

THE POPE'S CALL TO ACTION.

Papal Letter To Central Verein Imposes Threefold Arduous Task. All American Catholics Asked To Cooperate In Special Reconstruction Efforts.

His Holiness, Pope Benedict XV., has assigned to the Catholics of German birth and descent in the United States a most remarkable task, that of combating the spirit of hate existing between the nations and peoples of the world as a consequence of the World War, of aiding the sufferers in Germany in a material way, and of laboring diligently for the reestablishment of economic relations with the defeated nations of Central Europe. This task, however, is not confined to the German-American Catholics; the Holy Father has asked all American Catholics, in fact all Americans, to cooperate. His message was addressed to the Archbishop of Chicago, the Most Reverend George W. Mundelein, and through him to the G. R. C. Central-Verein, with the declaration that all Catholics should share in the vast undertaking set for them to accomplish. The Papal Letter was read in St. Martin's Church by the Archbishop to the delegates attending the general convention of the Central-Verein at Chicago, on Sunday, Sept. 14, at the evening services.

Burden of the Message.

The burden of the Papal Message is contained in the following sentences: Referring to the continuance of international and inter-racial hatred the Holy Father says: "The world cannot possibly enjoy the blessed fruits of peace for any length of time unless that hatred be entirely blotted out and all the nations be brought together again in the sweet bonds of Christian brotherhood.

To bring this about the Catholics in a more particular manner must lend themselves, since they are already closely united in the mystical body of Jesus Christ, and should therefore constantly give others an example of Christian charity. And in accomplishing this result the work of the German Catholics in the United States, who being united by the closest ties to both lately warring races, ought to be particularly successful.

Consequently, the Holy Father, to whose heart there is nothing dearer than the real reconciliation of the nations, and who has already addressed Himself on this subject to the Bishops of Germany, now appeals to you in order that you too may co-operate in such a noble mission; moreover, knowing the dreadful conditions under which our brethren in Germany are now living, the Sovereign Pontiff implores you most fervently to lend them every assistance, material as well as moral, and in the quickest and most effective way, especially facilitating the early resumption of commerce and all those benefits that naturally follow in its wake. To this invitation the Holy Father feels certain that not only you will gladly respond, but all the children of your generous country without any distinction whatever, for surely they will be mindful of the great services their fellow citizens of German birth and descent have rendered their country during this war. In this way they will become real benefactors of the human race and draw down upon their own nation Almighty God's choicest blessings."

A Threefold Task.

The threefold task assigned to the Catholics of America is indeed a most welcome, but withal a most difficult one. Because of its vastness all must co-operate. The elimination of the spirit of hate is merely the fulfilment of one of the divine commandments; the relief of suffering in Germany a splendid word of charity; and efforts for the resumption of trade with the defeated countries of Europe, a measure of sound national economy. To such tasks, it seems to us, all Catholics should be eager to respond, especially inasmuch as it is not a secular statesman, not a lay leader, a priest, a Bishop, an Archbishop or Cardinal who has issued the request, but the Holy Father himself.

Concerted Action Desirable.

This thought was brought out forcibly by the Archbishop of Chicago, who, on the occasion mentioned, said that in his address, he might have dilated on the present economic situation, and "on the problems that the altered conditions of our daily life bring with them," "but the wish and the word of our Holy Father must overshadow everything else, for you and me his wish is our law." It is earnestly to be hoped that this sentiment become dominant among American Catholics during the coming months, while we are laboring to execute the wishes of the Holy Father, a labor of love for which the earnest support of all the people, "of our generous country" is solicited. The convention of the Central-Verein, at the suggestion of His Grace, Msgr. Sebastian Messmer, Archbishop of Milwaukee, has referred the Papal Letter to the Archbishops and Bishops of the country, whose conference at Washington has been set for Sept. 24th, and the Catholics of America may now await their directions as to the execution of the task. When they issue their directions, united action should set in for the consummation of the great task detailed to the Catholics of America through the Central-Verein.

In Japan the outlook for Christians is not favorable. In a small village 30 Christian men were forced to enter a church and were massacred in that church. In other places hundreds of Christian Koreans were shot or beaten to death and the church destroyed by fire.

The distinguished archaeologist of Rome, Professor Lanciani, has found proof that under the Palazzo Caffarelli, on the Capitol, are the ruins of the Temple of Jupiter Capitolinus.

BISHOPS MEET IN WASHINGTON.

A general meeting of the entire Catholic Hierarchy of the United States met at the Catholic University in Washington on Wednesday. Questions relating to the welfare of the church and country was discussed. This is the first meeting of its kind since the meeting held in Baltimore in 1884. All the bishops of the country were present.

