

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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*Organ of St. Joan's Social and Political Alliance (formerly Catholic Women's Suffrage Society),
8^B, Dryden Chambers, 119 Oxford Street, London W.1.*

Vol. XLII. No. 7.

15th JULY 1956.

Price Sixpence.



Photo by W. A. Mansell & Co., Oxford Street, London.

ST. JOAN OF ARC, PRAY FOR US

In Honour of St. Joan

The magnificent celebrations just completed at Rouen have excited widespread admiration, but for the delegation organized by St. Joan's Quincentenary Committee they were a real landmark. Our party was fifty strong; men and women, and many applications had to be refused, wisely as it turned out, for Rouen was overflowing, and getting a meal became a major operation, lasting two hours or more.

The first sight of the artistically decorated streets and shops—how well the French do these things!—and the happy throng of people, made us realize how vividly the Saint was being held in mind.

Our first duty was to lay our laurel wreath at the foot of St. Joan's statue in the Market Place, where it was given a place of honour, and was later joined by Sir John McEwen's timely tribute from *ses fidèles Ecossais*.

The historic procession representing the salient events in the Saint's life was magnificently staged and the characters looked convincingly mediaeval. The animals, such as the graceful cavalry horses of the knights, the oxen and the great Normandy draught horses (which were in fact, the war horses of St. Joan's day) appealed particularly to English eyes. In the evening came a more original tribute in the form of the floodlit *grand spectacle lyrique* on an island in the Seine. Magnificent music by Henri Tomasi had been written to a script by Philippe Soupault and great technical skill was shown in producing superb scenic and vocal dramatic effects. (We ought to see a reproduction of this performance at the Albert Hall.)

A gorgeous firework display sent the crowds—many of them country folk—into excited raptures. On the Sunday morning came the ceremonial laying of the foundation stone for a National Monument, by Monsieur Coty, the French President, at the site of St. Joan's martyrdom. From our excellent place in the market square, in front of a lovely bank of blue and white hydrangeas surrounding her statue, we had a full view of the tribune, laden with ambassadors (including our own Sir Gladwyn Jebb), three Cardinals, twenty-five Bishops, the Lord Mayor of Bristol, Cabinet Ministers, a Field Marshall (Juin) and other notabilities, including Mrs. Shattock, our Chairman.

In the long civic and military procession one had been glad to note a detachment of the Royal Navy and an English Girls' Convent School. Immediately after the war veterans our little detachment of thirty swung into line, the Union Jack borne aloft by Dr. Francis Shattock, escorted by Martin Powell Heath and David Laughton Mathews, and the famous banner of St. Joan's Alliance, most steadfastly carried by Miss Noreen

Carr and Miss Barbara Hulme. The banner was inscribed for the occasion with the words: "Homage to St. Joan of Arc from England."

I think we all enjoyed that lively march through Rouen in honour of St. Joan's triumph and if cheers count for anything the crowds, estimated at 100,000 people, were glad to see us there. Each of us had worn a red rose of England, and these were now thrown into the Seine to mingle in reparation with the lilies of France.

That afternoon the spot-light swung from the figure of St. Joan to that of the renovated Cathedral. The first ceremony—that of the re-opening of the Great Doors, in the presence of the President, showed that the building had emerged from its post-war desolation more stately and enchanting than ever. The ecclesiastical ceremonial and the accompanying music were magnificent; the greatest organists of France had contributed their magic touch.

Next day, at the great Pontifical Mass, in the presence of four Cardinals, including our own Cardinal Griffin, all was in complete harmony. Once again the superlatively fine music was profoundly moving and the singing of the "Christus Vincit, Christus Regnat, Christus Imperat," was an experience never to be forgotten.

Finally, with a blessing conveyed by the Pope's own voice, the Church triumphantly claimed her own. For Christians of our time, His Holiness said St. Joan of Arc was a model of steadfast and working faith, of docility and a supreme sense of mission and strength in the midst of trial. By her exemplary life, her consecration to an ideal and her perfect sacrifice she points out the safe road in this century of materialism and indifference.

