

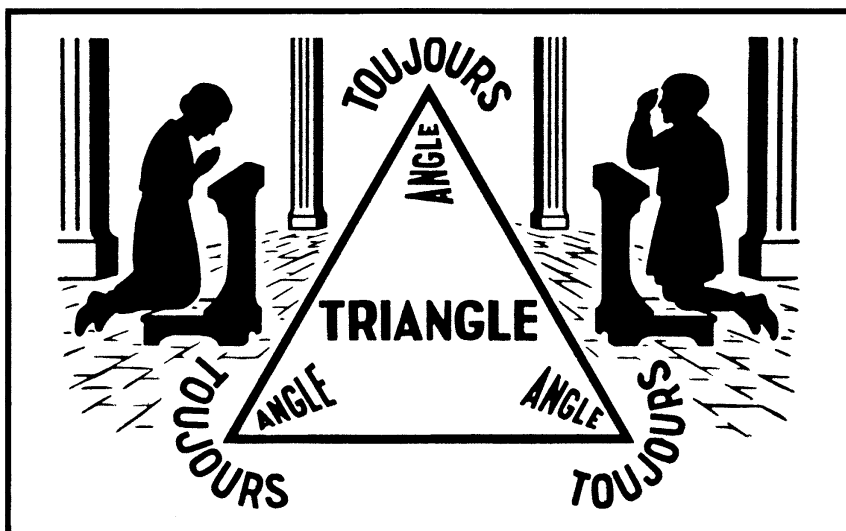
LIFE ?



Father Bogard, vicar of Thaon, the man in black, saw all this going on. He saw how the bosses organized labor, entertainment, and leisure; he saw unionization and atheism making headway. He saw boys and girls growing up. Father Bogard saw souls becoming lost.

ETERNITY

ETERNITY



ETERNITY

So he, too, said: leave the factory behind. And, in his fashion, offered a way out.

**"RELIGIOUS SOULS MUST FIGHT
AGAINST MATERIALIST, CUBIST,
AND COMMUNIST ART."**





The Bishop of Saint-Dié told him: you must wage war, keep up the struggle against our eternal enemy.

First of all, by identifying its contemporary forms. And then arming yourself with the means to fight them toe-to-toe.

I AM ENLISTING FOR YEAR.... IN THE CAMPAIGN FOR GOD

**Je m'enrôle
pour l'année.....
dans la campagne pour
DIEU**

Noms :
Adresse :



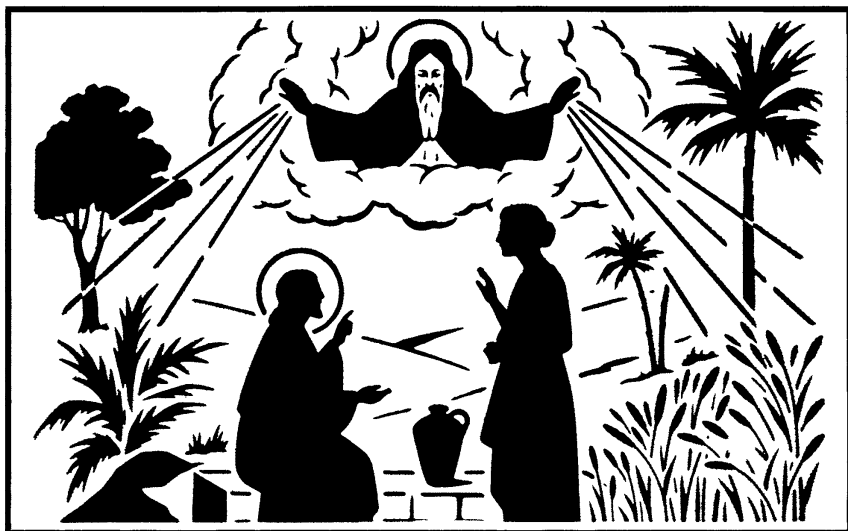
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Bogard undertook to rally his soldiers.

In Thaan, he knew he could count first and foremost on his sisters-in-arms...



