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Cardinal Gibbons' 34th Anniversary Occurs This Week

Veteran Prelate Prepares Message to Brethren of Clergy and Laity

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Baltimore, June 30.—His Eminence, James Cardinal Gibbons, celebrated the fifty-ninth anniversary of his ordination and the thirty-fourth of his creation as Cardinal on Wednesday, June 30. There were no elaborate religious or civic ceremonies. The Cardinal spent the day quietly. His message to his brethren of the clergy and laity for the occasion is one of profound thanks for the interest they have taken in him. As in the earlier days of his youth, he appreciated the esteem and respect they showed him, so now in his declining years he has expressed his satisfaction for what he declares to be their forbearance.

Cardinal Gibbons was born in Baltimore July 23, 1834. He was baptized in the Cathedral parish, where he now has his seat, and received his early education in Ireland, whither his father with the family had returned in 1837. Cardinal Gibbons was ordained a priest on June 30, 1861. When he was but 34 years old, he was consecrated Bishop of Adramyttium in Patribus Infidelium and Vicar-Apostolic of North Carolina.

With the death of the Right Rev. John McGill, Bishop Gibbons was transferred to the see of Richmond on July 30, 1872. His administration of five years at Richmond was distinguished by the most remarkable results. Nine new churches were erected, parochial schools were founded and an orphan asylum for girls was established.

On May 20, 1877, Bishop Gibbons was appointed a coadjutor to the Most Rev. James R. Bayley, Archbishop of Baltimore, whom he succeeded upon his death in the following year. The pallium, the insignia of the archiepiscopate, was conferred on the new Archbishop Gibbons on February 10, 1878, in the Cathedral at Baltimore.

Cardinal McCloskey of New York died October 10, 1885, and on February 10, 1886, a cablegram from Rome announced the appointment of Archbishop Gibbons as Cardinal. When he heard of the report he exclaimed: "Should the report be verified, may God give me, as He gave His servant David an humble heart, that I may bear the honor with becoming modesty and a profound sense of my own unworthiness."

June 30, 1886, the twenty-fifth anniversary of his elevation to the priesthood, was selected by Cardinal Gibbons as the date for the formal investiture with the rank and insignia of membership in the Sacred College. Monsignor Straniero, the papal representative, brought the red zucchetto or skull-cap, the biretta and the official papers to the United States.

Cardinal Gibbons was invited to the papal consistory in Rome in 1887 and on March 17 of that year received the red hat and the ring personally from Pope Leo XIII. He was installed in his titular church, Santa Maria in Trastevere, the first church raised in the world in honor of the Blessed Mother, on March 25, 1887, the feast of the Annunciation.

WHERE RELICS OF CHRIST'S PASSION ARE TREASURED

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] In connection with the forthcoming International Catholic Palestine Congress, which meets in Einsiedeln, Switzerland, July 19-22, to formulate plans for protecting the Holy places of Palestine, it is of interest to know the whereabouts of the sacred relics of Christ's life, passion and crucifixion.

The largest portions of the wood of the Cross are in the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem at Rome, and in Notre Dame Cathedral, Paris. A relic of the Cross is also in the United States—in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, Boston.

The "title" which Pilate wrote and ordered to be placed on the Cross—"I. N. R. I." (Jesus of Nazareth, King of the Jews)—is preserved in the Basilica of the Holy Cross of Jerusalem at Rome. The Crown of Thorns, now lacking in the thorns, which have been distributed to a number of churches, is a part of the treasure of Notre Dame at Paris. A fragment of the Crown is in the Church of St. Serin, Toulouse, France.

One of the nails is said to be in the crown of the ancient Lombard Kings used by Napoleon I at his coronation; one is in the Cathedral of Notre Dame at Paris, and another, whose authenticity is reported to have been established by Pope Benedict XV, is at Monza, near Milan.

The sponge, it is stated, is in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, Rome.

The point of the lance is in Paris, and the remainder in Rome. The robe, known as the Holy Coat, is in a church at Treves.

The tunic is reported to have been given by the sister of Charlemagne to the Monastery of Argenteuil, where she was a nun, and is still there.

The largest piece of the winding sheet is at Turin.

The cloth with which the sacred head was wrapped is reported to be in the church of Cadonin, Department of Dordogne, France.

The linen with which Veronica wiped Christ's face on the way to Calvary is in Rome.

The upper portion of the pillar of the scourging has been in the Church of St. Praxedes since 1223, and the lower section is in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher, Jerusalem.

Pope's Villa At Twickenham Now In Catholic Hands

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] London, June 21.—Alexander Pope's villa at Twickenham is again in Catholic hands and the Sisters of Mercy have established their convent and secondary school there.

