

THE CATHOLIC CITIZEN

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Daughter of the ancient Eve,
We know the gifts ye gave and give;
Who knows the gifts which you shall give,
Daughter of the Newer Eve?

Francis Thompson

St. Joan's in Antwerp

By Gabriele Strecker

The 21st council meeting of St. Joan's International Alliance, August 29th and 30th, took place in the medieval setting of the thriving Antwerp seaport. Forty-four delegates from Australia, Belgium, France, Germany, Holland, Great Britain and the U.S.A. gathered for two days' busy work in Maria Mediatrix Home, a home-economics college run by thirteen nuns and twenty-one lay teachers. The nuns belong to the congregation of the *Oblates du Sacré-Cœur* founded in the nineteenth century by Louise Thérèse de Montaignac (1820-85) who envisaged a combination of high spirituality modelled after the exercises of St. Ignatius and—considering the period—a most progressive practicability: the nuns wear ordinary dress with only a small dark lace veil, in order to be able to penetrate all milieux. The *Oblates du Sacré-Cœur* are represented in fifty houses in Europe, America and Africa. The location of Maria Mediatrix proved to be a very central one. In the vicinity, the lovely Béguinage could be visited by those who found a few minutes free time, while ancient Spanish Madonnas at many street corners seemed to watch over the delegates trying to get a glimpse of the charming old quarter.

However, work prevailed. The first morning, Saturday 29th, with the usual number of greeting telegrams and messages from old and new friends, brought important reports. Our indefatigable president, Mme. Leroy-Boy, has travelled literally all over the European continent and the Near East where she has kept up contacts with various international organisations and outstanding personalities. The delegates were delighted to learn that Cardinal Suenens knows St. Joan's Alliance, that Archbishop Hakim of Galilee is well acquainted with it, while it came as a surprise to the delegates that Monsignor Whelan of South Africa is a regular reader of *The Catholic Citizen*. The president mentioned the high esteem in which our paper is held everywhere and our obligation to win more subscribers for it. Speaking of "propaganda" the president hopes that in the near future there may be new sections in Belgium, where the invaluable

Mrs. Van Gorp would be the right person to found a section—after having proved herself a most capable interpreter as well as organiser—in Holland, Switzerland, the United States and perhaps in the Lebanon. Equally interesting were the reports submitted by Miss Challoner and Miss Price. Both reports showed the range of St. Joan's activities and the very good relations with international organisations. Very logically, Dr. Bardenhewer (German section) proposed to aspire to consultative status B instead of status C which we hold with UNESCO. There was general agreement that every effort should be made in order to bring this about.

The very big problem created by the resignation of the honorary secretary Miss Price was widely discussed though by no means solved. The difficult position of our president lacking the expert help of a general secretary is such as to urge every member to think of a capable person willing to do honorary or paid work (part-time) in London. May I add here a purely personal remark: I think it would be quite impossible for men to edit as solid a bulletin as *The Catholic Citizen*, and to manage a secretariat as efficiently as our London office on so tiny a budget and with the great devotion of so many women. We admirably observe the miracle of St. Joan's Alliance based on practically no funds whatsoever. We thank them all.

In the afternoon of Saturday a number of Belgian friends joined us from Brussels, among them Mlle. Baetens. Reports of the various sections were on the agenda. Once again they showed the wide range of activities centred around problems specific to the respective countries. It was a real joy to have so many Australians in Antwerp, delegates from Victoria, New South Wales, Western Australia and Queensland, who delivered inspiring reports covering a wealth of activities. Also most welcome was the fact that the number of young members is increasing. At any rate, in Antwerp young women, be they from Australia, Belgium, England or Germany, took a most active part in

the discussions. Furthermore, three young theologians from Germany participated in a most wonderful way in the work on the Revision of Canon Law. The vivid discussion on the proposed changes in this brought forth many interesting viewpoints and details.

No doubt, the assembly increasingly felt that they belonged together and that keeping up with old traditions and facing new values does not exclude friendly bonds heightened sometimes by a sense of humour. The meeting, after all, was a working meeting. Needless to say that Mme. Leroy-Boy's words: *Nous avons fait un très bon travail cette année*—and may I add—in Antwerp also—were fully applauded. The board of officers was elected. The gap left by Miss Barry, Miss Challoner and Miss Price has to be filled—let us have trust in God that it won't linger too long.

