

# God Is Found In the Faces Of Manhattan

By MARY HEALY

Sister Marie Lucita Cangelmi has written a book called *Manhattan Mission*. Simply and almost artlessly, Sister relates the everyday happenings among the people she encounters on New York's East Side.

As the reader follows this nun's route which takes her close to prostitutes, unwed mothers, thieves, alcoholics, junkies and others outside the social norm, the eye is tempted to reread a line or two to make certain it has seen aright.

This is because Sister does not get excited or dramatic over the problems she finds. Matter of factly, she tells about the people.

They are not types to her. Nor "cases" (although she is a professional social worker). They are fellow human beings. David, Audrey, Ruben, Mr. Polsky and Mrs. Lopez. And Mrs. O'Leary, too.

Each chapter of *Manhattan Mission* is a different story, just as each day in the life of this Sister brings her a fresh experience.

But they are really all very old stories and old told experiences. That's because they are about people. But to each individual, they are new. And each life is a precious thing.

SISTER LUCITA is a member of the Missionary Servants of the Most Blessed Trinity. This order was established by Father Thomas Judge along about 1912.

As a young priest, he had been stirred into action by an awareness of the poverty, injustice, and various other social and economic ills about him.

His own fervor and dedication rallied the help of others and two religious orders resulted from his work; one for men and one for women.

The Sisters of this order have always dressed in keeping with the times.

In 1912 when stiff sailor hats were in vogue, this is what they wore. Their skirts were the length then in fashion.

Today their skirts are street length and their softly arranged hair is topped by a pill box hat. They do not attract much attention.

SISTER WRITES: "On this missionary journey to meet the people, we do not travel by car, by camel or by horse back. Rather we take the IRT and the IND subways of New York, and the city buses, and then do the rest by foot. . . ."

From the offices of the Catholic Charities in the big city, Sister Lucita and her associates move out.

They are to be found in the court room, in the House of Detention, in the jails, in the community centers, and very often, in the homes.

Sister Lucita describes a very effective interview conducted over pastries and sandwiches. Another with savory meatballs on the table in a little apartment where she'd gone to see a girl who was in all kinds of trouble.

But all the time she shares more than bread. It is obvious that she manages to give some of her own hope and faith and enduring love to those she wants to help.

AS SHE TELLS of her work, it is not difficult to glimpse what she sees there, from Harlem to lower Manhattan.

In the fruit stalls, at the youth dances, along the sidewalks, she sees Christ. She sees Him when a girl haltingly tells her "the only job my girl friend offered me was . . . you know, Sister . . ."

She sees Him in the man "with blood-shot and half closed eyes." She sees Him too, in the faces of those who turn away and refuse to go in the direction she prays they will take.

But she has seen Him, and she won't quit.



MARY HEALY



## OUR SISTERS

### Rainy in Compton

Sister Joan looks up at people, even if they are tiny. She sees Christ in them. This one's name even has Christ in it, his name is Christopher.

It was a rainy, windy Saturday morning in Compton, and Christopher came to St. Albert's to learn about the Christ Whose name he carries. But he was scared, lonesome and cold, so he sat on the brick wall apart from everyone. Would anyone miss him? It felt good that Sister did.

Friendship started right on the brick wall. In another year Sister Joan will help him to become a real Christ-bearer as she prepares him for his first Holy Communion.

Sister Joan is learning to be a Christ-bearer herself in a very wonderful way. She entered the Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart six months ago and has just become a novice. By the time Christopher makes his first Holy Communion, Sister Joan will have made her first profession.

Christopher likes to come to religion classes now, he says it's a happy place. All Sisters seem happy, explain the answers on the board and give gold stickers when someone is good, rather than punish him when he forgets to be good.

This is a joyful apostolate, but it does not always "come easy" for the Sisters. It takes them much learning and day-by-day practice to teach well and always to be joyfully available.

The Sisters devote their lives to teaching the truths of faith to children and adults, especially to those who cannot be approached easily by others both here at home and in foreign missions. They also train catechists and conduct three-day leadership courses in their convent for Catholic girls in high school and college.

Commonly known as the Sisters of the Sacred Heart, they are a religious congregation and come from different backgrounds and races. The first seven Sisters originally came here from Hungary and Czechoslovakia after spending five years behind the Iron Curtain.

Their membership has grown to 27. Other than American members, two Sisters come from Mexico; they met the community during a five-week catechist training tour in La Paz.

Sister Mary Ann comes from Shanghai, speaks four Chinese dialects, is now a resident surgeon and prepares to be part of the community's foreign mission team. Two other Chinese members are in training.

The Society Devoted to the Sacred Heart has four convents in the U.S.—two in Los Angeles, one in East Los Angeles and one in Reno, Nevada. In the Archdiocese they work in St. Paul's Parish, St. Ignatius in Highland Park, St. Albert's in Compton, San Miguel in Watts, Our Lady of Lourdes in East L.A., Cathedral Chapel and St. John the Evangelist. The motherhouse is at 728 S. Hudson Ave., Los Angeles, 90005; the novitiate is at 628 S. Irving Blvd., Los Angeles 90005.