That afternoon a magnificent concert of sacred music, superbly executed by the finest artists France could provide, sent great waves of glorious sound over the city. Officially the fêtes ended on the Monday evening with a beautiful carillon concert on the Cathedral bells (charmingly but surprisingly terminated by Auld Lang Syne!) but for the delegation the great moment was reserved for the Tuesday morning. We had been promised that the Bishop of Clifton would say Mass in the austere but lovely new Chapel of St. Joan, now at last given her rightful place, near to the High Altar, and that he would later bless the window given "From the English in Homage." What we had not expected was the gracious act of Monsignor Martin, Archbishop of Rouen, in attending the Mass and delivering from the altar steps a warm speech of thanks to the delegation for "their presence, their prayers and their generosity." After the blessing of the brilliant window the Archbishop and Bishop

both came down into the nave and gave personal greetings to each member of the delegation, and Canon Delamare Archiprêtre of the Cathedral, long interested in our enterprise, showed us the finely bound green and gold missal and the beautifully inscribed altar cards, purchased with the residue of our fund. The Consul-General of Rouen, Mr. Harcourt, had also honoured us by his presence at the ceremony.

One could not have wished for a happier conclusion of our long effort to secure a permanent "amende honorable" from the English who had played such a sad part in the Saint's martyrdom. It was only marred by the absence of Miss Barry, without whose indomitable labours nothing would have been achieved.

L. Fairfield

At Rouen

In the delegation from this country to the celebrations in Rouen were representatives from the Catholic Women's League, Dames of St. Joan, the Girl Guides' Association, the National Council of Women and, of course, of St. Joan's Alliance, which was represented officially by Dame Vera Laughton Mathews and Miss Phyllis Challoner.

It was good to have in the delegation Dame Rachel Crowdy-Thornhill, Dr. Letitia Fairfield, Miss Fedden and Miss Barry, who had been present at the celebrations in 1931 to commemorate St. Joan's martyrdom.

We were glad to include three members of the Alliance from Australia. Sir John McEwen, whose beautiful Ballad of "Joan the Maid" many will have read in *The Tablet*, was also in the delegation, though his country has no need to make reparation to St. Joan, as the Scots were then on her side.

Travelling arrangements were made by the Catholic Association.

A Golden Book, inscribed with over 1,000 names, was presented to the Archbishop of Rouen by His Eminence Cardinal Griffin. The Book, bound in blue and gold tooled leather, and bearing St. Joan's Arms, is beautifully designed and illuminated by Erica Hastings-Gray, and her gift. It bears the following inscription:

"This Book contains the names of English men and women who have contributed to this Church as an act of reparation from their country for the tragedy of St. Joan's death."

The Appeal was started in 1931 and the list of names includes those of His Eminence Cardinal Bourne and Cardinal Griffin; the Lord Mayors of Bristol and Leeds and the Mayors of thirteen English boroughs; the Benedictine Community of Prinknash; the English Province of the

Dominicans, the Friars Minor (Capuchins and Conventuals), the Jesuits, the Passionists and the Redemptorists; innumerable Convents; Maurice Baring; Mrs. Bramwell Booth; Charlotte Despard; Philippa Fawcett; Viscount FitzAlan; Sir Johnston Forbes-Robertson; Dom Gilbert Higgins; Amy Johnson; George Lansbury; Megan Lloyd George; the Earl of Lytton; Wilfrid Meynell; Sir Robert Newman; Christabel Pankhurst; Eleanor Rathbone; Viscountess Rhondda; Dr. Maude Royden; Christopher St. John; George Bernard Shaw; Dame Sybil Thorndike; Ellen Wilkinson; as well as many associations including, of course, those of the organisers of the Appeal.

* * *

Greetings were sent from Rouen to absent friends—particularly to Marie Lenoël, remembering with gratitude the meeting (the beginning of St. Joan's International) called by her in Paris, immediately after the Celebrations in Rouen in 1931.

* * *

So that Australian members would be with us in spirit during the commemoration of St. Joan in Rouen, special prayers were offered by them: Melbourne made a one-day Retreat at the Convent of the Sacred Heart; Perth members made a special corporate Holy Communion; while Brisbane members attended the High Mass at the Cathedral.

Members from England and Ireland were glad to have with them in Rouen, Madame Pesson Depret, Madame Gouffé and Mademoiselle Voidet from Paris; Miss Burgess from Melbourne; Mrs. Kinsella and Miss K. Ward from Sydney; Fraulein Herzogenberg from Munich who brought with her a red rose to mingle with the lilies of France and the roses from England which were scattered in the Seine.