A party at the wonderful house of the Irish-born member Mme. Andrew Martin was more than pleasant and gave ample opportunities for chatting and relaxing. The city of Antwerp invited the delegates to the Town Hall on Sunday morning. The magnificent gothic rooms with the old history of the city, awe-inspiring even seen through nineteenth century paintings, were impressive. Monsieur Possom, a counsellor serving on the city's finance committee, welcomed the delegates in four languages, declaring himself completely in accordance with the aims of St. Joan's.

Next year, when the delegates meet again, the strong bonds of affection and co-operation so visible in Antwerp, will certainly be strengthened.

OBITUARY

We are grieved to learn of the death of Dr. Anni Vogl, Councillor at the Ministry for Refugees and a member of the German Section of St. Joan's Alliance. At the funeral the representative of the Ministry paying tribute to Dr. Vogl said she was an outstanding woman. Her devotion to duty, clarity of mind, sureness of decision and her great charity have left permanent traces in the official life of Bonn. She saw problems clearly and then grappled with them in the service of those who are underprivileged and believed themselves abandoned by others. Her zeal was based on deep religious convictions. Her legal and pedagogic training gave her the assurance necessary for her wide international commitments. Her colleagues thank Dr. Vogl for her presence among them and they determine to keep this gift of her presence by endeavouring to follow her example. R.I.P.

As we go to press we learn with sorrow of the death on October 10th of Dame Rachel Crowdy-Thornhill, D.B.E., R.R.C., LL.D., Lady of Grace of St. John of Jerusalem. St. Joan's Alliance was represented at the funeral at Chelsea Old Church by Miss Barry.

VATICAN COUNCIL

On September 8th, the feast of the Nativity of Our Lady, His Holiness announced to nuns assembled at Castel Gandolfo the joyful news that women would attend the third session of the Vatican Council as "auditores".

The first woman named was Mlle. Marie Louise Monnet, President of the International Federation of Independent Social Workers. The second woman of whose appointment we learned was Miss Rosemary Goldie (Australia) who has been executive secretary of the Committee for International Congresses of the Lay Apostolate (COPELAL) for the past twelve years. We offer them our congratulations as also to the other women auditors whose names follow; three are presidents of various international organisations: Signora Alda Micelli (Italy), Missionaries of the Kingdom of Christ; Señora Pilar Bellosillo (Spain), World Union of Catholic Women's Organisations; Marchesa Amalia Cordero Lanza Montezemolo (Italy), Organisation for Spiritual Assistance to the Armed Forces; also, Miss Anna Maria Roeloffzen (Netherlands), secretary of the International Federation of Young Catholic Women, and Signora Iduccia Marengo Grillo (Italy) of the Association of Italian Women's Catholic Action.

Seven of the eight nuns named are Mothers General of their Orders—the Religious of the Sacred Heart (Rome); of the Sisters of Loreto (America); the Egyptian Sisters of the Sacred Heart (Egypt); the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary (Lebanon); the Daughters of Charity (France); the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart (Spain); the Institute of the Most Holy Child Mary (Italy). They include the presidents of the Union of Superiors General in Rome, America and the Lebanon—the eighth is the Secretary General of the Union of Major Religious Superiors in Germany.

It is indeed encouraging that already two of the Resolutions passed by St. Joan's International Alliance have been accepted; that the prayers in the Nuptial Mass said over the bride and bridegroom be so amended as to apply to both spouses, and that representatives of the Catholic laity, both men and women, be invited to attend meetings of the Council, as "auditores". It is disappointing that apparently no mention was made of Deconesses.

After the Pope's Mass in St. Peter's on Sunday, September 27th, Monsieur and Madame Leroy were presented to the Holy Father. At the president's request His Holiness most graciously gave his blessing to St. Joan's International Alliance. When Madame Leroy thanked him for having nominated women "auditores" to the Vatican Council, the Pope, to quote her words responded with "un très large sourire".

Notes and Comments

The annual Mass for deceased members, associates and benefactors of St. Joan's Alliance will be offered on Sunday, November 1st, as usual at St. Patrick's, Soho Square. We hope as many members as possible will attend. Kindly note that the Mass this year will be 5.45 p.m.

