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Mount Thabor Basilica To Be Built by Americans

(By N. C. W. C. Service)
Washington, D. C., May 1.—American Catholics are to have the privilege of providing the funds with which to erect the Basilica of the Transfiguration on Mt. Thabor in Palestine. Pope Benedict has approved the proposal to let the Catholic people of the United States place this shrine on the spot where, according to tradition, Christ was transfigured before Peter, James and John. A campaign for the necessary money will shortly be undertaken by the Commissariat of the Holy Land of Mount St. Sepulchre, Washington.

It is planned that the dedication of the Basilica will be the occasion for a pilgrimage of Catholics from the United States to Mt. Thabor and other sacred places in the Holy Land. This pilgrimage, it is intended, will be under the direction of the Knights of Mount St. Sepulchre, a laymen's organization similar to the Knights of the Holy Sepulchre in Jerusalem. The new Basilica will be raised on the lines of the ancient ruins of one which stood on the crest of the mountain in the fourth century. The style of the new edifice will be that of the Syrian basilicas of that period. It will contain an open crypt similar to that in St. Peter's in Rome, except that it will be much longer. On each side of the entrance to the church there will be a chapel—one dedicated to Moses and the other to Elias. The great crypt is to be dedicated to the Transfiguration of Saviour. American Catholics are therefore to do what St. Peter proposed on the day of the Transfiguration when he said: "Let us build three tabernacles; one for Thee, one for Moses and one for Elias."

The corner stone of the basilica was laid with solemn ceremonies by Cardinal Giustini, last October, when he was in the Holy Land representing the Pope at the celebration of the septi-centennial of the foundation of the Custody of the Holy Land. This stone was placed among the ruins of the ancient Basilica of the Transfiguration.

Mt. Thabor rises to a height of 1650 feet above the surrounding plain of Esdraelon and 1986 feet above the Mediterranean Sea. It is not far from Nazareth, the home of the Holy Family. The journey between the two places can be made on horseback in about three hours.

Catholic Boy Scouts Win in Competition

Baltimore, Md., May 2.—Three skilled engineers who labored for three hours inspecting model designs have awarded to Boy Scout Troop No. 74, connected with St. Martin's Church, Baltimore, the first prize in the Scout competition for the design of a bridge to be erected over Bull Run on the Patapsco State Forest Reserve. The winning model was designed and made by Scouts Jerome and Richard Prodoehl, and as soon as the weather permits the members of the troop will start erecting the bridge under the supervision of an engineer from the forester's department of Maryland. Rev. Bernard J. McNamara, assistant pastor of St. Martin's, chaplain of the troop, and Brother Arnolds, the Scoutmaster, are very proud of the accomplishment of their charges.

Irish Bishop Defines Catholic Viewpoint Of the Land Issue

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Dublin, April 29.—The Bishop of Galway, Most Rev. Dr. O'Dea, in his cathedral devoted the greater part of his discourse to the agitation for the division of the grass lands. The desire for land, the Bishop said, had become feverishly active within the past few weeks. Within limits it was a legitimate desire, and one with which every right-minded Irishman was in sympathy.

But, the Bishop continued, the desire for land, if only because of the need, may be carried too far; and, in the judgment of impartial men, is, in fact, being carried much too far at present. It is immoral, Bishop O'Dea said, and unjust to desire land which a man not only lawfully owns, but which he has a right to keep, even in the face of public need for land. And, moreover, such a man has a just right to keep his land if he needs it for a living for himself and for his family.

The Archbishop of Tuam, Mgr. Gilmartin, preaching in Tuam Cathedral, said: "At present there are two evils amongst us which are an obstruction to the resurrection of Christ; one is bad literature, and the other is the evil of certain forms of violence which are the outcome of covetousness and greed."

The Archbishop appealed to all Catholic booksellers to keep back publications out of their shops. Mgr. Gilmartin dealing with the question of the land, said he was entirely in favor of an equitable division, but that it should not be done with violence, since violence begets violence, and ends in bloodshed. "If you take the law into your own hands," the Archbishop said, "and act unjustly there will be a reign of violence, and nobody can say where it will end."

Bishop Reported To Be Missing Is Safe in Rome

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Washington, D. C., May 1.—Right Rev. Joseph Pinol y Batres, Bishop of Granada, Nicaragua and of Guatemala, concerning whose safety fears were entertained by officials of the Vatican and by his relatives and friends in this country, has arrived in Rome. News of his reaching Rome came in a cable dispatch to the Apostolic Delegate Archbishop Bonzano.

Following the arrest of Bishop Batres at the instance of President Estrada Cabrera of Guatemala about a year ago, on a charge of inciting revolution, he was imprisoned. There was an intimation that he was about to be shot. The American Charge Thurston, at Guatemala City, made strong representations to President Cabrera and warned him not to harm Bishop Batres. The Vatican also intervened and Bishop Batres was finally released. He was stripped of all his property, however, and came to the United States without means. Even his baggage was pillaged.