* * *

The statue of St. Joan above the altar in the Chapel in Rouen Cathedral which is dedicated to her, does not, as might be expected, represent the Saint vindicated and triumphant, but as she was when she stood at the stake with chains round her waist, a small wooden cross clasped in her hands, and over her head the words, "heretique, relapse, apostate." At first it is almost painful to see this somewhat stark reminder of her shameful death in the midst of all the magnificence and rejoicing attending the celebration of her rehabilitation—but the very contrast makes the glory of her triumph more real.

PILGRIMAGE

On a pilgrimage to Lourdes the Hon. Secretary and Hon. Editor said special prayers for St. Joan's Alliance *à la grotte bénie*.

ST. JOAN'S SOCIAL AND POLITICAL ALLIANCE

AND

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St. Joan of Arc

Address given by Prebendary Pilkinton at Westminster Cathedral on the Feast of St. Joan, May 30th, 1956

It would be hard to imagine a more attractive figure than that of Joan of Arc, the Maid of Orleans, and it would be true to say that in her youthful person she embodies all the qualities that we most love in the French character, a graceful and elegant freshness including a taste for nice clothes; genuine maidenly modesty combined with the boldest daring; clear reasoning powers manifested both by her military tactics and by her answers in her trial, when her gallic wit never failed her; and all-consuming love of her country, which in those days could not be conceived without the love of God. This found expression in the most heroic and generous spirit of self-sacrifice and at the same time in deep and tender piety free from all trace of superstition. Thank God these splendid qualities are still to be found in the people of France, as we have seen quite recently in the already epic figure of Geneviève de Galard, the heroine of Dien Bien Phu.

My admiration for Joan of Arc was first aroused when, as a small boy, I came across in an old album of photographs at home, some reproductions of Lenepveu's frescoes in the Panthéon at Paris depicting scenes from her life and death, and my devotion went on increasing till I had the very great satisfaction of taking part, as an attendant on a cardinal, in the ceremony of her canonization in St. Peter's by Pope Benedict XV on May 16th, 1920.

Yes, this French heroine, our erstwhile enemy, has always fired the imagination of Englishmen and her latest panegyrist is no less a person than our own great national hero, Sir Winston Churchill, who, in language which only he could write, has sung her praises in several pages of his "History of the English People." One might say that St. Joan's latest victory is the fact that this year the fifth centenary of her rehabilitation is being celebrated in England, if not so widely as in France, at any rate with no less enthusiasm; and in a

way that is typical of the Englishman's character in dealing with former enemies.

To-day is really the anniversary of the death of Joan of Arc. As every school-boy knows, this girl of seventeen, in obedience to the "voices" of St. Michael the Archangel, of St. Catherine and St. Margaret, had in some astounding way placed herself at the head of the French army as it fought the English invaders and their allies, the Burgundians; she had relieved the besieged city of Orleans and had had the French king, Charles VII crowned at Rheims. After achieving her purpose, she wanted to return to her native village of Domrémy to tend her sheep and weave her wool, but she was not allowed to do so and was forced to continue her campaign. But now things did not go so well with her and finally she was captured by her enemies and after an iniquitous trial, in which she was accused of sorcery, heresy, idolatry and other crimes, including that one supposed to have been committed by her dressing up as a man, she was condemned to be burned at the stake. This was done in the market place at Rouen on May 30th, 1431, after she had received the holy communion in her prison. We are told that when tied to the stake she asked for a cross and an English soldier made her one out of two bits of wood; she kissed it and placed it in her bosom and presently a friar brought her the processional cross from the neighbouring church that in her agony she might contemplate her dying Saviour. This too she had kissed repeatedly and with the name of Jesus on her lips she passed from this world to eternal glory. A soldier, perhaps the same one who had given her the wooden cross, exclaimed aloud, "We have burnt a saint." All her pure body, except her noble and generous heart, which remained intact, was reduced to ashes, which were thrown into the Seine.