On Thursday, October 22nd, at 6 p.m. a meeting will be held at 27 Wilfred Street (off Palace Street, Westminster) when reports will be given on St. Joan's International Council Meeting at Antwerp by Miss Joan Morris, Miss Pelzer, Dr. Shattock and Miss Westhoven (Australia).

This should prove an interesting meeting for members and their friends. All are welcome.

"With the aim of making better known to the British public the fact that some 60,000-100,000 young people from Europe come to this country each year and are desperately in need of English friends, the Social Advisory Group to Young People Away From Home is planning a Welcome Week from October 26th-31st. The activities will include the opening of a temporary Information Centre in the crypt of Saint Martin's in the Fields, with an Advice Bureau, and also films of Britain, a bookstall, and exhibition stands for organisations. The young folk will have an opportunity to visit London sights and theatres with a guide, and it is planned to have meals for them in various centres where they may meet English people. Supper parties will be given on Sunday, 1st November, by members of the congregations of churches, whose clergy will be asked to make special references that day to the needs of young strangers from overseas. Enquiries and offers of help would be welcomed by the Social Advisory Group, 17a King's Road, London, S.W.3."

St. Joan's Fair. The Annual Sale will take place on Saturday, November 14th, at St. Patrick's School, 24 Great Chapel Street, W.1 (two minutes walk from the office), from 12 to 5 p.m. Gifts for the Sale or donations in cash should be sent to Miss C. Dickson, Honorary Sale Secretary, at the office after November 1st. Volunteers to man the stalls are requested to send in their names to the office as soon as possible. The Alliance counts on the help of every member to make this sale a success as we depend on the proceeds to balance the accounts before the end of the year. Our expenses are soaring, particularly the cost of producing *The Catholic Citizen*. There will be lunches and teas provided at reasonable prices. Please come and bring a friend.

Members are asked to keep the evening of Thursday, January 21st, 1965, free to celebrate the Golden Jubilee of *The Catholic Citizen*.

By the time *The Catholic Citizen* reaches our readers the General Election will be over, and it will go to press too early to report on the result. Members will have received a circular letter, asking them to bring to the attention of candidates the questionnaire which had already been sent to the political parties at the request of the Annual General Meeting last March, and to press particularly for the amendment of the unjust clauses of the Street Offences Act, 1959.

St. Joan's sent a letter of good wishes to Shirley Williams, a member of the Alliance, who is standing as a Labour candidate for Hitchin.

The number of women candidates was ninety. We trust that a good number of women will have been returned by the time our members read this.

It was a pity that so few delegates were able to attend the delightful cocktail party given by Madame Fontainas at the Club Féminin de Bruxelles on Monday evening, August 31st.

Those of us who had the pleasure of being received at this enviable new centre for women's organisations were charmed to meet so many of Belgium's leading women and to have the opportunity of discussing mutual interests. The Alliance is most grateful to Madame Fontainas and trusts that such a gathering may further co-operation and the formation of a Belgian section of St. Joan's International.

Dr. Shattock was asked recently to address the members of the Henley-on-Thames Catholic Women's League on the work and aims of St. Joan's Alliance. It was very heartening to find that these aims were given generous support, both as regards the raising of the status of woman and her greater service to the Church. We welcome some new members and subscribers to the Alliance.

We learn with regret of the death of Jean-Baptiste Toner, the distinguished pianist, who on several occasions delighted members of St. Joan's by playing for them at Dame Vera's flat. We are grateful for the beauty of his music, and for the generosity which put it at the disposal of the Alliance to increase its funds. R.I.P. We offer our deep sympathy to Mrs. Toner and her two daughters.

The British Commonwealth League, "in keeping with the changing pattern of the Commonwealth" has changed its name to the Commonwealth Countries League.

The Alliance sends all good wishes to the C.C.L. with which, as the B.C.L., it has co-operated since its inauguration some forty years ago.

ST. JOAN'S ALLIANCE

founded 1911

BRITISH SECTION OF ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE

AND

Editorial Office of "The Catholic Citizen"

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Signed articles do not necessarily represent the opinions of the Society.

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THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT AT ANTWERP

St. Joan's International Alliance, since its last reunion at Freiburg, has been active in two different fields—in the more traditional, by co-operation with other women's organisations, for instance at the 48th Session of the International Labour Conference on "Women Workers in a Changing World"; and in a more recent activity, the promotion of the fuller participation of women in the service of the Church.

