CANNOT DISCUSS ALL

It is impossible in a short review such as this to cover all the material encompassed by Marx in this **History.** The few major items which we have noted should be enough to whet the appetite of the serious student for the entire book.

For our part, if this first volume is any indication of things to come, we look forward with eager and pleasant anticipation to the publication in England of the other two volumes of this series, both of which will subsequently be reviewed in these pages.

KARL FREDERICK

"PIUS" REFORMER

Pope Pius XII has turned out to be a wonderful fellow. In an historic declaration he has eased certain restrictions, **under certain conditions,** that his followers have been compelled to observe, for lo these many centuries, in preparing themselves for Communion and in regularly attending Mass.* In short, His Holiness is going all out to modernize the opportunities to practice his medieval superstitions.

It seems that Pius has been only recently made aware of what to him must have been a comparatively new development among the working class — a large percentage of these people, he has discovered, work on night shifts! Having discovered this amazing fact, His Holiness apparently feels that many of the faithful have found it rather difficult to abstain from a mouthful of water during their labors. Because Communion exercises have been based somewhat upon the same principle as the medical test for ulcer known as Upper Gastro-Intestinal Series (i.e. no food or water to be taken for about eight hours or so before the time of the test), many a devout believer in the Fountain of All Knowledge has been compelled to forego the thrill of partaking of "human flesh" and watching the priest quaff "human blood." That is, unless he were willing to commit a most terrible sin, which, when confessed, would result in his having so many Pater Nosters and Aves to recite that he would lose out on a lot of valuable time with the TV programs or the dog and horse races. This restriction has now been relaxed wherever circumstances are extenuating.

Another development that has reached the news rooms of Vatican City is the fact that another huge percentage of the population works all morning, and because of this can not attend Mass. Pius, recognizing the seriousness of this, has decreed that in certain circumstances, Mass may be performed in the afternoon.

While reforms such as these are all very interesting and potent moves against the "Godless Marxists" who would seek to ensnare in their meshes those Catholics who have been delinquent in their duties through no fault of their own, a question on procedure seems in order. We should like to point out to His Holiness that these decrees should be made retroactive, and for a long time retroactive at that! He should be informed that night shifts and morning shifts are not as recent a development as he may have been led to believe. It is possible that some of his cardinals and bishops, who are in closer contact with his working class flock than he can possibly be, have been giving him a bum steer — making him believe that virtually his entire flock had heretofore been performing their duties. At any rate this question must be answered: What becomes of the millions of poor souls that have lingered in Purgatory or even fried in Hell for centuries, because no previous pope has had the perspicacity of Pius XII?

The present Holy Father has been without a doubt an innovator and a worker of miracles. He has supported a new Catechism which makes it possible for non-Catholics, **under certain conditions** to enter Heaven, — the conditions being that they have been truly unaware of the fact that only the Catholic Church has the correct line. This revolutionary position precipitated a minor split in the Boston Archdiocese when the Jesuit priest, Father Feeney, hotly denounced the new doctrine, supported the Boston College professors who were fired by Archbishop Cushing for continuing to teach the old line, appealed to the Pope who tossed the ball back to the Archbishop, who then forbade the priest the right of performing the priestly offices. Father Feeney, with a small band of faithful followers has continued to preach the old position, weather permitting, on Boston Common on Sunday and regularly at St. Benedict's Center, in Cambridge.

More recently Pope Pius announced the arrival in Heaven of Mary and thereby launched a new Dogma, one which was enthusiastically cheered by loyal Catholics and just as enthusiastically denounced by the heretical Protestants. In the strongly Catholic Archdiocese of Boston, roughly 75% of the population of which are dues-payers to this **International,** any new departure or innovation to Church procedure makes big news and any Protestant denunciation does not carry much weight, so, despite the protests of such firebrands as the Rev. Mr. Ockenga of the famed fire and brimstone Park St. Congregational Church, majority seems to rule and the Catholics of Greater Boston, like their co-religionists in the rest of the world are certain that Mary is with her son behind the Pearly Curtain.

And now, in his newest and equally unprecedented reform, Pius XII has made it possible, also under certain conditions for a vast multitude of his adherents to remain as adherents and to enter Heaven much more swiftly than they have heretofore been able to. He has in this move, done the same for the souls of a large percentage of Catholics as he had previously done for the souls of Protestants who remain in honest ignorance of Catholic "Truth." Any new splits which may result from this new change of line he hopes, will in all probabilities be no more threat to his established Church than is that of Father Feeney, at least not in the immediate future anyway.

There is, however, something significant about this **modernization** of superstition by the Pope. There has been a fairly successful movement on the part of the "Godless Communists" of Russia, aided and abetted by their **Godly** allies, the Russian Orthodox Church, to wear away the Roman Catholics of "Iron Curtain" countries into the Russian Church. This fact that these workers will be but substituting one superstition for another does not bother the Bolsheviks. They can control the Russian Church. On the other hand, Pius XII is as much concerned over the threat to the political power of the Roman Catholic Church as he would be to lose them to the Communist Party — or even to the scientific socialist movement.

There is also, without question, a considerable tendency in the Western Nations for Catholics to become delinquent in their duties and even to question the "eternal" truths that they have been taught since childhood. Pius must certainly be anxious to plug these openings in his ranks as they appear, at least to attempt to plug them. There is a considerable time-lag in ideology behind technological development. So much so that we can find a hive of industry such as Greater Boston not much less priest ridden than the interior of Quebec. But Time does march on and there are definite signs of a laxness in the attitude of workers, even Catholic workers to their Churches. So as "Godless" socialists, we hereby wish to inform Pius and his whole hierarchy together with all other leaders in mystification that we will do everything in our power to speed the day when our fellow workers will

*Reported in headlines in "Boston Globe" for Saturday, Jan. 10, 1953.