Twenty-four years later, at the instance of Joan's mother, Isabel Romée, and of her two

brothers, the trial was re-opened by order of the Pope. It lasted till July 7th, 1456, when the former trial was declared "full of fraud and deceit, totally contrary to both law and equity," and therefore it was "broken and annulled." It is the fifth centenary of this act of rehabilitation and of reparation that we are keeping this year, and it will be celebrated in many cities in France. His Eminence the Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster will take part in the ceremonies at Rouen, just as Cardinal Bourne took part in the fifth centenary of St. Joan's death in 1931. Here in this cathedral, where ever since her beatification in 1909 her magnificent mosaic image has been venerated, we are keeping her feast to-day. It is only right and fitting that England, who, alas, had her share of responsibility in the Maid's unjust trial and execution, should join with France in celebrating her honourable vindication.

We have had many wars with France in times past. I suppose they were almost inevitable, being given our geographical proximity. But now that we have both reached a more adult age in the matter of civilization, we can afford to look upon these wars as nursery quarrels. The *entente cordiale* has now been felt for many years between the best people of both our countries. We have come to realise more and more the fact that we need each other in the battle of life, and that we must help each other. Both France and England are menaced by formidable enemies, the powers of evil of various kinds, unbelief and irreligion, immorality and dishonesty, materialism and carelessness, disloyalty and disrespect. We must fight them in the spirit of Joan of Arc with faith and humility, with uprightness and commonsense, with unselfishness and sacrifice. And, if our two nations can be united together in true Christian charity and thus combine their forces, there is no knowing what we may not achieve. A great French writer of the last century declared that if France, become once again really Christian, could unite with an England restored to Catholic unity, it would constitute a force which nothing could resist. Let us then rally together under Joan's standard with its image of the King of Heaven and the sacred names Ihesus Maria. Let us take up her battlecry, "Dieu le veult"—God wills it, and if indeed God's will is the directive of all we do, we shall surely be victorious over all our common enemies.

* * *

Je veux ajouter deux mots pour nos frères d'outre-Manche, qui sont ici ce soir. Tout d'abord je veux leur dire combien nous sommes heureux de pouvoir célébrer avec la France ce centenaire de la réhabilitation de Jeanne d'Arc. Nous nous sommes réjouis en nous rappelant cet acte qui rétablit la justice et l'honneur. Nous sommes

contents aussi parce que cette réhabilitation répara le grand tort, dont nous autres, nous étions en grande partie responsables. Mais peut-être la raison principale, pour laquelle nous sommes si heureux de pouvoir fêter ce centenaire, est parce que cette célébration nous unit une fois de plus avec nos amis de ladouce France et nous fournit l'occasion de vous exprimer notre estime, notre appréciation de votre bonté et notre sincère affection pour vous. Nous avons eu dans le passé, quand nous étions des nations plus jeunes, nos démêlés avec vous, mais aujourd'hui nous sommes grandis, et un conflit est inconcevable, au moins entre les bons français et les bons anglais. D'autre part, nous avons tant d'intérêts communs et nous avons besoin les uns des autres, car nous sommes dépendants les uns des autres, non seulement socialement et économiquement comme européens, mais aussi spirituellement comme chrétiens. La France a bien mérité le titre si glorieux de fille aînée de l'Eglise, car nul pays l'a dépassée en zèle pour le culte de Dieu, pour les oeuvres de charité et pour les missions étrangères. Elle tient la première place dans les études des sciences ecclésiastiques et l'on pourrait dire qu'elle est la source de presque toute la spiritualité moderne.

Sans doute nous anglais nous avons des qualités qui peuvent rendre service à la chrétienté en général et à la France en particulier, mais ce n'est pas à moi de les énumérer. Les français pourtant avec leur fine pénétration n'ont jamais manqué de les apprécier.

Continuez donc, mes chers frères, à nous donner le bon exemple, à nous inspirer et à nous édifier. Ce sera votre plus noble revanche pour le meurtre du 30 mai 1431 et je suis sûr que cette action puissante mais pacifique de l'esprit français sur l'âme des anglais donnera plus grande satisfaction au coeur de la Pucelle que celle que lui donnèrent ses victoires de guerre.

The following letter from His Excellency, Monseigneur Martin, Archbishop of Rouen, was received by Miss Barry, hon. secretary of St. Joan's Quincentenary Celebrations Committee:—
 "A l'approche des fêtes de la Cathédrale de Rouen, je tiens à vous remercier, ainsi que le Comité anglais d'hommage à Jeanne d'Arc, pour votre délicate générosité à l'égard de la Cathédrale.

"Vraiment, le comité anglais d'hommage à Jeanne d'Arc a bien fait les choses! Puis-je vous demander de transmettre aux Membres du Comité l'assurance de ma vive gratitude avec celle de mes prières et de mes vœux."