I have sought to make use of all opportunities offered by my travels to meet individuals and groups of members, and have attended as many conferences as possible.

In Basle, I discussed the possibilities of the formation of a Swiss section. In Geneva, a vital centre for non-governmental organisations, I renewed contact with the I.L.O.; with members of the secretariat of the United Nations; with the *Centre d'Information d'Organisations Internationales Catholiques*. These contacts seem to me indispensable; from them I gather useful information for our work while making the Alliance better known. I also met Mme. Grinberg-Vinaver, former Chief of the Status of Women Commission. By her death subsequently and that of Madame Lefaucheux, the Alliance has lost two staunch friends.

Soon after my return to Israel, I heard that Cardinal Suenens and Monsignor Hakim had intervened at the Vatican Council on behalf of the Apostolate of women. As you know, I had the honour in 1963 of laying before Cardinal Suenens St. Joan's aspirations; I meet Mgr. Hakim from time to time, so that he is well acquainted with the Alliance.

On the occasion of the pilgrimage of several Council Fathers to the Holy Land, our resolutions were made known to them, while the pilgrimage of the Holy Father himself brought other dignitaries whom I had the opportunity of meeting.

On returning to Geneva in the spring, I assisted

at the I.L.O.'s Conference with Non-Governmental Organisations on the United Nations Development Decade. Later, in London, I shared for several days the intensive work of St. Joan's secretariat, and both in London and in Paris I attended useful meetings of our national sections.

In Barcelona, I attended the Conference of International Catholic Organisations—a veritable mine of information—where I also had the pleasure of meeting our splendid consultant at the United Nations in New York—Miss McGillicuddy, who spent some months in Europe but to our great regret was unable to remain for Antwerp.

After two busy months in Israel, I returned to Geneva and on June 29th, I joined Miss Challoner in attending the International Labour Conference for the sessions on "Women Workers in a Changing World". I made interesting contacts and attended the monthly meeting of the *Organisations Internationales Catholiques*. In Interlaken I met several members of the Alliance at the International Council of Women's Executive Meeting and passing through Fribourg met new members from the U.S.A. and some interested friends.

I hope this report will awake our enthusiasm and enable us to know each other better. In the more general field of the Alliance's activities you will judge of our progress by reports to be presented to this Council; in the secretariat's report I venture to say that you will find a considerable measure of achievement. Certainly our work with the United Nations and international women's organisations is known and appreciated. The Vatican Council has opened up a new field of activity and an opportunity to suggest means towards achieving the fuller participation of women in the service of the Church. The task is not easy and must be undertaken *avec audace, mais prudence*—in the true spirit of St. Joan's.

(continued at foot of next page)

SEMINAR SUR LA CONDITION DE LA FEMME DANS LE DROIT DE LA FAMILLE. LOME 18-31 AOUT 1964

A ce Cycle d'Etudes, je représentais l'Union Mondiale des Organisations Féminines Catholiques avec Mme. Edoth, et l'Alliance Internationale Ste. Jeanne d'Arc avec Mme. Michelle Dackey.

Le Cycle d'Etudes lui-même s'est déroulé dans une ambiance très bonne, très sympathique. L'accueil du Togo a été, dès le début, plein de prévenances et de gentillesse, non seulement pour les Déléguées des Etats, mais aussi pour les Observatrices, qui se sont trouvées tout de suite à l'aise, et presque sur le même pied que les déléguées. En tous cas, elles l'étaient pour tout ce qui n'était pas séance officielle.

La plupart des déléguées étaient des femmes remarquables par leur expérience sociale; quelques-unes étaient docteurs ou avaient un autre diplôme de droit. La déléguée du Ghana est juge, d'autres sont assistantes sociales. Toutes se faisaient remarquer par leur grand bon sens, et leur réalisme.

Quelques Etats étaient représentés par les messieurs; si quelques-uns étaient favorables à la monogamie, les autres défendaient la polygamie et les discussions sur ce sujet furent parfois très animées.

Les séances avaient lieu de neuf heures à midi, et de trois heures à cinq heures. Le Présidente des débats, Mme. Meatchi, une Togolaise, était parfaite.