The grounds of the villa were this year the scene of the annual Corpus Christi procession. From the lawn facing the river the procession passed through the well-known grotto to the extensive grounds. Canon English preached from the text, "I will set my tabernacle in the midst of you. I will walk among you and will be your God, and you will be my people."

The final benediction was given from a balcony facing the lawn and the river and it was interesting to note that some of the boats stopped and the occupants joined in the hymns, several kneeling in their boats for the benediction.

Religious Issues In Illinois' New Bill Of Rights

Revised Constitution Provided Bible Reading in School-State Aid

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Springfield, Ill., June 27.—Despite a bala of protests coming to it from scores of societies and individuals throughout the state, the Committee on Bill of Rights of the Illinois Constitutional convention has approved a provision for the reading of the Bible in the public schools.

Col. Abel Davis, a leader among the Jewish people of Chicago, and a member of the committee, fought the proposition, and, when outvoted on its adoption, announced that he would present a minority report and rally its opponents against it on the floor of the convention.

The Supreme Court has held that the present provision of the constitution guaranteeing religious and civil liberty is an interdiction against Bible reading in the schools. To offset this court ruling a rider to the present code was proposed. As passed by the committee, this rider reads:

"The reading in the public schools of selections from any version of the Old and New Testament, without comment, shall never be held to be in conflict with this constitution."

Back of this provision are said to be the same agencies that recently forced through the constitutional convention a provision preventing the state from giving public funds to private institutions for the care of public charges. This latter provision is not operative for fifteen years, during which time the state is expected to build the institutions needed to take care of dependents.

While no public and concerted protest has been made against this latter provision, it is understood that opposition to it is so marked and has made itself so felt among the delegates that it will be recalled by the convention, rather than risk the defeat of the entire constitution when submitted to the vote of the people.

Aside from those who may oppose it as a slap at the religious organizations that are now taking care of the poor and the dependents with a modicum of state aid, it is opposed by humanitarians who see in the Catholic sisterhoods, and in the trained welfare workers of other denominations the only agents through which proper care can be given the children and young girls committed from the courts.

Shadowed at Mass

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Dublin, June 17.—Feelings of Catholics are outraged by the extent to which police surveillance is being practiced in Ireland. The Right Honorable Mr. Ginnell, Member of Parliament, a man of three-score-and-ten, now shattered in health by eighteen months' imprisonment, lately repaired to Delvin, County Wicklow, to recuperate. On Sunday last he was followed to mass by four policemen, two of whom knelt in the seat in front of him, and two in the seat behind.

Denies He Stopped Wedding Because Of Immodest Dress

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] New Orleans, June 28.—Sensational stories carried by secular news agencies to the effect that he stopped a wedding because the bride and attendants were "shockingly" attired were emphatically denied here by the Very Rev. Albert Antoine, O. M. I., pastor of St. Louis Cathedral. Father Antoine characterized the account as an "irresponsible invention."

"The bride was not 'shockingly' dressed in the sense conveyed by the story," he added. "The bridal party wore décolleté gowns, regarded as unbecoming, more especially so in the solemn sacrament of marriage. Before the bridal party entered the church, I requested the members to veil themselves. They did so at the church door and the ceremony proceeded without delay. "I cannot imagine how such a story as appeared could have been written, except in an attempt to make sensationalism out of a duty which I performed quietly and with a minimum embarrassment to the parties concerned."

Mexico Delegation Calls On Cardinal

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Baltimore, Md., June 28.—The development of the native clergy of Mexico was discussed at a conference held recently between Cardinal Gibbons and Torre Diaz, representative of the provisional government of the Republic of Mexico, who was called here to see the Cardinal, accompanied by Senor Dominguez of the same country.

The conversation had to do with economic and material as well as the moral development of the country, and the Mexican representatives expressed the hope that the change of administration would contribute greatly to its political and social welfare. They explained the wonderful fertility of the soil, which in some places yields three crops a year, and declared that funds were urgently needed for development. For assistance they look with hope to the United States.

Mexican bishops, they declare were establishing seminaries rapidly, as the people are encouraged by seeing their brethren invested with the dignity of the priesthood. The best index to religious progress, they said, seemed to be the creation and development of a native clergy. Senator Dominguez, it is said, bore letters from Archbishop Mora of Mexico City commending him to the Cardinal.

Irish College in China

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Dublin, June 17.—Among the regular clergy none are more active as missionaries than the Irish Vincentians. From Dublin they send missions frequently to England and Scotland. But they have gone much farther afield. Away in China they have taken charge of a considerable district in Peking, where they have established a church with a congregation of 1,000 Chinese. Seeing how deeply the desire for education has been stimulated in the people of China, the Irish Vincentian Fathers have also founded a college called St. Patrick's. Already, so great are the members flocking to it, that the accommodation is too small.

