

# RELIGIOUS BULLETIN

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## News Section

● RELIGIOUS UNITY THROUGH DEVOTION TO THE SACRED HEART--this is the general intention for the month of January recommended by Pope John XXIII for the Apostleship of Prayer. The Holy Father is the Vicar of Christ, the visible head of a universal Church in which all men should be united as children of God through the possession of sanctifying grace and the bond of supernatural charity. Therefore he prays always that all may be one, that all who are in the Church may grow in grace and charity, and that all who seek the true Church may be drawn to it by a better understanding of the desire of the Heart of Jesus for Unity among His disciples.

● Cardinal O'Hara's Christmas message to his Philadelphia flock indicates he still has a great facility for getting his point across. Your fathers will find in his comments on the arguments of the proponents of birth prevention the same fire that characterized his writing in the Religious Bulletin from 1917-1934. The Cardinal said: "They have dreamed up a bogey man which they call 'population explosion'. If they do any research at all, they must know that in this country only Catholics and Negroes show an extraordinary increase in births--the latter about 60 per cent and the former 100 per cent over the totals of, say, 15 years ago. Are those who want to supplant Divine Wisdom by their own planning disturbed by this? Let them leave us to God. We ask no sympathy.

"In the post-war days, an officer

of our government was sent into the byways of the Near East to learn what the common people thought of us. The mayor of an Egyptian town told him frankly what he thought of us. He mentioned both likes and dislikes. On birth control he spoke directly and to the point. He said: 'Your campaign to impose birth control on us shows you are afraid of us and want to kill us off. That, sir, is biological warfare.'"

● WEDNESDAY IS THE FEAST OF EPIPHANY. It is the day when the Church blesses gold, frankincense, chalk, and myrrh. The old gold collected during recent months will be later converted into sacred vessels for the altar. (If you have come across any old articles of gold you wish to donate for this purpose, turn them over to Brother Boniface in Sacred Heart Church tonight or tomorrow.)

● YOUR OLD CHRISTMAS CARDS may be re-used as teaching aids at orphanages, schools, hospitals, missions, etc. Those wishing to do so, may send their old cards to one of the following:

Holy Ghost Fathers, St. Mary's Church, Tuscaloosa, Alabama.

Holy Rosary Mission, Pine Ridge, South Dakota.

St. Ann's Indian Mission, Belcourt, North Dakota.

Oblate Sisters of Providence, 501 East Chase St., Baltimore 2, Maryland.

● PRAYERS. Deceased: Father of Hugh T. Murphy, '59; John C. Pangborn, one of the donors of Pangborn Hall; Bro. Gabriel, C.S.C.; Bro. Emery, C.S.C.; mother of Rev. William T. Craddick, C.S.C.; grandfather of Frank Carten of Alumni; father of Tom Dooley of Dillon; friend of Dick Fox of Howard; aunt of John Harding of Sorin; Mrs. Ethel Dolan; John Meyers, '51, his wife and two year old daughter (auto accident); Raymond J. Kasher, '27; father of Edward G. Toomey, '55.



THE WEATHER BUREAU served up the coldest day of the winter to date upon your return here this morning. It calls to mind the rumor that was making the rounds some months back about a third World War and "the coldest day of January, 1960". The many wild statements that have passed for an interpretation of the Fatima secret prompt this review of the facts about "the letter" and this year 1960.

WHAT IS ACTUALLY KNOWN concerning the Fatima secret? First of all, it was in the spring of 1946 that Sister Lucy, one of the Fatima children, fell seriously ill. The Bishop of Leiria, fearful that the illness might prove fatal, sent several priests to ask Sister what should be done about that part of the Fatima message that was not yet known. Sister Lucy said she would pray to Our Lady for guidance as to what she should do. She asked the priests to return in a few days. When they returned, she told them that she had written down the secret and that it was to be given to the Bishop. She made it known that she would reveal the secret to the Bishop of Leiria if he bade her do so under obedience. Otherwise, she said the secret might be opened either at the time of her death or in 1960, whichever came first.

THE BISHOP SEALED THE SECRET, without looking at it, and placed it in

the archives of his diocese where it remained until his death and presumably to this day. The only remark Sister Lucy has made about the secret is that the secret would be good for some and bad for others.

ONE NEEDN'T BE A THEOLOGIAN to assume that it will be bad for those who are content to live in and out of mortal sin, who are part of the contemporary revolt against God. Neither is it unreasonable to assume that it will be good for those who heed the warnings of Our Blessed Lady, remain in the state of grace and say the Rosary daily. In short, it will be good for those who make it their business to pray: May no one be less good for having come within my influence. No one less pure, less true, less kind, less noble for having been a fellow-traveler with me in the journey toward eternal life.

INSTEAD OF FRETTING about the devastating possibilities of an attack by a Russian submarine, or any other apocalyptic disasters the alarmists would have us believe the Fatima secret contains, we would better spend our time making sure that we are among those for whom the secret will be good. If we redouble our efforts at prayer and penance to help Our Blessed Lady avert world disaster, we have no need to worry.

*John Boorman, c.s.c.*  
Student Chaplain