## CULTURAL SCENE

### Sacred Music to Be Sung at Ebell

The Gregg Smith Singers conducted by Gregg Smith will perform at the Wilshire-Ebell Theater Saturday, April 15 at 8:30 p.m.

Among the pieces they have selected is a composition of sacred music by John Biggs entitled, "Meditation."

## CANCELLATION

The Southern California Music Association has announced the

### PARTY TO AID MEXICAN TOTS

Mrs. Kelvin Cox Vanderlip will open her Portuguese Bend home, Villa Narcissa, Sunday, April 23, to more than 1000 Southland art and music lovers.

The occasion will be the second annual fiesta of art and music sponsored by Peninsula Friends of Nuestros Pequenos Hermanos.

Funds derived from the party will support the dental clinic founded in Mexico City by Dr. Andrew J. De Paolo for Father William Wasson's orphanages. Reservations are limited and should be made by April 17 with Mrs. Robert Welsh of Rolling Hills Estates, TE 2-3629.

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postponement of its final concert of the season: "The War Requiem" with Roger Wagner and his Master Chorale which was scheduled for Friday, April 21 at the Shrine Auditorium.

## FILM SERIES

"The 400 Blows," "The World of Apu," and "The Island" comprise the spring film series on successive nights at Mount St. Mary's College beginning Friday, April 14, at 7:30 p.m.

## SOLOISTS

Three faculty artists will appear as soloists with the Immaculate Heart College Community Orchestra in the fourth annual benefit concert for the Franz Darvas Memorial Scholarship Sunday, April 9, at 8 p.m. in the college auditorium.

Soloists are Gloria Nygaard Stepp, soprano; Manuel Compinsky, violin; and Abraham Weiss, viola.

The scholarship was named in honor of the late Dr. Franz Darvas who served as dean of the school of

music for 35 years. Admission is \$1.50; students half price.

### St. Vincent's Will Train Nurses Aides

St. Vincent's Hospital will offer an eight-week training course for nurses aides in general hospital orientation, nursing ethics, body structure and function and basic nursing techniques.

The class will start May 1 and 12 candidates will be selected from test screened applicants.

Age limit for candidates is between 20 and 50. Ninth grade skills in language, reading and arithmetic are required.

Applicants should apply at the personnel office, 2131 W. Third St., Los Angeles, from 9 a.m. to 4 p.m. Tests will be held Saturday, April 15.

Ticket holders desiring a refund should mail their tickets to the Music Center Ticket Office with a self-addressed return envelope.

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## SEARCHING QUESTIONS

# Bishop Urges Study Of Catholic Education

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — (NC) — A detailed and comprehensive study of Catholic education on all levels was called for by Bishop Ernest J. Primeau of Manchester, N.H., at the annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Bishop Primeau urged the NCEA March 28 to undertake such a study to seek answers to the many questions facing Catholic education today and to "plan for the innovations that our times are demanding."

He assured the 20,000 delegates at the convention here that such a study would "have the full support of my fellow bishops."

"None of us — educators, bishops and concerned Catholics generally — can afford an extended period of drift and indecision in these matters," he stated.

## A Philosophy Needed

"We need a detailed re-examination of all aspects and all problems of Christian formation, embracing not simply the Catholic school system but our entire educational effort: Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the Newman Apostolate, adult education, and youth programs."

Maintaining that "what Catholic education today needs more than anything else is a philosophy, a rationale for its own existence," Bishop Primeau said such a philosophy can only emerge from "the answers to some very basic questions."

"I believe, too, that the answers, when they have been found, will not spell collapse or chaos for the Catholic educational system."

"Indeed, to engage for a moment in prophecy, I believe that the Catholic schools that emerge from this present time of questioning will almost certainly be better and stronger

institutions, serving their students and the Church and the nation even more effectively than they have done up to the present time."

## Secularization Opposed

Noting the trend of Catholic colleges and universities to give control to boards of trustees with a majority of lay members, he said that "this is a development to be welcomed; it signals the maturity of American Catholic higher education."

"We need more lay administrators at every level," Bishop Primeau said, but he added that the secularization of Catholic educational institutions is "a far different matter."

He challenged the "contention that such a step is required of all institutions because academic freedom and the pursuit of truth are impossible in a church-related school."

"Granted that problems in this area can and do arise in church-related institutions — as they can and do arise in secular institutions — is there anything intrinsic to the nature of a church-related institution," he asked, "which rules out free inquiry?"

"I believe," he said, "there is not."

### KTLA to Show Maryknoll Film Next Tuesday

Channel 5, KTLA, will show the World Horizon Film "The Quiet Revolution," narrated by Efrim Zimbalist, Jr., next Tuesday, April 11, at 9 a.m.

The film, produced by Maryknoll, deals with Latin America.

Twelve other films dealing with Latin America, Africa and Asia are available free for showing at schools and organizations from Maryknoll headquarters here, 745 W. Adams Blvd., Los Angeles 90007.

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## Mission Airmen Choose Director

NAIROBI, Kenya — (NC) — Brother James E. Kilroy, S.M., of Philadelphia has become the director here of United Missionary Air Training and Transport (UMATT).

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