'Ireland Must Be Mistress Of Her Own Affairs'

So Declares Archbishop Kelly of Sydney at Reception on Landing

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Dublin, June 17.—Seventy years sit lightly on the Most Rev. Dr. Kelly, Archbishop of Sydney. He has come to Ireland from Rome, where he attended the Oliver Plunkett Beatitude. He was one of the founders of the House of Missions in his native county of Wexford. The only other surviving members of its original community are Bishop Brownrigg and the celebrated temperance Jesuit, Father J. A. Cullen. By happy coincidence Father Cullen was the first to welcome the Archbishop, who is just now the guest of the House of Missions, Enniscorthy, County of Wexford. The people of the town gave their fellow countryman a tremendous public reception. And the words he spoke to them were remarkable.

Addressing thousands the Archbishop said that the eager revival of the Irish language was work of the greatest value. Nobody was so unpractical as to dream of superseding English. The Irish faith, through the agency of the English tongue, was holding up the Gospel in Australia, which was destined to be a glorious country.

His Grace was struck by Ireland's singular freedom from crime. With corrosive irony he spoke of the press campaign to defame this Catholic country in the eyes of the world.

"The last time I was in Ireland," he said, "Wexford jail was for sale. Carlow jail has since been shut up. And I understand they are converting other jails into industrial schools."

Voicing the sentiment of the Irish abroad, he urged the people never to consent to the partition of the nation.

"A full draught of liberty," fair play for Irish industry, no fettering of Irish commerce or Irish resources, no exploitation by the British in the interests of themselves or of any favored section or class, these were the rights, he said, which Australia claimed for Ireland.

The Archbishop declared these rights meant self-determination in the sense advocated by President Wilson.

"Ireland, Catholic Ireland," concluded the trenchant orator, "must be mistress of her own affairs."

DEATH OF BISHOP FITZMAURICE

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Erie, Pa., June 28.—Death has removed another of the oldest prelates of the Catholic Church in America, the Right Rev. John E. Fitzmaurice of the diocese of Erie who passed away at the age of 83 years. Bishop Fitzmaurice was in feeble health for many years previous to his death and the affairs of the diocese have been carried on by the Right Rev. John H. Cannon, his auxiliary. The deceased bishop was born in County Kerry, Ireland, January 8, 1837 and was a brother of the Rev. Francis P. Fitzmaurice, rector of St. Joseph's Church, Frankfort, Philadelphia and of Monsignor Edmund J. Fitzmaurice of St. Charles Borromeo Seminary, Overbrook.

Anti-Clericalism Arises in Belgium

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Brussels, June 17.—The anti-clerical controversy has arisen from the Socialists' resolution and M. Destree's motion, the latter being president of the chamber. A proposal has been laid before the government to increase the salaries of both lay and members of religious orders. The Socialist Federation structured its representative vote against the measure, and a protest against this action of M. Destree and M. Smeets resigned their membership in the federation on the ground that this is no time to revive the anti-religious program of the Belgian Socialists. The matter is not yet closed, and the Socialists to come up against it again shortly.

Potene Still As Object Lesson At Church Door

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Dublin, June 17.—The made whiskey scarce and consequently in rural places the illicit distillation of "Potene" can be produced on a very large scale. Adhering to the belief that "Ireland sober is Ireland free," the Irish vigilantes made a heavy swoop on the spirators of the distilleries, compelling them to give up their "still" plants. Offenders have been the pledge most solemnly given to potene-making. And they have been given to understand that breaking it won't do them any good. In one district ten stills were displayed last Sunday at the gates of the Catholic church as proof of the good work done during the week. It was a telling lesson. Other chapel yards are likely to be used as "still" museums.

Priests Are Praised For Their Effort To Stop Lynching

[By N. C. W. C. News Service] Duluth, Minn., June 27.—Citizens of all religions, including a prominent Episcopalian minister—Dr. A. W. Ryan—still praising the courage of Father W. J. Power and Father J. Maloney who dramatically and unsuccessfully attempted to prevent the lynching of the grocer in this city several days ago.

Dr. Ryan has issued a statement in which he says: "All honor to the Roman Catholic priests who tried to face and overcome the mob."

When a crowd of several hundred men had taken the grocer from police headquarters and were battering down doors, condemned the blacks and Father Power climbed the pole from which the grocer was about to be hanged. He pleaded for the life of the man. "Men, you don't know what man is guilty," Father Power cried. "I know the most horrible thing I have ever taken its course. In the God and of the Church, I am sent, man I say now." Father Power was taken to the Cathedral of the Holy Spirit and Father Power was taken to the Good Shepherd.