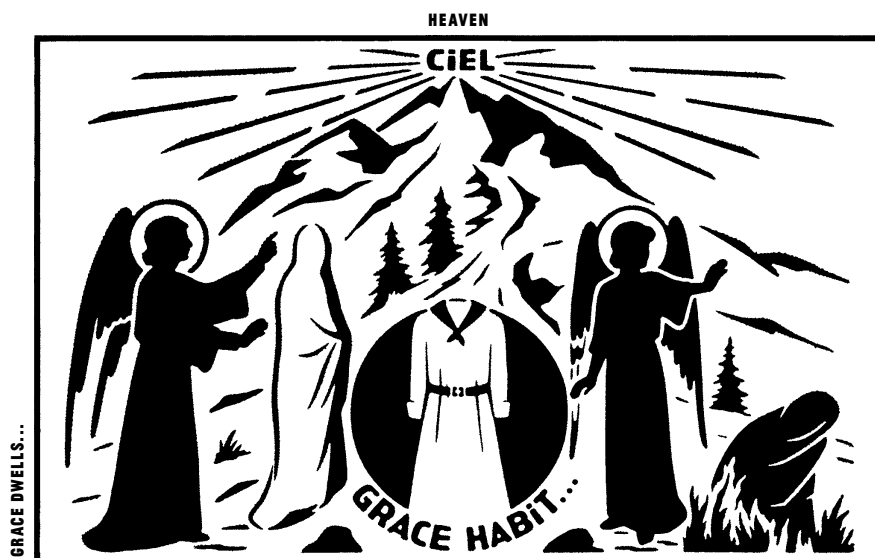
The Bernadettes.



"Followers of Jesus" devoted to Christ, sometimes in secret. Saving themselves for Him and Him alone. The sisters of Bernadette reestablished the "virginal phalanx of Christ's first female followers".



Outside the Church. Fiercely so. Anxious not to found any order.



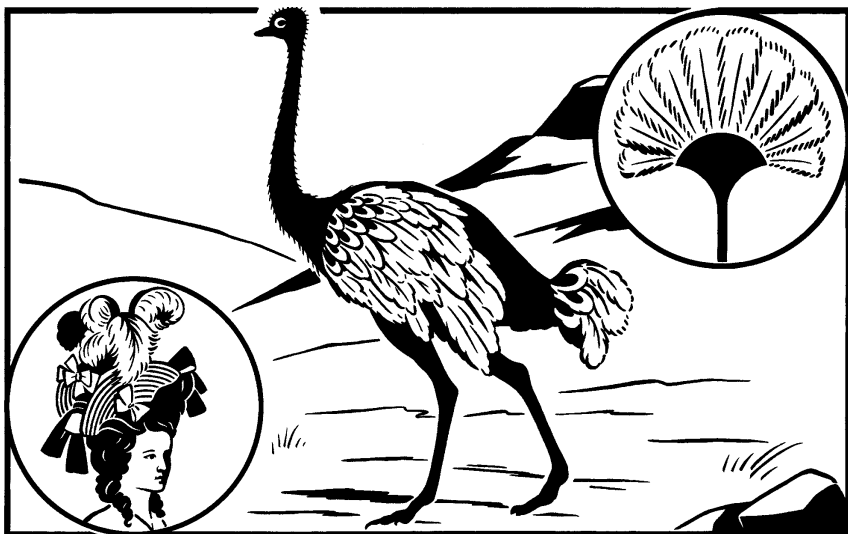
Fiercely of the world, of their century.
 "Organization of Secular Virgins".
 White, amidst the dark.

**"VIRGINS ARE IN EVERY MATERIAL
AS WELL AS INTELLECTUAL WORKPLACE."**

The Bernadettes! Here they were!
Four at the start, soon they were ten, twenty...
Their ranks grew year after year.

**"THE PROCONSULS OF THE 20TH CENTURY
WILL FIND DEVOTED VIRGINS IN THEIR WORKSHOPS
AND FACTORIES. FLOORS FILLED WITH THE NOISE
OF MACHINERY WILL BE THEIR CLOISTERS."**

In Thaon, they found work in private homes, as washerwomen and day laborers, embroiderers. They hired on in the factories...
Working sisters. Little hands. White hands.



Wishing to escape social life, fashion, and above all the frivolities of haberdashery, they wore veils.



It was to this veil, adopted in memory of the then-recently canonized Bernadette Soubirous of Lourdes, that they owed their name. By these veils were they recognized; people whispered in their wake, then at last dared speak their name aloud: the “Bernadettes”, a kind of people’s baptism.



Father Bogard rallied the Bernadettes. Together, they organized...