L'âge du mariage et son enregistrement ont donné lieu à quelques débats, mais on a retenu en principe 15 ans pour la fille, 18 ans pour le mari. A peu près chaque délégué se croyait obligé de dire ce qui se passait dans son pays, et cela prolongeait les débats sur des points secondaires.

La question de la dot a été défendue par les uns, combattue par les autres; chaque délégué exposait ce qu'était la dot chez lui, et il n'était pas possible d'arriver à une solution, bien que la plupart des délégués aient déclaré qu'ils voulaient lui rendre une valeur symbolique.

Mme. Sivomey, déléguée du Togo, a soulevé le droit de propriété de la femme qui n'exerce pas de profession salariée, et s'adonne uniquement aux humbles besognes ménagères; ne peut-elle avoir un droit de propriété sur ce que gagne son mari? Et un certain droit à ce qu'il laisse, à sa mort? Ces points si simples ont donné lieu à de violentes discussions, la plupart des messieurs délégués répuant à reconnaître ce droit à l'épouse. Maître Santos, avocat Togolais, a cité ce qui se fait au Togo, où le mari donne simplement de "l'argent de poche" à sa femme, et a demandé que la femme ait un droit sur les biens de son mari, du vivant de celui-ci, ce qui lui semble indispensable pour qu'elle ait un droit de succession plus tard.

Moi-même je suis revenue sur cette question dans mon intervention.

La tutelle a donné lieu à des discussions, ainsi que les droits de la veuve.

Dans l'ensemble, les débats se sont déroulés dans une bonne atmosphère, et les délégués qui se montraient réticents au début ont semblé faire preuve de compréhension par la suite. D'autres n'avaient pas d'idée bien définie, et revenaient sur ce qu'ils avaient dit sans voir qu'ils se contredisaient. On a parlé aussi de l'éducation, de la préparation au mariage, etc. Mme. Dackey, qui représentait avec moi l'Alliance Jeanne d'Arc, a soulevé la question de l'excision, et plusieurs délégués ont également parlé contre cette coutume. Mais on comprend combien elle est difficile à déraciner.

J'ai attendu que l'on discute des facteurs sociaux influant sur la condition de la femme pour intervenir, se qui me permettait de revenir sur des points déjà touchés, sans difficulté. Mon intervention a été bien accueillie, et applaudie, et nombre de délégués—et plus encore d'observateurs—sont venus m'en féliciter ensuite.

Mme. Edoth est intervenue au nom de l'UMOF, au sujet du divorce.

Bref, il se dégage nettement des débats que toutes les femmes sont pour la monogamie, et un certain nombre de délégués hommes aussi. Parmi les femmes les plus remarquables, citons la déléguée du Ghana, celles de la République Centrafricaine, du Dahomey, de la Guinée, de l'Uganda, du Tanganyika, du Kenya, celles de l'Ethiopie, et toute l'équipe du Togo. Je crois que les travaux ont été fructueux, et feront avancer la question des Droits de la Femme Africaine.

On a proposé que le prochain stage ait lieu en Afrique du Nord: Tunisie, Algérie, ou Maroc. Ce pourrait être pour 1966.

Il faut signaler que, même lorsqu'il y avait des discussions un peu vives, l'atmosphère des réunions qui suivaient, soit réceptions, soit excursions, redevenait courtoise, et que les bons rapports se sont toujours maintenus. L'hospitalité Togolaise s'est surpassée, et chacun en emporte le souvenir le meilleur.

Sœur Marie-André du Sacré-Cœur

THE PRESIDENT'S REPORT (continued)

This newer work has already attracted new members and we are also encouraged by the reception given to our aims by several eminent friends.

I thank you all for the fine work already undertaken, in particular Mlle. Archinard and Miss McGillicuddy, our representatives at the United Nations in Geneva and New York, and Miss Joan Morris and Miss J. Th. Münch for their invaluable research into Canon Law. It only remains to continue—*au travail!*

M. Leroy-Boy

**ST. JOAN'S INTERNATIONAL ALLIANCE
RESOLUTIONS PASSED AT THE TWENTY-FIRST COUNCIL MEETING—ANTWERP 1964**

Political Rights

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge the Governments of those States that have not yet accorded to women equality of political rights with men to do so without delay.

