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HIERARCHY OF THE UNITED STATES TO AID THE CATHOLIC PRESS BY EXTENDED NEWS SERVICE

Catholic Church Leads In Census By Government

Has One Third of All Church Members In Country

PROPERTY VALUE

Greatest Catholic Membership In Most Populous Progressive States.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Washington, D. C., April 12.—Catholic ascendancy in the United States is strikingly shown in the two volumes just issued by the Census Bureau on religious bodies in 1916.

The religious census shows the Roman Catholic Church ranks first in number of members and in universal increase. The membership of the Church is given as 15,721,815, an increase over the previous census of 1,511,000. These official figures are for 1916. According to the official Directory, recently issued, there were, at the beginning of 1920, 17,735,553 members of the faith in the United States, which is an increase of more than 2,000,000 over the official census figures of 1916.

In the census no other church showed nearly so large an increase in membership as the Catholic Church. The Methodist Episcopal Church came next, with an increase of 731,631; the Baptist National Convention third, with an increase of 676,972; the Baptist Southern Convention fourth, with an increase of 699,399; the Methodist Episcopal faith fifth, with an increase of 475,999, and the Presbyterian Church sixth, with an increase of 431,685. The other Protestant denominations trailed far behind.

Third of Population Catholic

The total number of church members in the United States, as shown by the census, was 41,926,854. It is thus apparent that the Catholic Church has over one-third of the whole number, and this despite the fact that its total was considerably reduced by the emigration of Italians, French Austrians and others who returned to Europe for the war.

The Catholic Church now has 15,120 edifices in the United States, as against 11,881 in 1906. The value of Catholic Church property is given by the census as \$374,206,895, an increase of nearly \$100,000,000 in a decade. The value of Catholic Church property far exceeds that of any other church. The Methodist Episcopal Church comes next, with property valued at \$215,104,014. The Roman Catholic Church owned 22.3 per cent, the Protestant Episcopal Church 9.8 per cent, and the Presbyterian Church 9 per cent.

The Roman Catholic Church reported 994 educational institutions with 152,905 students. The Presbyterian Church came next with 216 institutions and 45,938 students.

The Roman Catholic Church reported 1,188 philanthropic institutions with 616,513 inmates and patients. The Salvation Army was next to the Catholic Church in this line of endeavor, reporting 232 institutions and 11,182 patients and inmates.

Most Progressive States Catholic

The 33 States in which the Roman Catholic Church showed the largest proportions were identical at the two periods, with the exception of Indiana and Kansas.

the Methodist Episcopal Church leading in the former in 1906 and in the latter in 1916. Geographically, the Roman Catholic Church led in the New England, the Middle Atlantic, the East North Central and Pacific divisions, and in the West North Central division, except Kansas. In the southern divisions it led in Delaware, Maryland and the District of Columbia, of the South Atlantic, and in Louisiana and Texas of the West South Central division. Although the membership of the Roman Catholic Church is thus widely distributed among the States, yet a large proportion of this membership is concentrated in the larger and more thickly settled States of the North and East. There were 25 States for each of which there were reported in 1916 over 100,000 members of the Roman Catholic Church, and each of four States reported over 1,000,000 members—New York, 2,745,552; Pennsylvania, 1,830,532; Massachusetts, 1,410,208; Illinois, 1,171,381. These four States together with Ohio, which had 843,856 Roman Catholic members, reported 8,001,529 Roman Catholic members, or over one-half of the total membership of the church in 1916.

French-Vatican Pact

President Deschanel Supports Measure To Reestablish Embassy At Rome.

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Paris, March 11.—There is only one great topic of conversation among French Catholics, and also the Freemasons of that country just now. That is the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Vatican.

Mons. Millerand, who introduced a bill in the Chamber, asks for a credit of 236,812.50 francs to reestablish the French Embassy at the Vatican.

The President of the Council, M. Paul Deschanel, who supported the measure, said in his speech that the principles of laicization to which the Republic was committed were not in dispute, but these did not tie the hands of the Republic from action which was for her common good in the world.

"The time has come," he said, "when France should be represented at Rome, since all the other powers are to be found there, and moreover her interests in the East and the interests of her missionaries whose rights were in danger of being sacrificed to the rights of those of other nationalities demand this representation."

The Treaty of Peace, he declared, was an opportune opening for the renewal of these relations, because in the rearrangements of frontiers, particularly where there was a mixture of race and religion, questions were continually arising in which the Roman Curia had influence, and the intervention of a representative of France was natural and useful for the demands of our Allies.

In France herself, he continued, questions like those of Alsace-Lorraine with its old concordat, the settlement of the future missionaries for the German Colonies of Togo and the Cameroons, the exercise by her nationals of their religion in Morocco, and the safeguarding of interests as in Tunisia, all were problems that needed the aid of the Holy See.