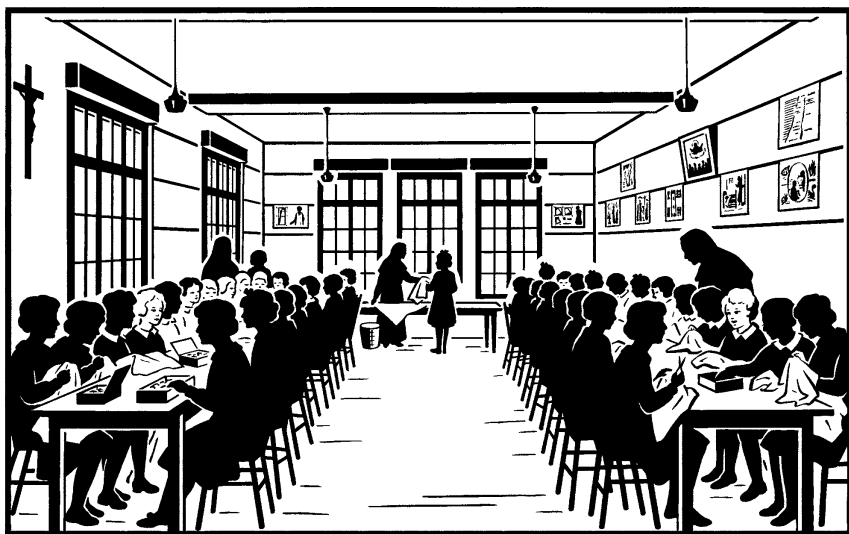
...made plans, outlined strategies, territories. They laid out battles.



There were already nurseries, daycares, lessons meant for children. There was music.



At night, sewing classes.



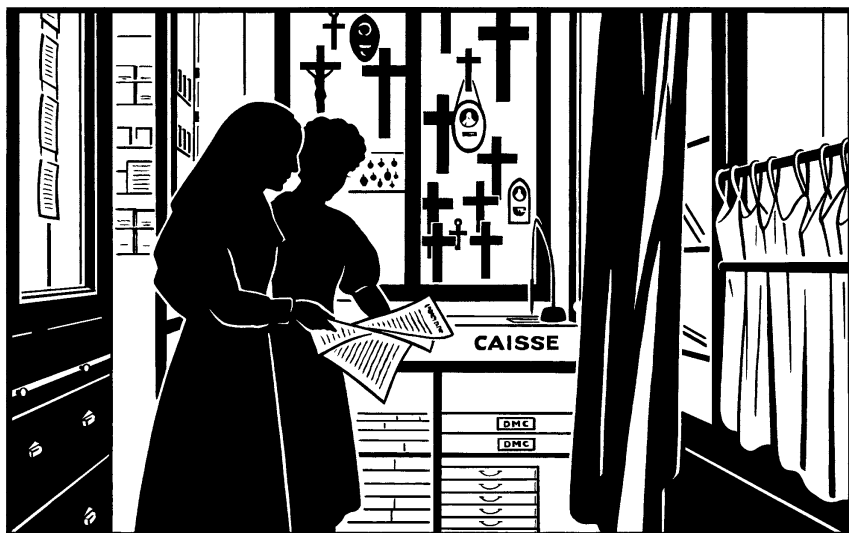
All this needed stepping up. First of all, start white. Save the virgins. They founded the SEPJF, the People's Society for the Raising of Young Women.



Soon, the Bernadettes were hosting girls of all ages during school break, mostly girls from the countryside, who came to learn sewing and mending, furnishing, cleaning, housekeeping. They were readying their wedding trousseaus...



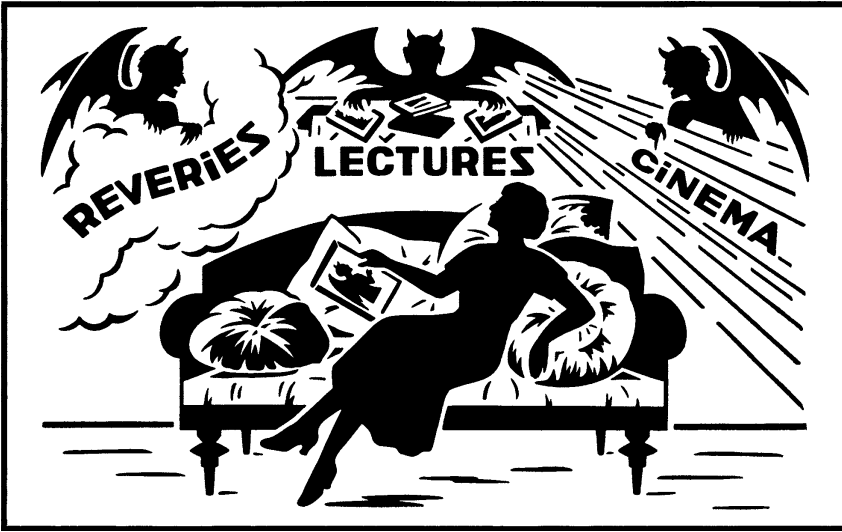
learning to become wives.



In the heights of the village, an embroidery boutique was opened, bringing in some funds.