Though reduced to straits on his arrival in Washington, Bishop Batres gave the gold chain for his pectoral cross to the fund that is being gathered to build the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception.

Rome—The Augustinians have elected Father Giacchetti as general of the Order.

Chicago Catholic University Plans Are Announced

Edward Hines Makes Gift of \$500,000 MEMORIAL TO SON

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Chicago, Ill., May 1.—Coincident with the announcement by Archbishop George W. Mundelein of the plans for a great Catholic University in Chicago, it was made known that Edward Hines, the millionaire lumberman had given \$500,000 for the erection of one of the buildings, as a memorial to his son, Lieut. Edward Hines, who died in the service in France.

The gift was unconditional, and the Archbishop said in his letter of acceptance that the money would be used in building the chapel, center of the Divinity school group at Area, Ill., near Chicago, to be known as the St. Mary's of the Lake Theological Seminary.

Other Institutions Continue
The plan of the great university, as announced by His Grace, is to leave the now existing institutions, such as DePaul and Loyola universities, St. Ignatius, St. Rita, St. Stanislaus and other colleges retain their identity and autonomy, but to unify and standardize the work so as to grade up to the university standard. The university, the name for which has not yet been announced, will be the scholastic head of all the colleges and the degree-conferring institution.

There are at present in the several universities the departments of law, medicine, engineering and sociology, and the addition of theology and philosophy will come with the establishment of the new group at Area. Other departments will be added to put the university on a parity with the greatest in America.

The new group at Area will cost from \$3,000,000 to \$5,000,000. It will be of American Colonial construction and grouped about the lake of St. Mary.

The new Rosary College, a university for women, now under construction at River Forest, under the auspices of the Dominican Sisters, will be affiliated with the new university, as will the other girls' colleges, making it a co-educational institution with the sexes in separate units.

Oxford Plan Adopted
The plan generally follows that of Oxford University in the coordination of groups, and the university will be the crown of the educational system of the archdiocese, which Archbishop Mundelein has been standardizing since his arrival here four years ago. The elementary schools are now in charge of a board of education, and two men are now being specially trained for the work of unifying all the preparatory schools into one undergraduate institution.

The gift of a half million by Mr. Hines is believed to be one of the largest, if not the largest, single gift made to a Catholic university in the West by an individual. Mrs. Hines was the chairman of the campaign just ended for a \$500,000 endowment fund for Rosary College, and was inspired to this work by the death of her

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Catholics Resent Attack on Their Loyal Americanism

(By the N. C. W. C. News Service)
New York, April 30.—"If a man tells you he is a Catholic, you may rest assured that he is a bad American."

That was one of the sentences in the peroration of an address delivered by Jay W. Forrest, supreme president of the Sons and Daughters of Washington, an anti-Catholic organization, in a hall in New York a few evenings ago. Peroration, roughly defined, means the last part of a speech. It was a perfectly accurate definition in this instance, Forrest stopped as soon as his words were uttered.

The reasons—there were two—for his sudden cessation were Vincent Delany of 167 E. Seventy-fifth street, and John Lysaght of 50 Twelfth street. They arose in their places and denounced Supreme President Forrest. There was quite a large gathering of bigots in the hall, but that fact didn't deter Delany and Lysaght. They described Forrest in language that, following the rhetorical recipe for such occasions, was chosen for strength and not for beauty.

With the odds of about 500 to 2 in their favor the bigots were brave. They began to assault Delany and Lysaght, but neither of them suffered much damage. It was Forrest's speech that was hurt most. Delany and Lysaght were arrested, but were acquitted next day when the judge of the police court learned from other witnesses that Forrest had been berating Catholics.

Before reaching his statement about the Americanism of Catholics, Forrest made a strong plea for the election only of Protestants to public office, urged his hearers to advocate laws abolishing parochial schools, accused the Knights of Columbus of treasonable activities, attacked the Irish Republic, and hurled epithets at the Pope.

Delany and Lysaght bore everything in silence, if not without indignation, until Forrest impeached their Americanism. Then came the peroration, as aforesaid.

Church In Harmony With Hungarian State

(N. C. W. C. News Service)
Budapest, May 2.—Under the presidency of the Primate of Hungary, Cardinal Johann Czernoch, the Hungarian Bishops have just concluded the sessions of an episcopal conference. In addition to the Bishops of Hungary, the two Czech Bishops who have been expelled from their sees, Bishop Count Wilhelm Batthyanyi and Bishop Farkas Radnai, were invited to take part in the deliberations. These two Bishops are now living in Hungary.

At the opening of the conference the Cardinal Primate congratulated, on behalf of the assembled episcopate, Bishop Prohászka on his election to the National Assembly as Deputy, and welcomed Mgr. Stefan Hanauer, the new Bishop of Vaz.

