption, the series of nine First Friday Communions in honor of the Sacred Heart.

Mr. Andersen was fortunate to be able to leave the im-

press of his life not in memories alone, but even in solid stone. He followed a profession, that of a building contractor, which is a happy hunting-ground for lax consciences. To this profession Mr. Andersen brought a code of business ethics which was as severe as his conduct to family and friends was loving and genial. His faithfulness in carrying out these principles during twenty-eight years with Gould and Taylor—twenty-two as a member of the firm—so impressed one of the firm's partners, Mr. Gould, that at his death he left to Arthur the sum of \$5,000: something indeed providential, for Arthur, like so many of the rest of us, had much to suffer in loss and worry as the result of the depression and its effects on his business.

What Our Saviour Himself thought of his fidelity was plain enough, for He vouchsafed to the devoted venerator of His Sacred Heart the Last Sacraments received in full consciousness, despite the suddenness with which the Angel of Death called. They were administered by Mr. Andersen's pastor, the Right Rev. Francis J. O'Hara, Rector of the Church of Our Lady of Angels in Brooklyn, the building of whose church Mr. Andersen had most carefully supervised. At the funeral, attended by the sorrowing members of the St. Ansgar's League, Monsignor O'Hara departed from his unvarying custom and paid an eloquent tribute to Arthur's memory, recalling that he was childlike "in the true Gospel meaning of the word," yet "with a rugged earnest disposition that won our admiration and esteem."

NOTES ON THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOP THEODOR SUHR, O.S.B.

Vicar Apostolic for Denmark

PONT. COLLEGIO URBANO
DE PROPAGANDA FIDE,
ROME, ITALY.

THE ceremonies began at 9 a. m. on January 15, 1939, a day of glorious sunshine, the brilliant sunshine of beloved Italy so welcome to travelers from colder climes, and a happy setting for the memory of his consecration which the new bishop could take with him to his new home in Denmark. His eminence Pietro, Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith officiated, assisted by His Grace Celso Costantini, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation, and His Excellency Archabbot Gregorio Diamara of Montecassino, the monastery of St. Benedict. The Scandinavian clerics studying at the Collegio de Propaganda Fide also assisted at the ceremony.

A special solemnity surrounded the occasion and was felt by all present, bishops, abbots, prelates, diplomats, counts, and the people in general. It seemed a repetition of an earlier scene, history repeating itself, for here was the ancient family of St. Benedict again sending a son, another Ansgar, to Denmark. From a Benedictine Abbey, Prior Theodore Suhr is consecrated Bishop of Balecio and Vicar Apostolic of Denmark, by special choice of the great Pope of the Missions, Pius XI.

A few days later the new bishop was received in audience by Pope Pius XI who presented him with a pectoral cross. At a public audience following this reception, the Holy Father addressed himself to a group of Danes present and ex-

pressed his great interest and paternal love for the people of Scandinavia, who he said were close to his heart.

It is a strange paradox that in the conduct of life great physical strength is sometimes a weakness. Arthur's robust physique, a match for rude shocks, undoubtedly engendered in him the notion that he could exact from himself any degree of toil that his will power could summon. The strongest natures, however, will rebel and Arthur Andersen's severity to himself resulted in a drain upon his energies that sapped life itself. Rest, travel and relaxation, things which he naturally craved, were brushed aside as temptations in the path of a rigorously self-imposed duty. To this duty he was, in a sense, a martyr; and those of us who congratulated him on his faithful performance realized but scantily how heavy was the toll.

Although a true American, Arthur Andersen was intensely proud of his Norwegian ancestry: loved the language, literature, history and song of his parents' land and spoke of them frequently. He was convinced that Norway would find its own soul by returning to the religion of its fathers, but that long, hard labor on the part of Catholic laymen, much prayer and the abundant grace of God were needed to realize such an event. He followed with keen interest every development in the Church in Scandinavia. St. Ansgar's League was for him his very life, after the wife and children whom he so dearly loved and cherished. Arthur Andersen set a very high standard. If the League can measure up to that standard in its members in the years to come, the hopes of its founders will be fully accomplished.

pressed his great interest and paternal love for the people of Scandinavia, who he said were close to his heart.

The news of the appointment of a native Dane as Bishop of Denmark awoke general interest in that country and the press, both religious and secular, received the appointment with enthusiasm, even the Social Democratic Press commenting favorably.

May God bless his work in his native land. Himself a convert from Lutheranism, he is specially fitted to lead others back to the Catholic Church, so that there may be one fold and one shepherd as our Saviour desired. W. VICK.

A Timely Book

THROUGH HUNDRED GATES, by Severin and Stephen Lamping, O.F.M. Milwaukee: Bruce Publishing Co. \$2.50.

This is a book which will interest all our members as it is the stories of converts prominent in all countries of the world, philosophers, poets, diplomats, businessmen, sportsmen, and a galaxy of writers, including Chesterton, Dudley, Claudel, Undset, and many more. Each quest was essentially a solitary one, for the soul is a very lonely and original thing. Its true victories are gained by itself, not by others for it.

In a spiritually bankrupt world, *Through Hundred Gates* offers a great promise to such as have not yet become hopeless victims of our modern destructive skepticism and indifferentism. A book which will be read and reread and passed on to others. It is strongly recommended to all our readers.

Send orders to St. Anthony Messenger, 1615 Republic Street, Cincinnati, Ohio.



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 16,000,000 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

blessing 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
- Regular Member 3.00
- Life Member 100.00

NAME

ADDRESS

Checks may be mailed to

MRS. G. A. ESTERGUARD, Treasurer
69 West Third Street, Bayonne, N. J.



ST. ERIC, PATRON OF SWEDEN

JOIN ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE

NEWS FROM NEW YORK HEADQUARTERS

DURING the year the lives of the following saints were read at the meetings: St. Ansgar, Mrs. Harold Rambusch; St. Bridget of Sweden, Miss Thorn; St. Brynolph, Mr. Lassen; St. Catherine of Sweden, Mrs. Dubiell; St. Botvid, Miss Smith; St. Eric, Mrs. Esterguard; St. Eystein, Mr. Kilcullen; St. Halvard, Miss Smith; St. Henry, Mr. Kilcullen; St. Magnus, Mrs. Widding; St. Olav, Mrs. Petterson; St. Sunniva, Mr. Andersen; St. Thorfinn, Mrs. Andersen.