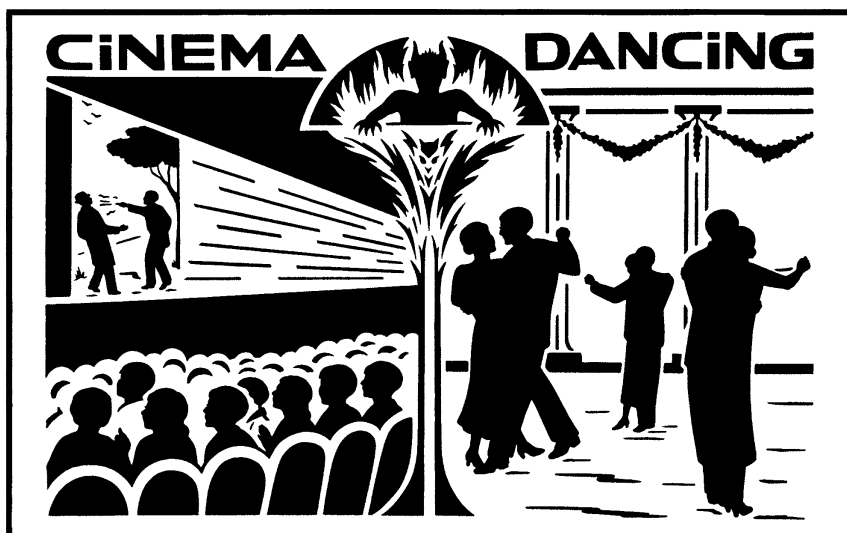
Across from the church, a bookstore: HGB, the House of Good Books. This was a front in the war, where the sisters could match the century blow for blow.



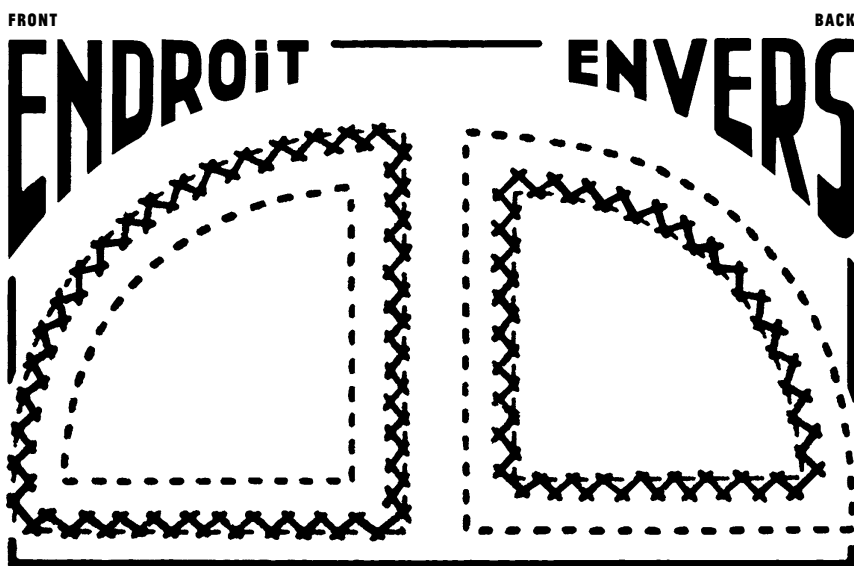
Ungodly books and images...



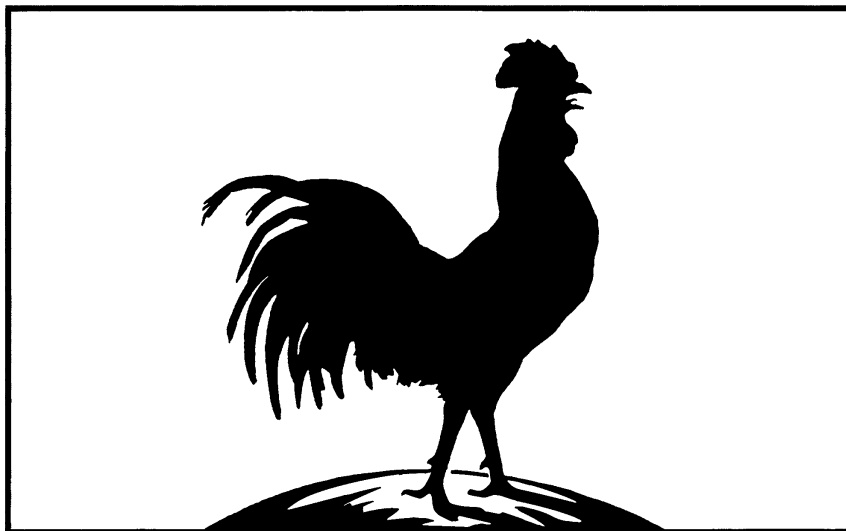
would be countered by Bogard and the Bernadettes with other books.