THE MONTH IN PARLIAMENT

During the month, a good deal of attention was devoted to African affairs. In a debate on Northern Rhodesia on June 1st, Mr. Johnson stressed the need for the education of girls. Their biggest obstacle, he said, was the African man, who was backward and apathetic in his view of the progress of women. Mr. Smithers added that, unfortunately, not only had the women themselves, generally speaking, no desire for education, but often their fathers and prospective husbands would be very angry if the authorities insisted on taking them away to educate them. It was necessary to start by educating the men about the necessity to educate the women. The Minister of State for Colonial Affairs gave a slightly more encouraging picture. He pointed out that, in regard to secondary education, only two years ago there were not enough girls to form even one class, and those who wanted secondary education had to be given bursaries to schools outside Northern Rhodesia. In May last year, however, the number of girls taking the Standard VI examination had been 200, and this year it was 700.

On the 6th, and again on the 25th, Miss Fletcher's allegations regarding the prison treatment of young girls in Kenya formed the subject of debate. Mr. John Hare, the Minister of State, said that under Kenya legislation no child under 14 might be sentenced to imprisonment. Any young person over 14 might be sentenced to imprisonment with or without hard labour under the emergency regulations. In practice, the hardest work given to prisoners between 14 and 18 was the cultivation of vegetables. On May 19th he was informed that 21 young girls under the apparent age of 16 were serving in the women's prison at Kamiti. Of these, seven were 15, eight were 14, five were 13 and one twelve. The Governor had informed him later that these ages had been wrongly quoted owing to inaccuracies in the prison records. All the girls had since been medically examined, and none had been deemed to be younger than 15. All were circumcised young women, and as such were regarded as adult members of the Kikuyu tribe. On the adjourned debate on the 25th, Mr. Fenner Brockway pointed out that the Kikuyu tribe had the very objectionable practice of circumcising girls at 11 and 12 years of age, and that there was no evidence whatsoever that they were over that age at that time. The Secretary of State for the Colonies said that only in exceptional circumstances did the courts order imprisonment of juveniles. Whenever possible, other forms of punishment were found. The sentence, to be detained during the Governor's pleasure, which had been passed in some cases on young girls was not a life sentence as had been suggested, but could be reviewed at any time.

When the estimates for the Ministry of Education were considered in Committee on the 21st, much attention was given to technical education. Mr. George raised the question of attracting girls into technical courses, and said that in Russia, of the total number of higher technician graduates, between 20 and 30 per cent. were women. In one large colliery in the Ukraine, the technical officer in charge of the 3,500 men in the mine was a woman graduate. Later in the debate, Mr. Butler said he was convinced that the women of England would take advantage of these courses, and do much more for the country than they had ever been able to do in the past in the great race for national survival.

In Committee on the Finance Bill on June 19th, Mrs. Slater drew attention to the position of the spinster severely handicapped by disablement who, if carrying on outside work in spite of extreme difficulties, was still unable to claim Income Tax allowance for a housekeeper to look after her at home.

The Family Allowances and National Insurance Bill was read for the third time and passed on June 22nd. This Bill assists large families by increasing the allowance to 10s. a week for third and subsequent children, and also gives an increase of 5s. for widows' children. In speaking of the position of the widow, Miss Pitt said that, where good provision could be made for the care of children (and in this connection one must not forget the many good grannies) she saw no reason why the mother should not go out, not simply to earn extra money, but to feel she really was taking part in the community life.

Vera Douie

It is all too often argued that if we drive prostitutes off the streets we shall solve the problem of prostitution. But unless we remove the demand—and I should be very interested to hear any suggestions about how that is to be done—prostitution will go on in some form.—*The Home Secretary, July 2nd.*

I do not want hon. Members to think that I consider the family unit to be breaking down. I agree with Margaret Mead, who has said that the family has not suddenly lost its moral fibre; what has happened is that it has lost its grand-mother, and also its maiden aunt. In these days of full employment the grand-mothers and the maiden aunts now live longer, keep younger, and go out to work, and families are not able to turn to them as they sometimes did in Victorian days.—*Miss Joan Vickers, M.P., July 2nd*

Notes and Comments

We are grieved to record the death of Clementina Gordon, who died on June 18th. She was a valiant and selfless fighter, one on whom St. Joan's could always count.—R.I.P.