Under the direction of Mrs. Arthur Andersen and Mrs. Harold Rambusch a very successful card party was held in April at the home of Mrs. Rambusch. The members decided to have these card parties at each other's homes during the year, both for social enjoyment and for the important purpose of raising funds for current expenses of the League. The second party was held at the home of Mrs. Esterguard. In addition to the usual entertainment, moving pictures were shown by Mrs. Esterguard of Fathers Esterguard, Wolf and Hendricksen, taken during their visit in the summer.

The third party is scheduled for the 5th of December, at the home of Mrs. Johanna Petterson.

The members this year had the opportunity of visiting the various Scandinavian exhibitions at the World's Fair and of meeting people from the lands connected with them. While the examples of art and handiwork interested visitors of every nationality these naturally had an especially strong attraction for people of Scandinavian ancestry. There was also a Danish Exhibition at Wanamaker's with examples of beautiful pottery, china, furniture hangings, etc. This was very well attended.

The officers entertained the Reverend Fathers George Esterguard, Hugh K. Wolf, Thomas Hendrickson and John C. Madsen; and Miss Florence E. Gregerson, Secretary of the Fargo Unit, paid us a visit.

A highlight of the year was the arrival of the relic of St. Olaf, destined for the Garretson shrine. This was shown after the Mass on St. Ansgar's day, the members receiving the blessing from the hands of Father Madsen, who carried the relic to its shrine in the Northwest. The beautiful statue of St. Olaf, designed in the Rambusch Studios and executed abroad, was forwarded direct to the shrine at Garretson, and our members look forward to a visit, a pilgrimage, some day, if possible. The statue is carved out of wood and then decorated in harmonious and striking colors, all the details and the various emblems being symbolic of Scandinavia and of the great King, Martyr and National Saint of Norway.

Happy memories often alleviate grief over the loss of a friend, bringing to mind pictures of thoughtful kindness and good will. The members recall a wet cold morning in February, after the St. Ansgar's Mass, when Mr. Arthur Andersen and Mrs. Andersen held open house for a cheery and lavish breakfast. Hospitable and genial, Mr. Andersen personally saw to each one's comfort. His smiling countenance and happy spirit linger in our memory. We remember him as at all times amiable, zealous, intensely interested in the League, a convert, a good father and husband, and a Catholic of whom to be proud. The League extends its sympathy to Mrs. Andersen and the three children. May he receive his reward in Heaven.

The New York Unit at its meetings displays the Scandinavian flags, together with the American and Papal flags, and a picture of the great Apostle of the North, St. Ansgar. The

small silk flags of Denmark, Norway, Sweden, Finland and Iceland, six by four inches can be obtained from Annin and Company, 85 Fifth Avenue, New York, N. Y. (Telephone ALgonquin 4-8550), at a cost of twenty-five cents each.

As will be noted from the Field Secretary's report, the League now extends from ocean to ocean, our latest unit at Spokane, Wash., touching the Pacific. The League welcomes this new unit and extends greetings and best wishes to the Reverend Father Robinson, S.J., the Spiritual Director.

A growing practice at meetings is to read a prayer or some interesting item in one of the Scandinavian languages. English being our tongue, a little of the mother tongue of many of our members adds a pleasant note to the proceedings, and is an incentive to further knowledge on the part of non-Scandinavian members.

The League has had the pleasure of welcoming the following new members during the year—Mrs. Mary Landsverk, Miss Agnes P. Rooney, Miss Edith Pearson, Miss Swannstrom and Mrs. George Lober, wife of the well-known sculptor, George Lober.

On November 22nd, another new Unit was formed in the town of Parker, S. Dak., under the direction of the Rev. Walter Liesch, pastor of St. Christina's Church. The country around Parker is heavily populated with Scandinavian people, and Father Liesch is anxious to bring to them a knowledge of the faith of their ancestors before political changes in the Scandinavian countries introduced Lutheranism to further the interests of individual rulers. The League extends a hearty welcome to our latest addition.

A very interesting letter has been received from the Right Rev. L. G. Ligutti, Church of the Assumption, Granger, Iowa, in which he tells of his travels in Denmark, Norway, Sweden and Finland, for the purpose of studying co-operatives, agricultural schools and farming conditions, and incidentally observing carefully the missionary activities of the Catholic Church in these countries. His agrarian studies brought him into contact with non-Catholics exclusively, as hardly any Catholics are settled on the land, and he speaks in the highest terms of the many courtesies he received and of the fine character of the people at large.

One of the most impressive sights of his tour was the Old Cathedral in Aarhus in Jutland, so redolent of pre-Reformation days that one can still visualize the monks in their stalls and the solemn processions through its portals. In Sweden he was impressed by the Vadstena Cathedral which contains the relics of St. Bridget, the Uppsala Cathedral where St. Erik is buried and Trinity Church where he was martyred. He visited also the State Room where Queen Christina so dramatically gave up the throne when she became a Catholic.

In Finland he felt at home as the Bishop and most of the priests speak English fluently, and he had the opportunity of visiting the Sisters from St. Louis who had just arrived in that country.

He states that Catholicity is, of course, struggling and making but slow progress in these countries. The Bishops and priests need all the help they can get in offerings of any kind, Mass intentions, bequests for specific purposes, help of any sort will be most welcome. To him it was sad to observe that hardly any Catholics are settled on the land, as no Catholicity can make progress if it is exclusively urban.

SCANDINAVIAN NEWS

NEWS FROM DENMARK

By SVEND EGEDE-LASSEN

PATER CORTENRAAD, a native of Holland, celebrated his twenty-five years jubilee as a priest on the 28th of June. An older brother of Pater Cortenraad is a priest in the United States, a member of the order of Montfortists (Missionaries of the Company of Mary). Pater Cortenraad during the past twenty-five years has worked in Reykjavik, Iceland, and in Koege and Ringsted, towns in Denmark.