Frivolous entertainments...



would be countered with concerts, plays, and films.



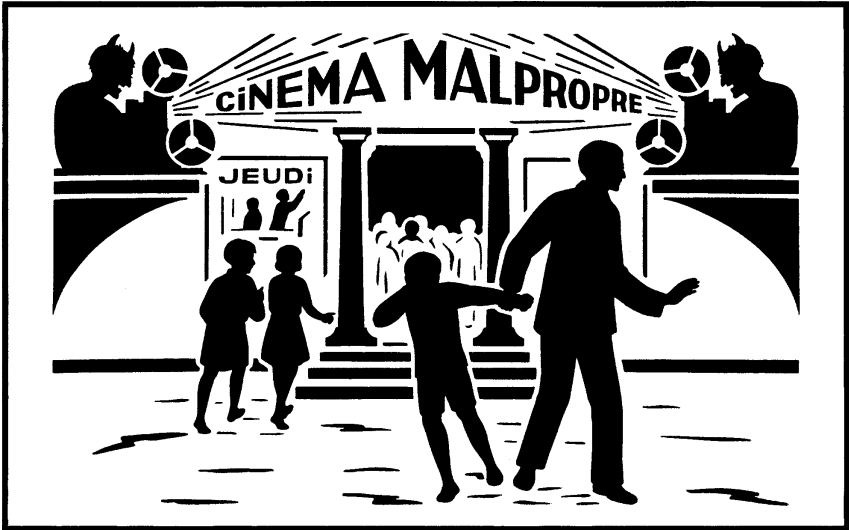
Between a butcher shop and a farm near the church, Bogard had a shed put up. It would be a cinema.

By dint of sheer tenacity, he secured from the Pathé company the development of a lighter projector specially adapted to the rustic conditions in villages like Thaon. And to go with this rural cinema, he secured the regular production of religious films.

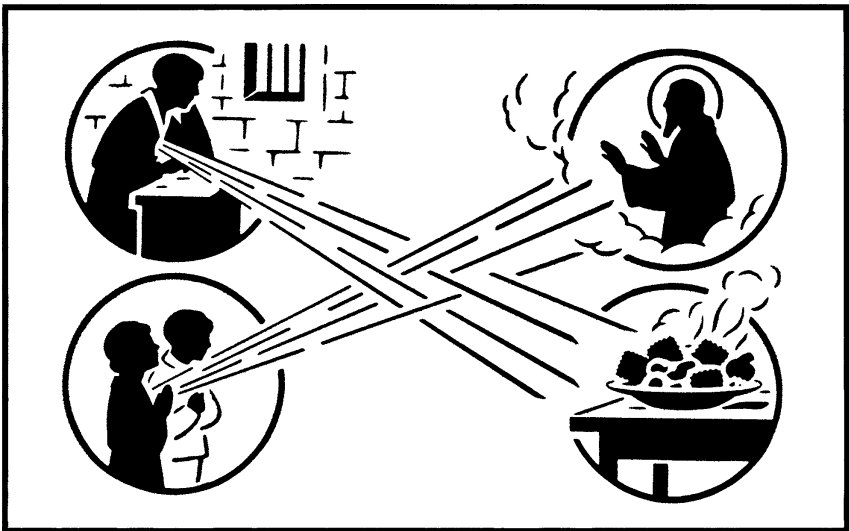


The Bernadettes ran the Saturday and Sunday night screenings.

Aside from special films from Pathé, they projected Harold Lloyd, Charlie Chaplin, *Nanook of the North*, Rin Tin Tin, romances, adventures, sword-and-sandal epics...



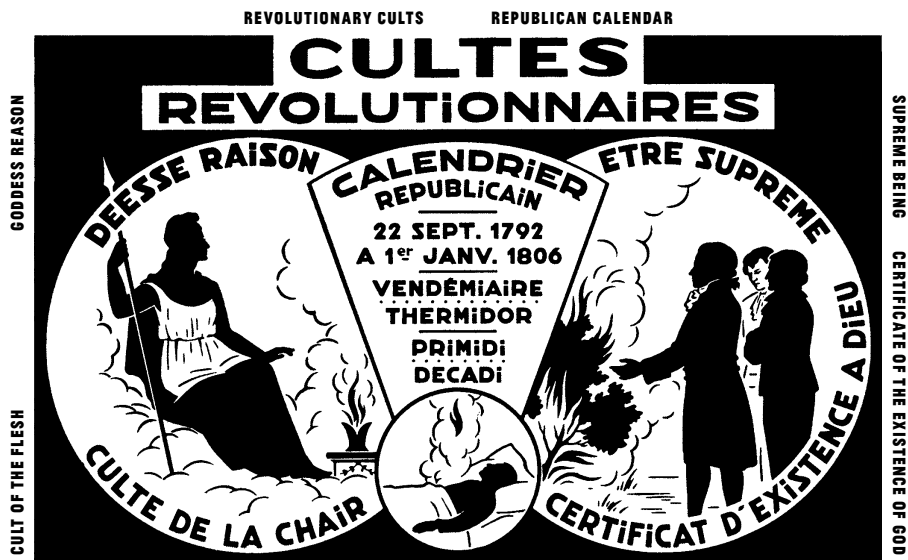
In Thaon, the war of the movie houses was on. Modernity vs. modernity. Negative vs. positive. Black vs. white, 24 frames per second.