The comments of the press on the introduction of the bill are for the most part friendly, although journals like "La Lanterne" are fuming over it.

POPE BLESSES NEWS SERVICE

"The Holy Father has learned with much pleasure of the establishment of the National Catholic Press Bureau. His Holiness most cordially extends the Apostolic Blessing to the service you have inaugurated to improve the Catholic papers of the United States. The work of the American Catholic papers has been most praiseworthy. They have been an effective auxiliary to the pulpit in spreading the Faith. The credit to which they are entitled is enhanced by the difficulties they have had to meet. Those who are conducting them will be pleased and heartened by your establishment for their benefit of an efficient press organization in Washington, which also will have representation in the leading capitals of Europe and South America. They are now to have the aid which they so long deserved. As the news standard of Catholic journals is raised, undoubtedly the support given them by the Catholic reading public will be increased. His Holiness invokes good will and cooperation from all who will be parties to the worthy work you have undertaken, to the end that it may be fruitful of the good results you seek to achieve for Church and Country."

CARDINAL GASPARRI

Cardinal Gibbons' Greeting

Along with the Holy Father, I earnestly hope that the first news sheet of the National Catholic Welfare Council to the Catholic papers of the United States will be an inspiration to them to reflect more vividly the spirit of the Church in her efforts for God and Country.

Faithfully yours,
JAMES CARDINAL GIBBONS

Friars Made Beneficiaries

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) New York, April 11.—Bequests amounting to \$4,200 are made in favor of the Friars of the Province of the Most Holy Name, 135 West Thirty-Fifth Street, in the wills of Miss Anna Maguire, who bequeathed the order \$3,700, and Miss Mary Tobin, who gave \$500. The Friars are also to have Miss Maguire's residuary estate. Other Catholic churches and charitable institutions, as well as several priests are also beneficiaries of the two wills, just filed for probate.

Madrid, March 19.—The Cardinal Archbishop of Toledo, Cardinal Guisasola, to whom the Holy Father has confided the duty of watching and directing the growing Social movement of Spain, has issued an interesting pastoral letter on the subject of Christian democracy.

Order of Alhambra

Musa Caravan, No. 25, are to have a spring ceremonial on Tuesday evening, May 4th.

Catholic Given Important Post In England

J. S. Gilbert Made Chairman of London Council

ISLANDS AN ISSUE

Dudekanese Group Leads To Debates Before Royal Geographical Society

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) London, March 19.—Congratulations are being extended to Alderman J. S. Gilbert, who has been appointed Chairman of the London County Council, an important post in the municipal government of London. Alderman Gilbert, who is a nephew of the late Magr. Gilbert and a Catholic layman of the greatest devotion to the cause, has been for some time chairman of the Education Committee of the Council, where he has rendered yeoman service to the cause of Catholic education. He is also identified with the work founded by his uncle, the Providence Row Night Refuge, in the city. He is a man of sound judgment and possesses a notable personality.

Crete Islands Contentious

The Royal Geographical Society is becoming an interesting arena for the discussion of geographical, not to say political, problems these days. A month ago we had the Spanish Ambassador, Senor Merly del Val, brother of the Cardinal, demonstrating Spain's claims and ambitions in Morocco, and recently Prof. Myres gave an interesting lecture on the Dudekanese. Very few people know what that term covers. It covers the group of twelve islands off the coast of Crete, including Patmos and Rhodes. In speaking of these, Prof. Myres gave some interesting details of the work of the Knights of St. John, whom he described as the fighting rear-guard of Christian civilization. But the surprise of the evening came at the finish, when Mons. Venezelos, the Greek patriot who was present, rose to speak, and said the islands were Greek and nothing but Greek. Both Mons. Venezelos and Prof. Zeros, chief of the Dudekanese Mission to the Peace Conference, who followed him, expressed the hope that the group would soon again be reunited to Greece, with which they had affinity during the whole 3,000 years of their civilization. At present the islands rest under Italian protection, so here is another bone of contention.

Cardinal Bourne has gone to the south of France, accompanied by his private secretary, Magr. Jackson, and no letters will be forwarded. The Cardinal's journey is undertaken at the desire of his medical advisers, who order complete rest to avoid the recurrence of the trouble which prostrated His Eminence some months ago.

Whitby Abbey, near Scarborough, has been presented to the nation by its owner. This is the second of our old abbeys to become national within the past fortnight. Whitby was once the abbey of the famous St. Hilda. It is a pity that the embarrassed owners of some of these ruins do not present them to the spiritual descendants of their builders. They would not then remain ruined, but would be gradually restored to monastic life. This is what is taking place at Buckfast, where the monks are rebuilding.