A real pilgrimage in Denmark is the yearly visit made to the shrine of St. Knud Lavard, a saint greatly loved by the Danes in Catholic times and by Danish Catholics of the present day. On June 25th the procession started as in former years from St. Knud's Church in Ringsted, to the six miles distant goal in Haraldsted, where Mass was said in the ruins of a chapel dedicated to the saint. After a rest, the pilgrims returned on foot to Ringsted, where Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament was given before the participants disbanded. This walk of twelve miles by hundreds of people is an unusual sight in this day.

In last year's BULLETIN mention was made of another pilgrimage, which took place for the first time since the "Reformation." This was repeated this year on August 13th by the young Catholics of Jutland. High Mass was sung in the ruins of Oem Cloister, by Pater Geertz-Hansen, who also delivered a sermon.

In January, 1940, will occur the 400th anniversary of the dedication of a chapel in the church of Santa Maria in Transpontina (Rome). This chapel was dedicated to St. Knud, patron saint of Denmark, in the reign of Pope Urban VIII.

A new Danish priest, Pater Olaf Sørensen, who was ordained this summer in Muenchen, Germany, upon the completion of his studies in Rome, sang his first High Mass in St. Ansgar's Church in Copenhagen on September 17th. Pater Sørensen has written several articles for Danish Catholic periodicals from Rome, and it is to this source that we are indebted for much of the information concerning Bishop Suhr.

Pater Hjorth was installed as parish priest in the Rosenkranskirken (Church of the Holy Rosary) in Frederiksberg, Copenhagen, on September 3rd. Pater Niels Th. Hansen, the former pastor of this church, went to Randers to succeed Pater Max Osterhammel, who retired after more than forty-five years work, and whose death occurred on October 11th. He was beloved and respected not only by his own small congregation but by a wide circle beyond it.

Two years ago, a small country estate, Gribsholm, near the famous castle of Frederiksborg in Denmark, was acquired by the Sisters of St. Maria's Hospital in Roskilde. The Sisters use the house as a home for convalescents. The newest and smallest chapel in Denmark was consecrated on August 27th by the Bishop and dedicated to St. Villehad, the Danish Franciscan priest who suffered martyrdom in Gorkum, Holland.

Both Catholics and Protestants of Denmark have organized committees for the relief of Jewish refugees. The Most Rev. Theodor Suhr, O.S.B., the new Vicar Apostolic, was one of the first donors to the cause.

An event of considerable importance to Catholics in Denmark is the consolidation of the two most widely read Catholic publications, the weekly *Nordisk Ugeblad* and the semi-

monthly *Katolsk Ungdom*. The former has been, since its start 85 years ago, the official publication of the Church in Denmark, while the latter addressed itself to the Catholic youth. The new publication is the weekly *Katolsk Ugeblad* and its first number is dated June 4, 1939. This and the following issues must be said to have retained the best features of the two former publications. The contents have been broadened, many articles are excellently illustrated and the new weekly has a plain and neat cover, a big improvement on the old *Ugeblad* which followed a common practice of European periodicals in having its front covers littered with advertisements. The editor of the new publication is the editor of the former *Katolsk Ungdom*, Mr. H. D. T. Kierulff, who is also a well-known and popular lecturer. Best wishes!

NEWS FROM NORWAY

By REV. HAARON KIELLAND BERGWITZ

THERE is not much news of interest this year as it has been without any great events in our mission. The thing of real importance, the spiritual progress, is not to be estimated.

On February 16th there was a solemn requiem in all churches for the late Pope Pius XI. In St. Olav's in Oslo, the Bishop's Church, the King was represented by diplomats.

On March 12th there was a solemn Te Deum in all churches on the happy election of the new Pope Pius XII.

On June 18th a moving celebration took place at Arendal, on the south coast, when the Reverend Father Gustavus Gorissen solemnly blessed the ocean. Father Gorissen preached a sermon which was printed in extenso by the prominent papers of the town. A great number of Protestants attended this ceremony.

June 24th. All the priests of the Vicariate of Oslo gathered for spiritual exercises in the Bishop's residence. The retreat was preached by the Rev. Father Flynn, O.S.S.C., pro-Vicar of the Vicariate of Denmark.

July 27. The following appointments were published by the Vicar Apostolic, Monsignor Mangers:

1. Reverend Father G. Gorissen, formerly at Arendal, as parish priest in St. Paul's, Bergen.
2. Reverend Father H. v.d. Vlught, formerly at Hauge-sund, as parish priest in St. Charles Borromeus Church, Hamar.
3. Reverend Father H. Kielland Bergwitz, formerly curate at Oslo, as parish priest in St. Franciscus Xaverius Church, Arendal.
4. Reverend Father J. Fishedick, formerly curate at Bergen, as parish priest in St. Joseph's Church, Hauge-sund.
5. Reverend Father G. Hogenes as curate in St. Olav's Church, Oslo.
6. Reverend Father Josef Heiss as curate in St. Olav's, Oslo.

August 20th. In St. Olav's, Oslo, solemn "primiz" of Father Harald Taxt, newly ordained Norwegian-born priest. He is the son of a convert, Captain S. Taxt and his wife, also a convert. Captain Taxt and his wife are the parents of eight boys.

September 3d. A new church dedicated to St. Charles Borromeus, is solemnly dedicated at Hamar, on this, the first day of the war in Europe.

NORWEGIAN VICARIATE

HIS Excellency, Monsignor James Mangers, paid a visit to Rome, arriving there on November 9th, 1938. He fortunately escaped injury in an automobile accident en route, and arrived in time to enjoy the delightful weather, so different from Norway, where the cold necessitates heat in houses nine months of the year.

The bishop gave interesting details of his Vicariate, which occupies fourteen provinces of the twenty in Norway. The six other provinces form the Prefecture of Central Norway, founded in 1935, and confided to the Picpus Fathers, with Monsignor Cyprien Witte as Prefect Apostolic, five missionary posts, and the District of Northern Norway, also founded in 1935, and confided to the Missionaries of the Holy Family, with Monsignor Jean Starke as Superior, four posts.