She and her Mother were among the first to join the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society and she was Chairman of the Alliance from May 1929 to 1932. She took a leading part in the campaign for Woman Suffrage, being an organizer for the National Union of Women's Suffrage Societies. She served as Area Controller, Q.M.A.C.C. and later Recruiting Controller, Western Command, during the first World War. During the second World War she and her sister devoted themselves to the management of the Drimnin Estate and she took an active part in Agricultural Committee work in West of Scotland agricultural circles.

When she died her body was taken first to Oban, where she lay in the Cathedral and where the Requiem Mass was said, and then by boat to Drimnin, where the people who had known and loved her met her and bore her in a farm cart to the family grave.

Miss Gordon was Chairman of the Committee which was formed in 1931 to celebrate the Quincentenary of St. Joan's martyrdom and she took an active part in the arrangements for the celebration of her Rehabilitation this year. It was sad that she fell ill and died on the very eve of the departure of the delegation to Rouen. We offer our deep sympathy to her sister, Dr. Gordon Clark.

* * *

In connection with the centenary celebrations of the first award of the Victoria Cross we would remember the son of one of the early members of the Catholic Women's Suffrage Society, Mrs. Eily Esmonde, who received the Victoria Cross from King George VIth at Buckingham Palace on March 17th, 1942, on behalf of Lieutenant Commander Eugene Esmonde, D.S.O., R.N., leader of the Swordfish, who lost his life on February 12th, 1942, in the last of a series of daring attacks on the Gneisenau, Scharnhorst, and Prince Eugen.

* * *

In response to Miss Nancy Parnell's recruitment appeal, the following letter was received from the Rt. Rev. Monsignor Filmer, K.C.O.R.:

"Having given me a long active life of eighty-five years, Almighty God has now placed me on the shelf in my eighty-sixth year; for both these gifts I am most grateful to Him.

"So I cannot respond in any active way but I send you the enclosed cheque (£5) towards your increased expenses with my best wishes."

The heart of a great city seems so often to lie with the river, on whose banks life and industry have developed. So it was appropriate that the River Seine was prominently associated with the Rouen celebrations. It was appropriate too that our "naval" International President, Dame Vera, had arrived from England with her son David and two friends in her 18-ton yacht Vivanti, which was moored before the middle bridge with a perfect view of all that took place on the river.

On the Saturday the historic pageant of St. Joan's life passed over the middle bridge and on the following day after the civic ceremonies the cortege proceeded to this bridge for the "jet de fleurs" in the Seine, which once received the ashes of St. Joan; it was moving to see the shower of red English roses mingling in the water with the more official garlands.

From the artistic point of view the highlight of the celebrations was the "Spectacle Lyrique, Le Triomphe de Jeanne," which was produced on the Lacroix island in the Seine on the Saturday night. This glorious pageant, beautifully staged, with massed choirs and some of the finest solo singers from the French Opera, was enjoyed in comfort from the deck of Vivanti by the Council members of St. Joan's International and other friends of the Alliance. The pageant was followed by a magnificent display of fireworks.

An informal meeting of the Council had been held on board earlier in the evening, when five national sections were represented, and Miss Barry had reported on recent work with the United Nations. It was good to see our friends from other countries on this historic occasion, which incidentally marks the Silver Jubilee of the International Alliance, which was founded in Paris twenty-five years ago.

* * *

Treasurer's Note. Many thanks to those who nobly responded to the Rent Appeal, thus enabling us to pay this quarter's rent without drawing on the reserve fund. Will those who have not yet paid their subscriptions for 1956 be kind enough to do so as soon as possible, so that the books can be balanced for the first six months of the year. We are having a jumble sale in October—please will you begin finding saleable goods so that we can make it a great success.

Noreen K. Carr

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By an unfortunate misprint the telephone number of the new office was given wrongly in the last number of *The Catholic Citizen*: Please note that it is:—GERrard 4564.

African Women

will help teachers, social workers and others overseas, and especially in Africa, by bringing original articles on various problems concerning women's education, professional training, community life, health and home problems. The journal also collates material which shows the general progress of African women and girls. It contains a section on books and articles of interest to women. From time to time it will include reading lists on special subjects: local government, baby care, visual aids, etc.

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