There were good screenings and bad ones.
The Bernadettes were the ones to say which were which.



But for Bogard, films were not enough. The enemy was afoot, everywhere. There was nothing the new infidels didn't dare. They mocked, they insulted, they jeered. They had newspapers. A Party.



Secure in their humanistic religion, they were ever-ready with sarcastic wit: "opiate of the masses", "death of God".

It been going on for a while, of course. But it had never been worse.



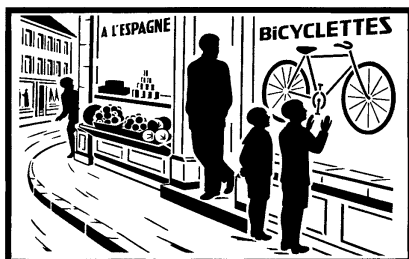
After young women, Bogard's second greatest concern was children.



How to save them?



Before it was too late?



In a world full of objects and images, how to protect children from temptation? How to protect them from an endless proliferation of products?



Of the infernal renewal of desire?



In a world where...



A world where...

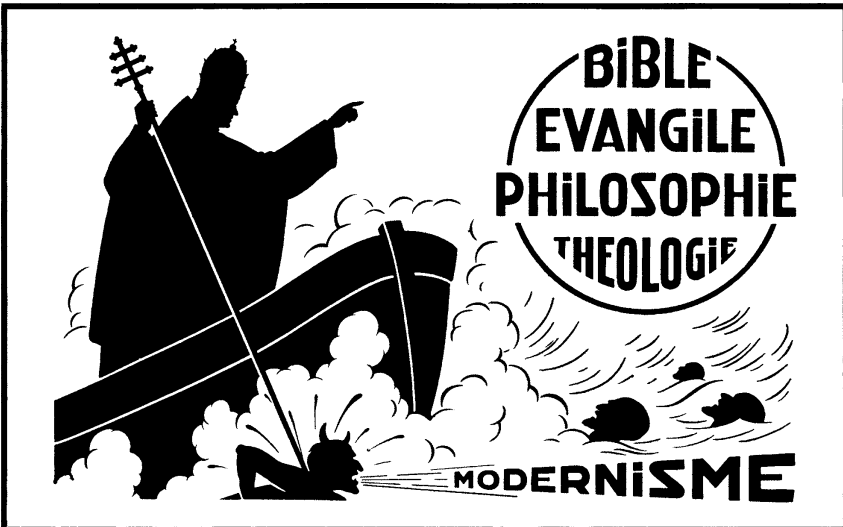


Before it was too late...



How?

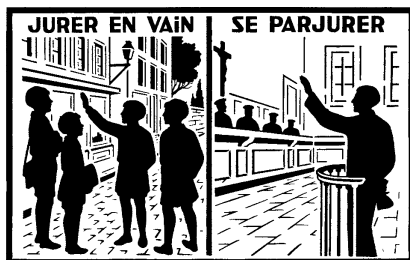
BIBLE GOSPEL PHILOSOPHY THEOLOGY



What is to be done?

THE LORD'S NAME IN VAIN

PERJURY



Before Father Bogard's eyes, sin repeated a hundredfold. Compounded.



The scythe...