The Vicariate comprises 2,797 Catholics (2,400 when Monsignor Mangers was named bishop). There are fifteen stations and five chapels of ease, thirty-three priests of which number twenty are seculars and thirteen divided as follows: five Dominicans, five Franciscans and three Marists. Six congregations of Sisters serve the schools and all the hospitals. The work of administration is made difficult by the rigorous climate, the great distances which isolate the priests, and the prejudices of the people for many generations trained in the Lutheran doctrine, and finally the lack of resources. On the other hand there are hopeful signs: A people who love truth, and who listen to the Catholics as they listen to the exponents of modern movements, such as the so-called Oxford Movement. The uniformity of the Catholic teaching is contrasted with the contradictory views of the various Protestant pastors, the independence of the Catholic religion is also noted in view of the servility of a state religion which must accept the vote of the Chamber that women may occupy the functions of priests in the Lutheran Church. There is much to do in Norway and the missionaries are very much occupied, instructing candidates for Baptism, holding conferences and social reunions, preparing articles for the papers, the schools, and hospitals, as well as making the necessary apostolic journeys.

Besides the visit of Father Reyter to St. Olaf's and his preaching of Retreats in many communities of the Vicariate, Oslo has also seen Father Blake of New Zealand. On one evening six Marist Fathers were reunited, viz.: Bishop Mangers, and the Reverend Fathers Ryter, Blake, Bzdyl, dePaepe and Rommelse.

STABBEK. In September, the language lessons for Protestants were resumed, as well as the reunion of St. Monikalag (club for ladies) and the meetings of St. Olafsforbund, for the propagation of the faith.

On the 13th of October about thirty Catholics and some Protestants united in a fete in honor of the Holy Father.

On the 27th and 28th of October Father Rommelse gave a talk on the Holy Shroud of Turin at Frederickstad (about 95 kilometers south of Oslo). A number of Protestants were present.

Stabbek counts eighty-five Catholics, and the Marist Fathers have made eight conversions in five years, and this year Father Rommelse has brought back to the Church three strayed Catholics.

GREFSEN. Father dePaepe, rector, dwells at the Clinic of St. Joseph and is professor in the Catholic School in Oslo.

HÖNEFOSS. Father Bzdyl has converted part of the church building into an Assembly Room where his small group may gather now and then. During the summer he made a trip to his homeland, Poland.

NEWS FROM SWEDEN

By CARL AXEL SELVIN

GREAT crowds were passing through the gates of Ullevi Sport Stadium at the end of stately Park Avenue, in Gothenburg, as I went by on the second Sunday in October, 1938. Some of the people, however, crossed the little Square to where the sound of church bells floated over the neighborhood. Soon I caught sight of a beautiful Romanesque structure of red brick in basilica style. All three bells were ringing and calling the people to High Mass. High up on the front over the main entrance facing the park I saw the sculptured head of Christ crowned with thorns, symbolical of the church that bears the name of Christ, the King.

The church seats seven hundred people, but when I entered I found every seat taken and people standing in the aisles. It was the feast day of St. Bridget of Sweden and the sermon of the pastor centered on her glorious career, this greatest daughter of the Swedish nation. The collection on this day was for the benefit of the Catholic press in Sweden, according to the wish of the bishop.

The church had been dedicated and opened for public worship only the previous Sunday, and the final consecration by the bishop had not yet taken place. It is the largest and finest of all the Catholic churches in the land. The main altar of marble with reliefs and its silver crucifix were of exquisite beauty. Through a loggia the rectory and parish hall adjoin the church. A small side chapel dedicated to St. Joseph has a statue of the saint and the light coming down from the high arched ceiling gives a special beauty to the place. Many of the fittings of the church were donated by friends in the archdiocese of Munich.

After having served as teachers in the parish school in Gothenburg since 1881, the Sisters of St. Joseph have left the city for another field, and have been replaced by the school Sisters of Notre Dame, who have also opened a kindergarten for the young children.

The Redemptorist Fathers of the Austrian Province since the first of July have taken over the care of the Catholics in Malmo. Effective on the same date, Monsignor B. D. Assarson was appointed pastor of St. Clement's Church in Helsingborg and pro-Vicar for South Sweden.

Collections have been taken up in all the Catholic churches and chapels in Sweden for the Catholic refugees of Central Europe. A committee has been formed, headed by Monsignor Assarson, to take charge of the relief work and help action. Appeals for donations to the committee have appeared in the newspapers.

A new altar dedicated to St. Eric was blessed in St. Eric's Church in Stockholm on November 6th. After procession to the new altar and blessing by Monsignor Assarson, he delivered a speech praising Sweden's saintly king, so beloved in Sweden that he became a symbol for his country, his picture adorning the official seal of the city of Stockholm, and his statue looking down upon the city from the magnificent City Hall.

St. Bridget's Parish in Norrkäping was host during the holy days of Pentecost to the Catholic Youth Society of

Sweden. Catholic youth from all over Sweden assembled there for discussion, devotions, lectures, and informal "Get-together." Four priests took part in the convention. On the last day an outing to the country included a visit to the magnificent Sturefors Castle, owned by one of the Catholic nobles of Sweden.

In the city of Stockholm sixty years ago, a society for Catholic men was formed by Monsignor R. Kiesler, then pastor of St. Eric's Church. The sixty years jubilee of this society was celebrated in St. Eric's Church with a Solemn High Mass and procession, and in the evening a banquet was held in the parish hall with speeches and music, ending a memorable day.

Sister Synesia of the Grey Sisters celebrated her golden jubilee as a member of the Grey Sisters Congregation (St. Elizabeth of Hungary) in Malmö, on December 5, 1938. Bishop Mueller, who happened to be in Malmö for a few days celebrated Holy Mass in the Sisters' chapel and at its conclusion extended congratulations and thanks to Sister Synesia for her fifty years of unselfish service. She has spent practically all these years in Malmö and is now stationed at St. Elizabeth's Hospital there.