Marriage

St. Joan's International Alliance believes that the Sacrament of Marriage entails an indissoluble monogamous union entered into with the full consent of both parties; with a full sense of responsibility and in conformity with the teaching of the Church.

Recalling the words of His Holiness Pope John XXIII in *Pacem in Terris* "Human beings have the right to choose freely the state of life which they prefer and therefore the right to set up a family with equal rights and duties for men and women"

- (A) It demands that those laws which still impose a measure of civil incapacity upon the wife and married mother be rescinded.
- i. A married woman should have the same rights as other citizens:
 - (a) regarding nationality and domicile;
 - (b) to contract, earn and to exercise rights over her own earnings and property.
 - ii. A married woman should exercise equal rights with her husband over the children born of their marriage or adopted by them.
 - iii. There should be no legal bar to a married woman undertaking work outside the home.
 - iv. The economic status of the housewife should be raised. It should be legally recognised that husband and wife are partners, and each of them is entitled to share in the family income.

(B) St. Joan's International Alliance welcomes the **Recommendation** passed by the 17th Session of the Status of Women Commission concerning Consent to Marriage, Minimum Age of Marriage and Registration of Marriages, but regrets that the minimum legal age of marriage was deleted. The Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to instruct their delegates to the General Assembly of the United Nations in November 1964 to re-insert a minimum age of marriage of fifteen years for both sexes.

Maintenance

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to alter their legal systems where necessary in order to make it possible for them to sign the United Nations Convention on the Recovery Abroad of Maintenance, adopted in June 1956.

Inheritance Rights

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ensure equality of inheritance rights of men and women by providing that men and women in the same degree of relationship shall be entitled to equal shares in the estate and shall have equal rank in the order of succession.

Mutilations Based on Custom

St. Joan's International Alliance trusts that those States in which the practice of mutilation based on custom still survives will take the necessary steps for its early abolition. It further requests the Status of Women Commission to continue to give its attention to this matter.

Equal Moral Standard

(a) In reaffirming its belief in the same high moral standard for both sexes, St. Joan's International Alliance deplores the fact that the pernicious system of State Regulation of Prostitution persists in several countries.

It calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ratify the Convention on the Suppression of Traffic in Persons and the Exploitation of the Prostitution of Others.

(b) St. Joan's International Alliance reaffirms its belief that laws to safeguard public order should apply equally to men and women and that all measures taken to prevent the spread of venereal disease should be free, voluntary and confidential.

**Equal Pay and Opportunities
(Conditions of Employment)**

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments and all appropriate bodies:

- (i) to ensure as rapidly as possible the application of the principle of equal pay for work of equal value;
- (ii) to press for the same opportunities for employment and promotion for both sexes; that any Government requests for assistance from the United Nations and Specialised Agencies shall be for women equally with men; that in all labour legislation equal protection shall be given to men and women against exploitation, injury, industrial accident or disease; equal provisions in the matter of the right of retirement and the right to pension for men and women workers.

Education

St. Joan's International Alliance believes that the aim of education is the full development of the human being both as an individual and as a member of society and reaffirms its belief that education should be based on religious and spiritual values.

The Alliance calls upon its National Sections to urge their Governments to ensure that in all schemes of education the same opportunities shall be available for both sexes, irrespective of religion or race.

Slavery

St. Joan's International Alliance welcomes the appointment by the Secretary-General of the United Nations of "a special rapporteur charged with the preparation of an accurate, comprehensive and up-to-date study on the extent to which slavery, the slave trade, and institutions and practices similar to slavery, still exist."

St. Joan's International Alliance calls upon its National Sections to request their Governments to instruct their delegates to the Economic and Social Council to urge the appointment of a permanent committee of experts to hasten the abolition of slavery, the slave trade, and institutions and practices similar to slavery.

Fuller participation of women in the service of the Church

(a) As a great part of catechetical instruction is being entrusted to the laity and more particularly to women, St. Joan's International Alliance requests the appropriate authorities to permit women to follow the courses in theology of all grades, to take the necessary qualifying examinations and to receive the relevant diplomas and degrees.

(b) In view of the growing realisation of the participation of the laity in the Apostolate, St. Joan's International Alliance submits as a concrete suggestion that if diaconal duties are to be entrusted to laymen as an independent ministry, this ministry be open to both men and women.