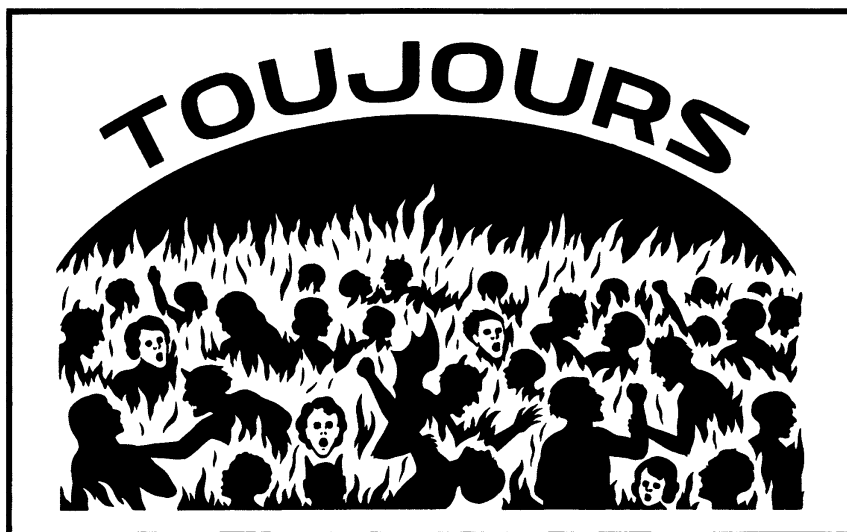


Sin.



Sin, the scythe, over and over.

ETERNITY

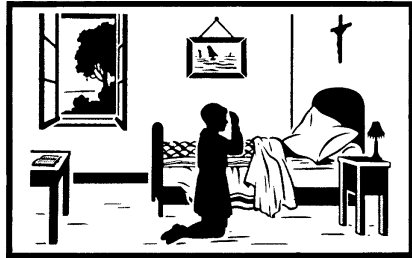
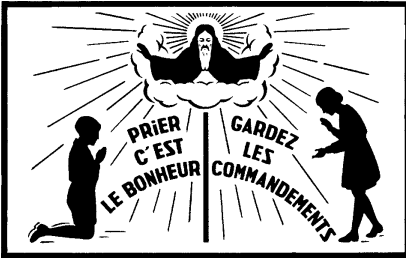


Father Bogard's worst nightmare.



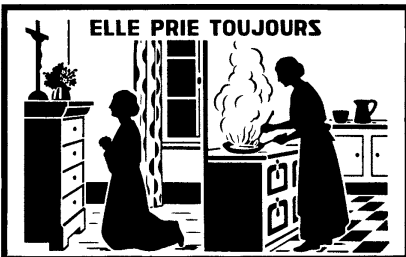
Of course, there were weapons.

PRAYER IS HAPPINESS OBSERVE THE COMMANDMENTS

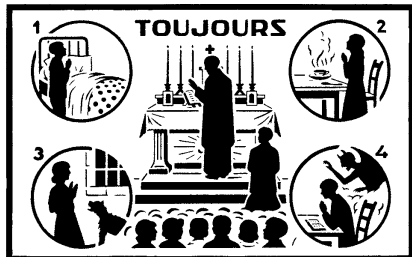


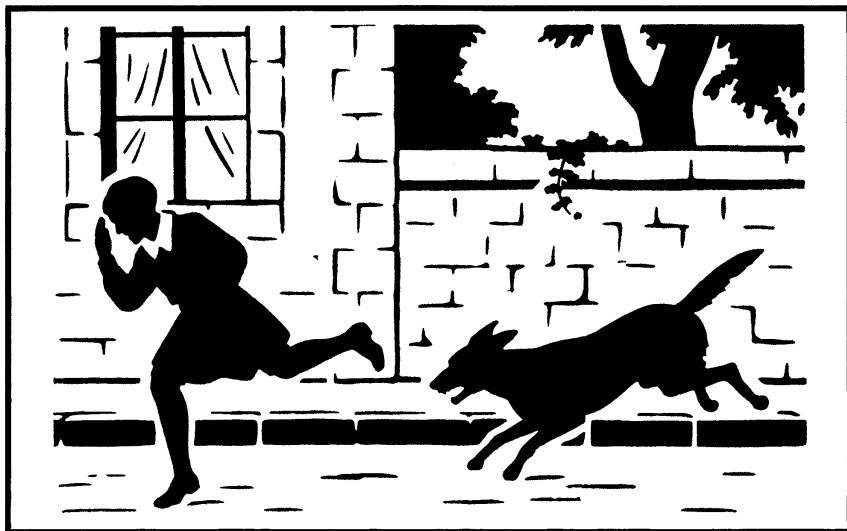
Morning and evening prayer.

SHE ALWAYS PRAYS



ALWAYS





The saving gesture: the sign of the cross.



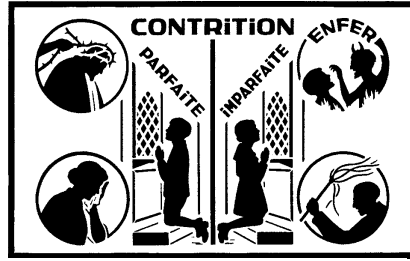
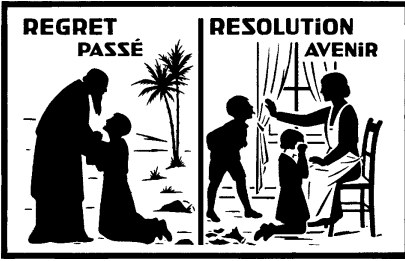
And even the big guns: confession, penance.