The new Dominican Church, the third Catholic parish church in Stockholm, were dedicated and opened for service on July 16th, Our Lady of Mount Carmel's Day. The church is named The Annunciation of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and is in charge of three Dominican Fathers. Owing to the incomplete state of the building, the formal consecration has not yet taken place, although it is being used by Catholics from the eastern section of Stockholm as parish church.

The Dominican Sisters have vacated their old property and moved to a larger and more modern house located in fashionable Villa Street. News has just reached me from Stockholm that there are regular services every Sunday in their chapel for the many Polish refugees who arrived in Stockholm before and after the collapse of the Polish State. Mass is said and confessions are heard in Polish by the Rev. W. Meyerink, one of the few priests in Sweden mastering the Polish language. For a number of years Father Meyerink was pastor in Malmö, but is now stationed in Stockholm.

NEWS FROM FINLAND

Farnham Avenue,
Peabody, Mass.,
November 21, 1939.

MEMBERS:

We all know that recent events in the Baltic region have taken a sad and doubtful turn and how the small Baltic states have been forced under the Soviet rule. It is believed by some that Finland has also been marked for the same fate. It is certain that the Finns will not willingly submit to the demands made by Stalin. They have for centuries looked at anything Russian skeptically and well remember what their fathers had to suffer under the czars, when Finland was a Grand Duchy of Russia. They are fully aware that those sufferings and hardships were nothing compared to the ones Stalin and his cohorts would impose. Many a tale of horror and many a disappointed person have crossed the carefully guarded Finnish-Soviet border. The Finns are well ac-

quainted with the tactics of Stalin and will not voluntarily give up their freedom.

Realizing what would be the fate of the Catholic Church and its workers if war broke out the Sisters who have been in Finland for several years were advised to leave the country. A letter received from one of the Sisters from Sweden says that they were on their way to the mother house in Holland. The journey from Viipuri to Stockholm was made by way of Tornio and Haaparanta. The Sister writing described the trip as very hard. She does not say why this round-about route was taken, especially this time of the year, but I believe this way was chosen because of a possible fear of being attacked by the Soviets on the seas.

It must be very discouraging to leave and to give up the work in Finland just when the Catholic Church was beginning to be known again and some signs of progress were seen.

The present mission in Finland is not very old. Monsignor Buckx was the first bishop of Finland since the Reformation. He was appointed by the late Pope Pius XI. It was with great difficulties that he set out to work in Finland. The Catholic Church was very little known and greatly misunderstood by the Finns, and they had been prejudiced against it since the time of Luther. Lack of money, a scattered population, and the cosmopolitan nature of the small Catholic group in the cities added to the difficulties. Only through perseverance, sacrifice and tireless efforts did the results begin to show. A Catholic school was opened in Helsinki and the Sisters of the Sacred Heart came to teach. A children's home was also established at Viipuri. During the past summer some American Sisters of the Most Precious Blood arrived in Finland, but they also left with the others and were in Sweden.

Among the activities the Sisters had been interested was the instruction annually of a group of children for first Holy Communion who came from distant places. Some of these were of mixed marriages and because of the great distance from the church knew very little about their Faith. During the several weeks stay with the Sisters they were carefully instructed and an effort was made to encourage them to live as practical Catholics when they returned home.

The Sisters also organized young peoples' societies and established a small library at Viipuri. By coming to the meetings and by reading and conversing with the Sisters many learned of the teachings of the Catholic Church or had his prejudices removed.

During the past year Mass has been said in Helsinki, Viipuri, Turku, and Terijoki, regularly, on Sundays and week days. Mass has been said several times a year in some of the other cities.

It is impossible to predict what the future holds for Finland and the Catholic Church there. At present the Catholics must be undergoing quite a mental ordeal, not knowing what may happen. The fear of the Soviet domination is very great among all the Finns, but it must be even greater among the Catholics. The Catholics know that Luther tried to destroy the Catholic Church but that Stalin is trying to destroy all religion, even God Himself.

The Church in Finland and the whole country of Finland needs the prayers of all of us. Let us remember them in our prayers.

Yours sincerely,

FANNY M. LAITINEN.

REPORT OF FARGO UNIT

THURSDAY evening, May 11th, the Fargo Unit had their last session of St. Ansgar's League for the spring, and it turned out to be one of the finest meetings of the year. The unusually large attendance was probably due to the fact that we had as guests the Rev. George Esterguard and the Rev. Hugh Wolf. Father Esterguard gave, as usual, an inspirational address on "The Future of the League." Father Wolf spoke on Albert Hanson, a modern day Saint, a truly fascinating subject. Father Wolf also displayed the relic of St. Olav intended for the shrine at Garretson, S. Dak. The Scandinavian music was furnished by Rhine Weisenberger and Lars Birkland, accordion and guitar soloists.

The Scandinavian theme was much in evidence in the decorations and for the informal social hour which followed the regular meeting. Mrs. Bert Anderson and Mrs. George Barrett were in charge of this part of the program.

The flags of all the Scandinavian countries were displayed in the background. The centerpiece for the table was a May Pole wound with red, white and blue, and with streamers in the colors of the various countries. Holding the streamers as dancers around the pole were little dolls dressed in Scandinavian costumes.

Under the direction of the Rev. George Mehok this has been a most auspicious year for the League. We have grown in membership and forged steadily ahead in activity.

On May 17th, the Norwegian Independence Day, we broadcast a Scandinavian program over the Fargo Station WDAY in honor of the occasion.

The Fargo Unit has arranged to burn a perpetual votive light at the Shrine of St. Olav. It is hoped that our members will make an annual pilgrimage to the shrine, relighting the candle on each occasion.

Mrs. Holzer hopes to hold classes in Norwegian for members this year.

September saw the resumption of activities for the Fargo Unit of St. Ansgar's League, with the members full of zest and zeal for another year of achievement, happy in having Father Thomas Hendrickson back as Spiritual Director to guide the League in new fields of endeavor.