Among the subjects considered were the following recommendations of the General Committee. "We recommend, therefore, that there be established:

1. A Department of Missions, under episcopal direction and control, for the co-ordination of all agencies in the United States for home and foreign missions and for the promotion of missionary spirit and endeavor. The plan we present was formed in consultation with the heads of all missionary societies and agencies in this country and expresses their own unanimous desire and judgment.
2. A Department of Education, to protect, foster and extend Catholic education in the United States and to spread true ideas of education. It shall be directly under a Board of Bishops and have, as all the Departments, a permanent location and staff.
3. A Department of Catholic Press and Literature, to aid our Catholic papers by collecting and distributing Catholic news, by preparing special articles, by introducing the best methods of increasing circulation, etc.; to repel attacks in the secular papers, to correct its most harmful errors and to advocate in its true ideas and principles; to publish pamphlets and books for the spread of Catholic truth and spirit, etc.

4. A Department of Social Service, to respond to the urgent need of the times, which shall spread the knowledge of Catholic social principles, and of the best methods of social work, shall note and study present conditions and movements, and, in general, promote Catholic social and charitable activities.
5. A Department of Catholic Societies and Lay Activities, which shall aid and guide our societies, shall warn the faithful against condemned and dangerous societies, and shall organize the lay apostolate.

It is proposed that these departments be under the immediate direction, supervision and control of members of the Hierarchy. A plan for financing them and for obtaining other needed funds will be submitted. For planning the scope and work of these departments, we called into consultation men well qualified in each particular field and have had the benefit of their knowledge and experience.

Another important matter we shall present to you is careful study, undertaken at our suggestion, of the new code in relation to special conditions in this country. This document will, we expect, be referred to a committee of bishops and may have far-reaching results. Other matters of importance were brought to their attention but the chief question proposed to the meeting was: Whether and how we shall organize nationally?

Cardinal Mercier's portrait is to be painted and hung in a proposed national gallery at Washington of noted figures of the world's war.

Send us your Job Printing.

K.-C. To Publish History

Maurice Francis Egan Co-Author.

The official history of the Knights of Columbus, which has been in course of preparation for the last few months, is now nearing completion. The history will be published in two volumes, the first volume in two books, one of which will deal with the origin, growth and fraternal and public activities of the K. of C., the other dealing with the war work of the Knights. The second volume will be in the nature of a memorial of the members of the K. of C.—over fifty thousand—who served in the war against the Central Empires. This comprises those members in the United States, Canada, Newfoundland, Mexico, etc., who served in the war.

Maurice Francis Egan, formerly United States Minister to Denmark, and John B. Kennedy, K. of C. publicity director, will be joint authors of the book. Dr. Egan is one of the best known of living American literary men. In addition to his experience as an able diplomat, he having engineered and completed the purchase of the Virgin Islands by the United States from Denmark, and having directed the U. S. legation in Denmark when that little country was a storm center of international politics during this country's period of neutrality. Dr. Egan is the author of a long series of books of history, biography, poetry and fiction. He is one of the most versatile of American literateurs.

The Knights of Columbus was founded in 1882, and during the years preceding its entrance into war relief work the Order had successfully undertaken many important tasks. It is a fact little known, but mainly through the efforts of the K. of C. Columbus Day has become a national holiday. Before their war work brought them into international prominence, the Knights had already achieved a wide reputation for their educational activities. They were one of the first organizations in the field against extreme radicalism, having, so far back as 1911, initiated a national lecture campaign against materialistic socialism.

The K. of C. history will be the only authentic war book to be issued by the Knights of Columbus.

Catholic schools in several countries, including the United States, are more or less in danger.

In the Eastern section of the United States a custom is growing of having Requiem Masses for the dead of our Catholic societies celebrated on Memorial Day. In the Church of God the true memorial day is the commemoration of All Souls.

The late John B. Manning of New York bequeathed \$50,000 to the Catholic University in Washington; \$25,000 each to St. Vincent Hospital and St. Vincent de Paul Society; \$21,000 to the Apostolic Mission House in Washington; \$15,000 to the Cathedral College and sums of five and ten thousand dollars to several other Catholic institutions.

Recent excavations in the ancient city of Carthage, Africa, have disclosed numerous buildings and churches.

The new great annex to St. Rosa's home for working girls, in Denver, is a stately pile of buildings and provides for an object urgently needed in all our cities.

Late News of Ireland

Antrim

Rev. P. Donnelly, C. M., has died at Sydney, N. S. W. He was a native of Belfast, and on going to Australia 18 years ago joined the Mission Fathers at Ashfield, subsequently ministering in nearly all parts of N. S. W. and Queensland.

There are 80,000 Catholics in Belfast. They constitute one-fourth of the population of the city. Yet in the newly elected corporation under the scheme mapped out by the corporation majority, the Catholics will have only one-tenth of the representation.