PAST REGRET

FUTURE RESOLVE

CONTRITION

PERFECT IMPERFECT HELL

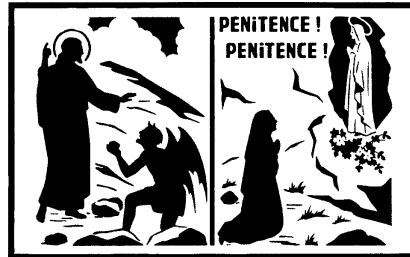


Morning and evening prayer.

BLESS ME, MY FATHER...
I CONFESS TO GOD... FOR I HAVE SINNED...

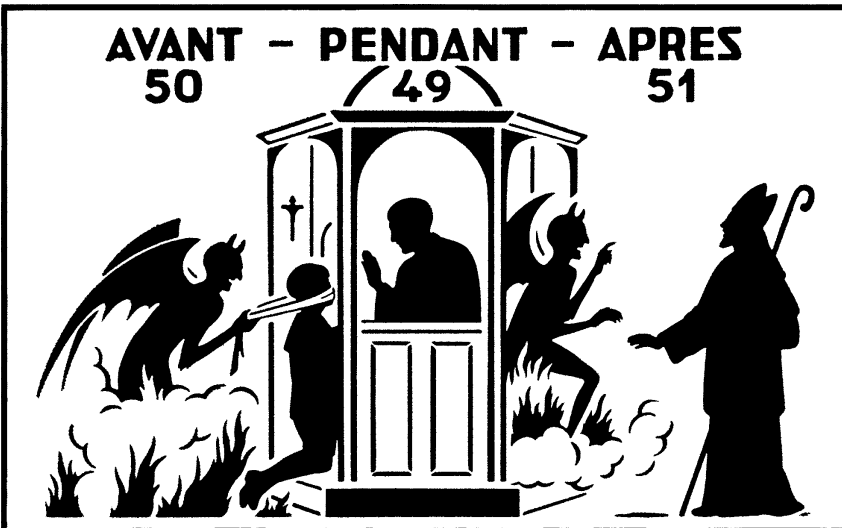
PENANCE! PENANCE!

TIME? PENANCE?



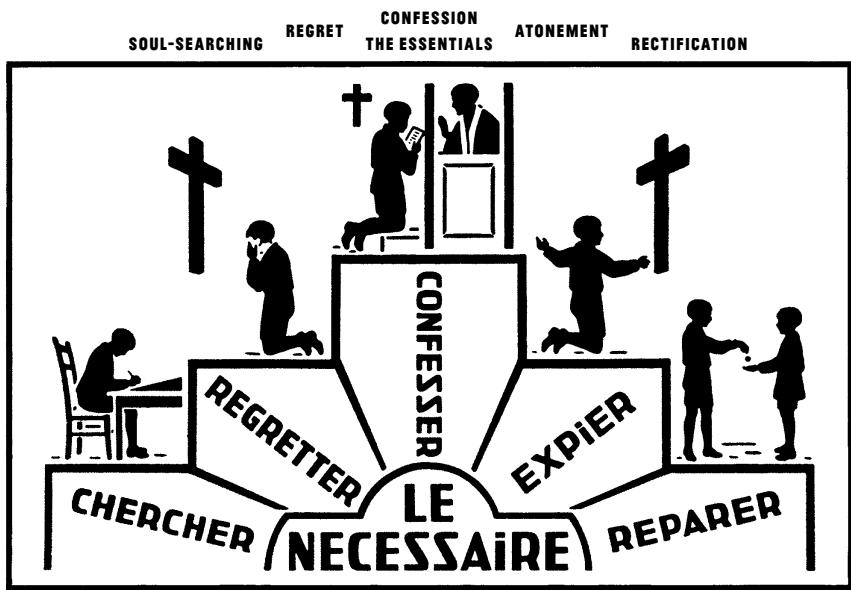
Of course.

BEFORE - DURING - AFTER



Laundry, Thaon-style: whitening from negative to positive.

Of course.



But was it enough?

**"RELIGIOUS SOULS MUST FIGHT
AGAINST MATERIALIST, CUBIST,
AND COMMUNIST ART."**

Was there a way to do more than the sisters were doing? A way to do better than books and teaching? Better, even, than movies?