One of the first projects to be undertaken is a League Library. Members will contribute books, pamphlets and other apologetic literature, all of it to be catalogued and circulated "library style." Mrs. Cornelia Hendrickson is to be librarian and the books will be kept at the Waldorf Hotel.

Study features for this year's program include the lives of Scandinavian saints, reviews of books by Scandinavian authors or on subjects of Scandinavian interest.

Father Hendrickson is giving a series of lectures on the subject, "The Reformation in the Scandinavian Countries."

All meetings are opened with the "Our Father" and "Hail Mary" said in Norwegian. The pronunciation at first was hard work but now even such Irish members as Mary O'Day can pray it like a "native."

Of course, the highlight of this fall's meetings was the

November 9th one, at which the Rev. George Esterguard was our guest speaker. Rev. F. A. Meyer, Wahpeton, an ardent devotee of the work of the League, accompanied Father Esterguard to Fargo. As is to be expected from Father Esterguard, we heard an inspiring, spiritual message on "The Catholic Church and Divine Truth." He gave an interesting account, too, of his visit to the New York World's Fair.

With a full staff of standing committees consisting of Program, Hostess, Notification, Membership, Library and Consolation Chairmen and aides, Mrs. John Holzer, President, looks forward to a most successful year.

FLORENCE E. GREGERSON, *Secretary.*

The Burse for the Education of a Scandinavian Youth to the Priesthood

The burse named in honor of our late President, Mrs. Karen-Elise Rambusch, as a memorial of her work for the League, is growing by degrees.

The need for native clergy in the Scandinavian countries, as in all countries, is recognized. Members and friends of the League will find this burse a means of expressing their fidelity to their late friend and her noble ideals, and at the same time aid the purpose for which the burse was founded.

FROM ROME

Collegio de Propaganda Fide,
Via Del Gianicolo, 12,
Roma, Italy.

The feasts of St. Canute and St. Ansgar were celebrated with Mass in the morning. On March 18th, the collegians had the joy of seeing two of their number ordained priests, viz.: Father Harald Taxt of Norway and Father Olaf V. Sørensen of Denmark. Father Taxt was born in Oslo of Catholic parents and Father Sørensen in Copenhagen, also of Catholic parentage. While a great part of his life has been spent in Germany owing to a change of residence of his family, he attended a course in a Danish high school, and remains typically Danish.

The feast of St. Olav was celebrated at Castel Gandolfo, where His Eminence Pietro Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi celebrated Mass in the morning for the Scandinavians, and gave a short but very inspirational sermon before the Communion, evidencing his great interest in Scandinavia.

The Scandinavian Library in the college is growing slowly owing to the lack of financial means of the students, who are not able to get all the books bound. Donations of books in the Scandinavian languages, English and German, including the Nonni books of the world famous Icelandic priest and convert, Father Svensson, S.J., have been received, with gratitude. As the Library is far from what it should be, the students will be thankful for any books forwarded to them, or for money to use for binding some of the books on hand.

SAXO GRAMMATICUS.

"Join St. Ansgar's League"

"Pray for Scandinavia"

ST. ANSGAR'S BULLETIN

REPORT OF THE GARRETSON UNIT

By REV. HUGH K. WOLF

THE National Shrine of St. Olaf in Garretson, S. Dak., was conceived in 1937 as a project of the Garretson Unit. Since Garretson is in the center of a predominantly Norwegian Lutheran community, it was thought that through St. Olaf, the patron of Norway, many would be attracted to the shrine and ultimately to the teachings of the Church. In the beginning the Shrine consisted of a copy of a beautiful painting of St. Olaf. Later a hand painted banner of St. Olaf was secured and used until the present statue of St. Olaf was received. The Shrine was formally blessed in May, 1937, by the Spiritual Director of the Garretson Unit.

The real treasure of the Shrine is a first class relic of St. Olaf, a fragment of his shin bone, which was received in Garretson in May, 1939. This relic, the only of its kind in this country, as far as we know, was sent from the Cathedral of St. Olaf in Oslo, Norway, by His Excellency, the Most Reverend James Mangers, the Bishop of Oslo. The Shrine is deeply grateful to His Excellency, as well as to our national president through whose efforts the relic was secured. The relic was received in New York and very fittingly honored on the feast of St. Ansgar this year, at the celebration in the Church of Our Lady of Angels, Brooklyn. After this first public veneration of the relic in this country it was sent to Garretson, where on the feast of St. Magnus of Norway, April 16th, it was solemnly received. On the feast of St. Magnus the Very Rev. Adolph Schmitt, C.M.M., rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, was the celebrant of a Solemn Mass, with Father Esterguard as the preacher of the day. Father Esterguard preached a beautiful sermon on the Catholic Church's use of relics, bringing in also in his sermon the significance of the feast of St. Magnus.

While the Shrine rightly considers the relic of St. Olaf as its real treasure, it also treasures a beautiful hand-carved and artistically painted statue of St. Olaf. The entire statue is typically Norwegian. It depicts St. Olaf with his crown, as "eternal king of Norway"; holding in his hands the battle ax and the sword, with his shield showing the Norwegian lion. On the base of the statue is shown the serpent, typical of the paganism of the Viking times. In the lower right hand corner of the base is shown a Stav or Pole Church, typical only of early Norway. The sketch, prepared for the statue in the Studios of our National President, was used by the artist in the painting of the mural of St. Olaf in the Temple of Religion at the New York World's Fair.

On the Feast of St. Olaf, July 29, 1939, the statue was solemnly blessed by the Chancellor of the Sioux Falls Diocese, the Very Rev. Msgr. Lambert A. Hoch. Monsignor



Hoch was the celebrant of the Solemn Mass on the feast, and after the Mass he blessed the statue with the solemn blessing of the ritual. The sermon for the occasion was preached by Father Wolf, the Spiritual Director of the Shrine, who brought out the influence of the Catholic Church in Scandinavia and how even today St. Olaf is honored and revered by Scandinavians in this country, since there are forty-nine Lutheran churches in this country bearing the name of St. Olaf's church. The veneration of the relic took place after the blessing of the statue, during which time several non-Catholic Scandinavians came forward to venerate the relic.