(c) St. Joan's International Alliance respectfully requests the Vatican Council to invite qualified women to attend meetings of the Council as **auditores**.

(d) St. Joan's International Alliance reaffirms its loyalty and filial devotion, and expresses its conviction that should the Church in her wisdom and in her good time decide to extend to women the dignity of the priesthood, women would be willing and eager to respond.

Liturgy

St. Joan's International Alliance expresses its satisfaction that in the constitution on the Liturgy (III.78) the prayer for the bride in the Nuptial Mass has been duly amended to remind both spouses of their equal obligation of mutual fidelity.

NEW RESOLUTION**Revision of Canon Law**

St. Joan's International Alliance, encouraged by the Encyclical *Pacem in Terris* respectfully petitions the Commission entrusted with the Revision of Canon Law to amend those Canons which concern women so that these no longer assign to women a position of inferiority which no longer corresponds with their civil and social status.

With this end in view, the Alliance submits that the fundamental right of all baptised persons be recognised as affirmed in Canon 87 "Baptismate homo constituitur in Ecclesia Christi persona cum omnibus Christianorum iuribus et officiis, nisi, ad iura quod attinet obstet obex, ecclesiasticae communionis vinculum impediens, vel lata ab Ecclesia censura."

The desired changes in the Codex of the Church's legislation would give recognition to the dignity of women and accord them greater possibilities of service to the Church.

The Alliance therefore begs for the revision of certain Canons* and further requests that qualified women be consulted in the revision of these Canons.

* For instance, Canons 93, 98, 506, 709, 813, 968, 1067, 1262, 1264, 1327, 1380, 1979, 2004.

INTERNATIONAL NOTES

Australia. An article entitled "The Unsubmissive Surgeon" in the *Advocate*, Melbourne, carries a profile of Dr. Inez Parer, a member of St. Joan's, who "submitted" to be interviewed only to help the Mercy Hospital Appeal to reach its target of half a million pounds. Reverend Mother described Dr. Parer as "Not only a great doctor, but a great woman." A century ago her forbears emigrated to Australia; Dr. Parer was one of the first Catholic women to enter the medical profession in Melbourne and the first to be appointed Superintendent of the Queen Victoria Hospital, founded and staffed exclusively by women, when there was still a good deal of opposition to women doctors.

Dr. Parer received her grounding in the Sciences at Kilbreda with the Brigidine Nuns and acknowledged her great debt to them when she proceeded to Melbourne University. After post graduate study in Vienna and London she joined the staff of the "Queen Vic" as Resident, then became Superintendent and finally Honorary Surgeon.

Dr. Parer was a delegate from Victoria at St. Joan's International Council Meeting held in Germany.

Holland. The first Dutch woman to be sworn in as Solicitor-General in the Supreme Court is Dr. A. A. L. Minkenhof. The Attorney General, commenting on this appointment, said the appointment in itself is nothing extraordinary, yet the arrival of a woman one feels will be a gain and "will give rise to more courteousness than is customary among men."—(*Endeavour*).

India. The death of Prime Minister Nehru was a shock to all of us here. An hour before the funeral cortège was to form, Archbishop Angelo Fernandes asked us to come quickly to the Prime Minister's residence to sing some hymns. This was in res-

ponse to a request of Mr. Nehru's daughter, Mrs. Indira Gandhi. She asked that certain Christian hymns be sung. During his lifetime Mr. Nehru had expressed a liking for these hymns.

We arrived just in time to join an "Episcopal Choir" made up of Archbishop Joseph Fernandes, Bishop Gomes of Bombay and Monsignor Lobo, with Archbishop Angelo Fernandes directing.

The Archbishop asked us afterwards to sing the Pontifical High Mass the following Sunday, as the Cathedral Choir was on vacation. And so we Medical Mission Sisters, of Holy Family Hospital, New Delhi, had the privilege of singing the Mass in the Cathedral, which was offered for the welfare of the country. A portion of it was broadcast on the radio.—(*The Medical Missionary*, Philadelphia).

Pakistan. Miss Fatima Jinnah has announced in Karachi that she will stand for the Presidency in the Pakistan elections next spring, "in response to the voice of the people." Miss Jinnah is the sister of the founder of Pakistan.