Cardinal Czernoch read to the assembled Bishops a report on his present happy relations with the Government, and of the measures which had been introduced for the relief of the suffering of all classes, and also of his negotiations with leading Catholic personages in foreign countries, through whom it is hoped to arouse the sympathy of Catholics in other countries on behalf of the sufferings in Hungary brought about by the war.

Church Marriage Rehearsals Are Declared Abuse

Archbishop Shaw Makes Plea for Restoration of Nuptial Mass

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
New Orleans, May 1.—Criticism of marriage rehearsals in church and approval of the action of pastors who refuse to permit this practice are voiced by Archbishop J. W. Shaw in his latest pastoral letter. Archbishop Shaw also calls the attention of pastors to the tendency among Catholics to have evening marriage ceremonies and to the extravagance of decorations and other frivolities which accompany them. These, he declares, are contrary to the positive prohibition of the Church.

After pointing out the Church's solicitude to obtain special blessings on the marriages of her children at nuptial mass, Archbishop Shaw said:

"But, alas, like some other Catholic traditions of the ages of faith, this beautiful ceremony of the nuptial mass is rapidly giving way to the evening or so-called society marriage. . . . On such occasions the sanctuary is often transformed into a flower garden variegated with the garish display of many electric lights. And to offset this extravagant decoration, which serves merely to flatter the vanity of the bridal party and their relatives, the choir must be lowered to the level of an ordinary theater orchestra to discourse suggestive operatic airs and a medley of trivial and sensuous music. And all this contrary to the positive prohibition of the Church."

"But we have not yet come to the end of the 'abomination of desolation.' We confess that we are at a loss as to how we should characterize the brazen immorality of dress with which the bridal party and their friends offend the majesty of Him in whose presence the very angels are not pure."

On the subject of marriage rehearsals the Archbishop had this to say:

"This innovation, which is copied from society, has become, as every good pastor knows to his sorrow, a positive abuse and scandal only a little less than the irreverence which oftentimes attends the marriage ceremony. As our people are familiar with the floor arrangements of our churches, we do not understand why any preliminary training is required to go up the aisle of a church on the occasion of a marriage. The marriage ceremony is not a play and the church was never intended to be a stage. If a rehearsal is so very necessary to overcome bashfulness and inspire confidence, any drawing-room or parlor will answer the purpose admirably."

Alsace Catholic Journal Resumes

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Strasbourg:—It is announced that the Revue Catholique d'Alsace is to resume publication. This journal was founded in 1859 by Canon Mury, and on the annexation of Alsace after the Franco-Prussian War was suppressed by the Germans. In 1882 the Journal resumed publication under the direction of the Abbe Delsor, but in 1914 it was suppressed a second time.

Cardinal O'Connell Arrives in Rome

(Special Cable to N. C. W. C. News Service)
Rome, May 2.—Cardinal O'Connell of Boston, who arrived last Wednesday, was received by Pope Benedict Monday and Sunday, May 23 is to preside at a solemn benediction in the church of St. Agatha, attached to the Irish College, where special services will be held following a ceremony of the beatification of the Ven. Oliver Plunket.

Cardinal O'Connell was at the American College in Rome last Thursday and addressed the students afterwards. He is present at the canonization of the Blessed Margaret Mary Alacoque on Ascension Thursday, as well as that of the Holy Joao of Arc on Sunday May 16.

All Rome is making preparations for the coming ceremonies, which start next Sunday, with the beatification of Ven. Louis de Marillac, of the Daughters of Charity, St. Vincent de Paul. There have been erected at St. Peter and work is well under way on the erection of the throne for the celebration of the canonization of the Pope.

Pope Benedict received Diego Van Bergen, the new man ambassador to the Vatican in ceremonial audience, presentation of credentials, yesterday. Van Bergen was a Prussian minister in Rome, and with his resignation of his office, the Prussian ministry will be abolished, however, will still maintain a separate from the man embassy.

Irish Ceremony To Be Held in Rome

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Rome, May 2.—Notable religious festivities in the city of St. Agatha, in Subura, attached to the Irish College, will follow the beatification of Ven. Oliver Plunket on May 23. Cardinal Logrono will head the delegation of Irish prelates to be here for the ceremony at St. Agatha's that the patriot is erected. In accordance with the wish of O'Connell, who died in Genoa, his body was taken to Rome and his final resting place in the Glasnevin Cemetery, Dublin.

1,000 CHURCHES MUST BE REBUILT

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Brussels, May 2.—In 1,100 churches will be replaced those wholly destroyed when swept through Belgium during the country, according to information given here by a representative of the Ministry of the Interior, which has before it the project of reconstruction. The cost of churches required in addition, more than 100 edifices of all kinds must be rebuilt. For rebuilding need of an immense quantity of brick-making machinery of all sorts. Nearly the majority of the churches destroyed were Catholic.