Armagh

Newry No. 2 (County Armagh) R. D. C., appointed P. O'Callaghan, representative of Camlough in room of his deceased brother, J. O'Callaghan.

While bathing in a quarry hole at Eglis, Portadown, Mary Crealy, aged 12, was drowned.

Carlow

Carlow Committee of Agriculture, on the suggestion of Most Rev. Dr. Foley, decided to have a question asked in Parliament regarding the damage done to crops as a result of the farmers' shotguns having been taken up by the police and military. One member estimated the damage done to his crops by birds and rabbits at \$150.

Cork

A fund has been opened for the renovation of the Catholic Church at Ballintota, Parish of Middleton. Generous subscriptions, amounting to about £500, have been received, including a donation of £100 from J. Dinan, J.P., of Castlemartyr. The church dates from pre-Emancipation days.

Major Rev. Father Francis Vincent Mason, S. C. F., formerly of Cardiff and Clonmel, was promoted recently senior chaplain with the army of occupation on the Rhine. He was gassed, wounded and specially mentioned in despatches. Father Mason is a brother of A. A. Mason, Skibberdeen.

Kerry

The Very Rev. A. Callaghan, P. P., Kilgarvin, has died after a short illness. He was a native of Moygara, Gurteen, and was educated at the seminary, Ballaghgreen, and Maynooth. His first curacy was Killasur and he was afterwards C. C. in Foxford, Cesh, Coolaney and Swinford, and in 1905 he was appointed to Kilgarvin as P. P. His death is deeply regretted.

Limerick

The transfer of Rev. J. O'Malley, C. C., to Galbally is deeply regretted by the people, especially the poor, of the united parishes of Templemore, Clonmora and Killea.

Roscommon

Ven. Archdeacon Wagner, Boyle, was appointed a member of the Boyle No. 1, O. A. Pension Sub-Committee at the meeting of the Roscommon County Council.

Westmeath

Rev. P. O'Leary, Athlone, celebrated his first Mass after ordination in St. Peter's Parish church. He is a son of John O'Leary, Athlone, and brother of the Rev. Prof. O'Leary, B. A., Sligo.

Wexford

Very Rev. Chancellor H. F. Holbrook, pastor of Gray Lynn, Auckland, New Zealand, upon whom His Holiness Pope Benedict XV has conferred the Cross Pro Ecclesia et Papa as a reward for zeal and ability, is a native of Wexford and was ordained in St. Peter's College in 1902.

Blessing of the Graves

Ceremony To Take Place on Sunday, September 28th.

The annual ceremony of the blessing of the graves in Holy Sepulcher Cemetery will be conducted by Bishop Thomas M. Hickey Sunday, September 28th.

The bishop will be assisted by priests of the diocese and the students from St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's Seminaries. The procession of priests and students headed by the bishop will leave St. Bernard's at 8 o'clock.

If the weather is pleasant it is expected that at least twenty thousand Catholics who have relatives or friends buried in the cemetery will be present.

Knights of Columbus Give \$2,000 For Hurricane Victims.

William J. McGinley, Supreme Secretary of the Knights of Columbus, announced Monday that the organization had contributed an initial sum of \$2,000 for the relief of the residents of Corpus Christi, and the adjoining towns of Texas which were swept by a hurricane. The money was authorized by the Supreme Council in response to the urgent appeal sent out by Mayor Gordon Bease of the stricken city which went to the Governors of the States Monday. Several K-C Secretaries who have been stationed with the Regular Army troops on the Rio Grande were directed several days ago to proceed at once to the devastated region with food, blankets and other comforts. All the assistance which the Knights of Columbus can draw upon from adjoining territory in the matter of clothing and supplies will be rushed to the Texas cities.

The K-C have in the past assisted in the relief of the San Francisco earthquake victims, the Dayton flood and the St. Louis cyclone.

Record Enrollments at Notre Dame University.

With record enrollments in everyone of the twenty-eight college departments, Notre Dame University began its 78th session Friday morning, September 26th. Only once before in the history of the institution has the registration approached the figures already on the books this year. A year ago enrollments were abnormally high because of the A. T. C. course which the university offered. This year however, fully four hundred more students have matriculated than ever came to the university in ordinary times.

The New England States have sent five times as many freshmen as in the highest previous year and the enrollment of students from Missouri, Oklahoma, Texas, California and Washington breaks all previous high water marks. Fully fifty students are enrolled from South American countries, most of the newcomers entering the Foreign Trade Department opened at Notre Dame two years ago. Canada, Mexico and European countries are also well represented.

Very Rev. James H. Burns, the new president has succeeded Very Rev. John Cavanaugh who is at the Holy Cross House of studies, Washington, D. C.

Holy Cross Seminary, at which candidates for the priesthood in the Congregation of the Holy Cross pursue their preparatory and college courses, is accommodating fifty more students than ever before.

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