The Garretson Unit was thrilled by all these stirring events, but probably the most stirring event at the Shrine was the first public pilgrimage to the Shrine on the Feast of St. Olaf. A group of deeply religious people from the Fargo, N. Dak., Unit came about two hundred and fifty miles to do honor to St. Olaf and to venerate his relic. After the public veneration of the relic a short informal meeting of the League was called at which Mrs. Mabelle Holzer, the President of the Fargo Unit, addressed the meeting in Norwegian, telling how her family lived only seven miles from Stiklestad, Norway, where St. Olaf fell in battle, fighting for his God and country. It is the ardent prayer of all our members that this, but the beginning of many pilgrimages to the Shrine in order to increase devotion to this great saint, and through his intercession to bring many of his countrymen back to the true Church.

The new bishop of the Sioux Falls diocese, in which the Shrine is located, has given his hearty approval to the work. His Excellency, the Most Rev. William O. Brady, in a letter to Father Wolf, said: "I hope that this missionary endeavor (the League) will be successful in restoring to these people their Catholic heritage. The establishment of a Shrine of St. Olaf at Garretson to foster devotion and piety as well as to further the cause of the League is worthy of commendation." With this whole-hearted approval by our spiritual leader we hope and pray to continue this apostolic work of teaching our separated Scandinavian brethren more about Scandinavian Catholicism.

Artistic Sheet Lead Statue at the New York World's Fair

AN interesting application of ornamental lead work was seen in the heroic size statue of Norway's great King, Olav Trygvason, shown in the Norwegian Pavilion of the World's Fair. The statue is the work of Wilhelm Rasmussen, Professor of Sculpture in the Academy of Arts at the University of Oslo. The figure is twelve feet high, weighs three tons, and is made of a wood core covered with plaster and overlaid with sheet lead. A final burnishing with steel wool brings out the rich high lights in the lead coating.

For centuries lead has been widely employed for ornamental and artistic work. Whether cast, hand beaten or finished by other ornamental processes, its ease of working, durability, and attractive color have made lead a favorite material for ornamental articles. The statue of King Olav is an excellent modern adaptation of lead's age-old tradition.

REPORT OF LA CROSSE UNIT, ORGANIZED MARCH, 1934

NOTHING so emphasizes the quick passage of time as the deadline for sending in the annual report draws near. It seems but a few months since we mailed an outline of our program for 1933. Looking back over the year which marks the sixth since its founding, we find our activities have taken on a varying nature. We have not held meetings as frequently as in other years, owing to much over-lapping through diocesan and local obligations.

Many of our members have been carrying on the work of St. Ansgar through visiting, distributing literature and following up the work of the pastors in the reception of converts to the Church who are of Scandinavian descent. We try to make our converts feel at home in their new faith.

The President of this unit has been conducting a form of correspondence course in answering inquiries from Montana, Minnesota, Wisconsin, California, New Mexico, Ohio and Texas. This extension work has been done principally through pastors who have read the St. Ansgar's League BULLETIN.

You may be interested in this connection in hearing of two young Redemptorist Fraters at the Monastery in Oconomowoc, Wis., who will be ordained to the priesthood in June, 1940. They are Frater Wickstrom and Frater Iverson. They were born of Scandinavian and German parents and brought up with no knowledge of any Scandinavian language, but as is natural, with an unconscious love and interest in their ancestry. In forwarding the letters we receive from our Norwegian correspondent, Mr. Oscar Hansen, of Haugesund, they have become interested in the missionary possibilities that they will be able to undertake following ordination. The Redemptorists at Oconomowoc publish a notable monthly magazine, "The Liguorian"; also, a monthly, "Perpetual Help."

Frater Wickstrom is writing a "Life of St. Bridget of Sweden," having devoted much time to research on the subject.

The greatest achievement through the medium of the La Crosse Unit is the monthly forwarding of Mass Stipends to the bishops of Norway, Sweden and Denmark for use in the parishes of these countries which, through adverse conditions, have been cut off from aid from religious foundations in Germany and elsewhere. These religious orders have been supplying the Scandinavian churches for the most part with their priests. This mailing of stipends is continuing with increasing amount. When we recall that of the thirty-five priests in Norway, only five are native Norwegians, we can readily appreciate the magnitude of this service from the clergy of the Diocese of La Crosse and other friends of the League.

Our correspondent, Mr. Hansen, has a son who will be ordained this year in Holland, a member of the Franciscan order, and will return to Norway to work among his people.

Our work in other respects is carried on as originally planned. Our group is composed almost entirely of converts. As time goes on, converts of other than Scandinavians join our League so we shall continue with talks and discussion of some particular doctrine of the Catholic Church and

studies of Scandinavian saints, and include also, a review of the status of the Church in Scandinavia, as we receive news from these countries. Our people are becoming farther and farther removed from any Scandinavian contacts which is natural when we remember that Wisconsin received almost the earliest Scandinavian emigrants, Minnesota and North and South Dakota receiving later settlers. There is almost no interest in the furthering or perpetuating the language of their parents or grandparents which in turn is causing less interest in the condition of their mother country from a national standpoint.

Our much-loved Secretary and Treasurer, Mrs. Gussie Connor, died last September, and we mourn the loss of one to whom much of our success in our unit is due. Her loyalty and untiring efforts in its service place her with the leaders in our cause and commend her to our prayers.

Our League work is progressing without payment of dues. It may be we shall make some change this year and establish ourselves with definite responsibility on each member. As it is, it is almost impossible to compile a list of our active members, as we have aimed to attract to our meetings many who might hesitate to come if dues were required. Through a multiplicity of organizations, we are finding it increasingly difficult to meet our obligations by card parties and gifts.

We have been able to make donations to Scandinavia, among these, a contribution to Father Van de Gludt for the organ fund at Haugesund.

We hear from Mr. Hansen there of the interest being shown in the liturgy and doctrine of the Church among the non-Catholics there, and their attendance at church services is growing so the congregation has undertaken the raising of money to purchase a pipe organ.