Uganda. The Martyrs of Uganda to be canonised on 18th October will be the first martyrs in Africa to be so honoured. We are glad that Sœur Marie-André du Sacré-Cœur will be present, for she has done so much for Africa and in her book, "Uganda, Terre des Martyrs", has left a record for all time of their faith and courage.

In a review in *The Catholic Citizen* of Father Thoonen's book "Black Martyrs" in 1941, Christine Spender wrote:

"Though all the martyrs were men, it must not be thought that the Christian women played no part in this drama. In fact, women were by law exempt from capital punishment, but the Christian women move in and out of the story, now in high places, now in low, always faithful and loving. One of the Narratives of the martyrdoms is taken from the words of a woman who was willing to die for her faith; but failing this she realised with loving practicality that she would be needed to "carry on". Some women it is true, owing to indiscreet acts of enthusiasm in the cause of Christianity, fanned the flame of resentment in the hearts of the tribal chiefs, but it is this very impetuosity, on a par with that of the women of the Gospel, which gives a clue to the intensity of the women's faith."

In justice we should remember also the non-Catholic Christians who laid down their lives in the same persecution.

REVIEW

Handbook for the Catholic Nurse. By K. F. M. Pole. (Robert Hale, 15s.)

The author is well qualified to write such a book having worked for six years in a hospital staffed by nuns and having enjoyed the friendship of the Catholic philosopher D. von Hildebrand and Monsignor Oesterreicher.

While it appears to the author to be a normal event for a woman to become a nurse he seems to believe that a man requires a "supernatural" vocation for this profession and "perforce must overcome the obstacles of his nature thereby purifying his character."

All the main religious-medical questions that a nurse will meet in the course of her profession are discussed including the nursing tradition and the Apostolate; relationship with doctor and patient; professional secrecy; family planning; problems of pregnancy, childbirth and artificial insemination; euthanasia and experimentation and lastly the nurse and the Sacraments. Dr. Pole emphasises that a nurse must not "hand over her conscience to the doctor for safe keeping" but must think and act for herself.

The book is sufficiently up-to-date to include sections on tissue transplants and oral contraception.

The question of "mother or child" is dealt with at length and Dr. Pole points out that there are very few occasions nowadays when this question would arise. He emphasises the importance of thorough ante-natal care as the means of making it even rarer. However, though this question may arise only very infrequently in highly developed countries a number of nurses emigrate and will find this problem not infrequently in the underdeveloped countries—often where the nurse will be in sole charge of the patient.

On the subject of euthanasia and the care of the "hopeless case" while condemning the first, Dr. Pole like the rest of the profession agrees with Arthur Hugh Clough:

"Thou shalt not kill, but needst not strive
Officiously to keep alive."

The chapter on the nurse and the Sacraments deals with Baptism, Holy Communion and Extreme Unction. The various methods of Baptism are described, absolute and conditional, for abortions, babies and monsters.

The Appendix contains a list of the various Nursing Orders for those who feel their nursing vocation is secondary to their religious vocation.

"Handbook for the Catholic Nurse" is full and interesting and should be useful not only to nurses, but also to students and doctors.

J. Shattock

BOOKS RECEIVED

The Younger Layman's Missal. Edited by Father J. Fedea, S.J., and adapted into English by Donald Attwater. (Burns, Oates, 18s.).

The Catholic Diary. (Burns, Oates, 5s.).

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TWENTY-FIVE YEARS AGO

Christine Spender in "The Catholic Citizen",
October 1939

Feminists will entirely agree with Allers when he says: "Nothing is gained by maintaining that because woman is essentially different from man, and because an occupation has been hitherto exclusively reserved for men, she is therefore unsuited for that occupation." They will not agree with the dictum that "for a long time past the struggle has been not for the freedom, the rights and the recognition of women as women, but for placing them on the same footing as men, and in the position of men"—since they believe that the feminist struggle has been for the "freedom, the rights and recognition of women as women." Or, on second thoughts, is this a mere juggling with words? If placing women on the same footing as men and in the position of men means equal opportunities, surely women have a right to these, and what is wrong? "The feminist movement is born of resentment." Yes, it probably is and it would seem justifiably so. There is such a thing as righteous resentment, and after reading this chapter of Allers and considering it in connection with the feminist movement, we are inclined to think: "And high time too!"—**Good Ammunition**—"The Psychology of Character" by Rudolph Allers, M.D.

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