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Rome Ready For Canonization

Program Complete and Pope Issues Decrees

10,000 PILGRIMS

Rome's Crowded Condition Prevents More Coming—Appointments Announced

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)

Rome, March 9.—As far as it is possible to forecast, for there may be alterations, the dates of the coming canonizations and beatifications run as follows: Those of the canonizations as already reported: Blessed Gabriel dell'Addolorata and Blessed Marguerite Marie Alacoque on Ascension Day, May 30th; that of Blessed Joan of Arc on the Sunday following, May 16. The beatification of Ven. Louise de Marillac remains also as announced, on the Sunday preceding Ascension Day, May 9, so that the three big French ceremonies will be contained in as short a space of time as possible in view of difficulties of accommodation here.

The other beatifications will follow the canonizations on May 30 and following Sundays in this order: Ven. Oliver Plunket, Ven. Anna Maria Taigi, the Uganda Martyrs and, last, the Daughters of Charity and Ursulines of Valenciennes. It was thought that Ven. Anna Maria Taigi, being a Trinitarian Tertiary, would be raised to the altar on Trinity Sunday; but now it seems that privilege is to be assigned to the great Armagh Martyr. It will be seen that the dates run up to June 13, so late that it would seem doubtful if after all the Consistory for the creation of Cardinal may take place this spring or early summer. We may, perhaps, expect it in the autumn.

Pope's Allocation

The function of Monday last afforded His Holiness opportunity for promulgation of the names of bishops and for the official decree of the coming canonizations. After the customary "Extra Omnes" and the "Adsumus," there was the transfer from Cardinal Compill to Cardinal Bosch as Chamberlain of Holy Roman Church, and His Holiness delivered a short allocation, in which, after having spoken of the troubled times of his Pontificate, spoke of the consolation afforded by Divine Providence in the coming canonization of the Blessed Gabriel dell'Addolorata, Marguerite Marie Alacoque and Joan of Arc. He spoke of the special characteristics of each in the heroic degree; of the veneration which they enjoyed from the faithful, and of God's repayment of the faith of the people by the miracles accorded. But the Holy Father wished to have the support of the Sacred College in decreeing such a great thing as these canonizations, and to that end Cardinal Vico, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites, gave a summarized account of the three Causes in turn; and, in response to His Holiness' invitation to express their views as to the canonization, the Cardinals present, in order of precedence, gave in each case their "Placet." His Holiness expressed his satisfaction at their endorsement of the coming ceremonies, and at once proceeded to the promulgations of the pastors for the widowed churches.

Appointment of Bishops

Of these the first named was the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who succeeded Magr. Camassei, who to the Sacred College, in December, and the choice was falling to the Auxiliary Bishop, Magr. Masina, who had a fine record as parish priest of St. John's here before going out to the Land. Another interesting already known appointment that of Magr. Schulte, Bishop Paderborn, to be Archbishop of Cologne, with the expectation felt here that his will be one of the names of new cardinals at the next consistory. Magr. McClean is transferred from Zamboni to Jaro; Magr. Healan, Titular Bishop of Gerusa and Auxiliary of Sioux City, is appointed to the See of Auxiliaries in Chicago; and Koniggratz, Magr. McClean named Coadjutor of the Bishop of Alcona. After the promulgation of the names, the consistory was held in the presence of the Patriarch of Jerusalem for the Archbishop of Genoa, Agostino Casaroli, Cologne and Trier, subsequently His Holiness bestowed the zucchetto on the newly appointed bishops in the Throne Room, whence they went down to pay their respects to the Cardinal Secretary of State.

By next May it will have been eleven years practically, since the last canonizations, those of St. Joseph Oriol and St. Augustin Hobauer on Ascension Day, 1909; and it happens now that consistory function for St. Augustin Hobauer is being held at the same time as the canonization of Blessed Joan of Arc, who was beatified during the pontificate of Pope Pius X. It is a pity that the canonizations of the French, Austrian and Spanish pilgrims of 11 years ago, which were thought to be one of the greatest present occasions, would have stirred Rome to ecclesiastical and lay depths, if things had been as they were. For quite certainly France would have been and all Ireland for the canonization of the Ven. Oliver Plunket. It is not to be said that that ten thousand is the number which accompanied the canonization of the Blessed Joan of Arc will give place to the feast of the Ascension of Jesus, chosen because it commended such high motives immediately after the canonization. On Monday, May 17, His Holiness will receive a big collective audience of the French pilgrims; and that evening's triduum will open with solemn benediction and will continue during the next three days, when at the same time there will be solemnities in the national churches of the French here, St. Bonaventure, where there is the statue with the expressive figure of the coming Saint. Magr. Bishop of Orleans, has been busy here for a fortnight on the completion of the Church, which has been so near his heart these years.

GREECE, N. Y.

The marriage of Miss J. Buckert and Mr. Frank Stommer was solemnized on morning at 9 o'clock in the Church, Greece, by Rev. Fr. B. Englert. The ceremony was attended by Miss Stommer and the guests.

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