After six years of organization, we feel more than ever that the work of the St. Ansgar's League has been much blessed. In our locality the list of converts is becoming conspicuous by the inclusion of Scandinavians and, no doubt, their returning to the ancient faith speaks for a future of growth and influence that cannot be measured by statistics or routine reports.

In closing, the La Crosse Unit is functioning under the guidance and approbation of His Excellency, Bishop A. J. MacGavick, of La Crosse, and the Vicar General, Monsignor L. P. Hirt. Monsignor Hirt has been our Spiritual Director from the beginning and to him we owe grateful thanks. To St. Ansgar's League of New York, and to all other units, we send wishes for a holy and prosperous New Year.

Sincerely,

CLARA JACOBSEN DOHERTY,
President, La Crosse Unit.
(Mrs. John F. Doherty).

Our officers are:

MONSIGNOR L. P. HIRT.....*Spiritual Director*
MRS. JOHN F. DOHERTY.....*President*
MR. GUNNAR TAARVIG.....*Vice-President*
MRS. BERNARD DOYLE.....*Secretary & Treasurer*

“Join St. Ansgar's League”

“Pray for Scandinavia”

FIELD SECRETARY'S REPORT

ST. CHARLES' PARISH

BIG STONE CITY, SOUTH DAKOTA

ST. ANSGAR'S LEAGUE comes to the close of another year and a few thoughts are important to us all, particularly in the work we have undertaken.

Of greatest importance in my mind, at this time, is the generous understanding and approbation which has been extended to me in my work as Field Secretary by the new bishop of my own diocese, the Most Reverend William Brady, D.D., Bishop of Sioux Falls. Not only has he encouraged the work of the League, having known of it for some little time, but he has renewed and extended the privileges I enjoyed in the past from my late bishop, and he has given a letter of approval signed and sealed by himself. This instrument will be of inestimable value as proof of his permission and blessing on my labors.

For his understanding of our aims, and his encouragement, I wish to express in this public manner my personal gratitude and that of the League wherever it exists. Without the assistance of our episcopal pastors we could not hope to carry on the purpose of the League of St. Ansgar.

Because of this renewed favor, I am happy to report that we have now spanned the continent; for in the month of October a new unit came into being in the city of Spokane, Wash., under the directorship of the Reverend Father Robinson, S.J., President of Gonzaga University. Father Robinson, the son of a Danish father and Swedish mother, was so enthusiastic that I feel our farthest outpost will be the incep-

tion of a virile unit, and a spread of our League on the west coast.

The necessary permission for work in the diocese of Spokane was granted by Bishop White some time ago, and we are all grateful to the Bishop of Spokane for his hearty invitation of which we shall prove our worth. In this diocese are a great many of those who are our first interest.

What for the future? Should we not give a moment's thought to ourselves? We Catholics are all soldiers in the Kingdom of God, of which Christ is King, and we are aware that there is a solemn duty to fight the battles of our king, but so often it is thought that it is only for priests and bishops to preach and teach the Gospel, while truly it is the duty of everyone of us. Might we not class the St. Ansgar's Scandinavian League as a special detail of picked soldiers who have volunteered to undertake a special order from the King. In every army there are those who are selected from the rank and file to perform some special work, different from the mass movement of troops. Our special detail is to seek ways and means to recruit those who should be soldiers of Christ, and who are not of their own accord out of uniform. Our Scandinavian brethren would gladly put on that uniform if only they knew that they are needed for the battle, and it is for us of the League to acquaint them of the duty that awaits. They are ready, but they do not know they are wanted.

Let this be our thought for the coming year, and perhaps it will infuse a new desire to be the missionaries we are supposed to be.

GEORGE ESTERGUARD.

 Scandinavian Feast Days

Mass is 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.

The Officers of the Parent Unit are as Follows:

REV. HENRY ANDERSEN, S.J., *Spiritual Director*
 REV. JOHN LAFARGE, S.J., *Director of Programs*
 REV. GEORGE ESTERGUARD, *Field Secretary*
 Big Stone City, S. Dak.
 MR. VIGGO F. E. RAMBUSCH, *President*
 MR. G. A. ESTERGUARD, *Vice-President*

MRS. ANDREW PETTERSON, *Recording Secretary*
 MRS. G. A. ESTERGUARD, *Treasurer*
 69 West Third Street, Bayonne, N. J.
 MR. SVEND EGEDE-LASSEN, *Corresponding Secretary*
 2 West 45th Street, Room 1104, New York City.

Unit Directors

RIGHT REV. MSGR. LEO P. HIRT, *Spiritual Director of La Crosse, Wis., Unit*
 REV. R. E. COGWIN, *St. Stephen's Church, Spiritual Director of Minneapolis, Minn., Unit*
 REV. J. H. DEENY, *Spiritual Director of Eau Claire, Wis., Unit*
 REV. GEORGE MEEHOK, *Spiritual Director of Fargo, N. Dak., Unit*
 REV. THOMAS HENDRICKSON, *Fargo, N. Dak.*
 REV. HUGH WOLF, *Spiritual Director of Garretson, S. Dak., Unit*
 REV. WILLIAM KEEFE, *Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception, Crookston, Minn.*

VERY REV. WILLIAM T. MULLOY, *St. John the Evangelist Church, Grafton, N. Dak.*
 REV. WILLIAM GORMAN, *St. Augustine Church, 405 North Kenwood Avenue, Austin, Minn.*
 VERY REV. J. RATH, *St. Leo's Church, Minot, N. Dak.*
 VERY REV. F. A. MEYER, *St. John's Church, Wahpeton, N. Dak.*
 REV. JOHN HEINZ, *St. Jerome's Church, Mohall, N. Dak.*
 REV. JOHN H. MULVANEY, *St. Lawrence O'Toole's Church, Michigan, N. Dak.*
 REV. WALTER LIESCH, *St. Christina's Church, Parker, S. Dak.*
 REV. LEO J. ROBINSON, S.J., *President, Gonzaga University, Spokane, Wash.*