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Church Slandered By Foreign Guide Books And Guides

Dr. Guilday Condemns Unfairness of Baedeker

By Rev. PETER GUILDAY, Ph. D.
[Written for N. C. W. C. News Service]

Rome, July 20.—It is not exactly courteous to complain when one is a visitor in a strange land, but one cannot help calling the attention of American Catholics to the unfair, unscrupulous anti-Catholic propaganda of the celebrated Baedeker Guides. These guides are unquestionably valuable to the traveler; in fact, all other guides one buys are lame in comparison. But the Baedeker system is uniform all throughout wherever there is the remotest chance to slur Catholicism it is done.

The guides for Rome, for example, abound in misstatements, false conclusions and theories which cannot be otherwise interpreted by the Catholic who knows the history of his Church than as a subtle attack upon everything that is dear to him in that regard. One hardly stops to silence the ignorant guides furnished by even such prominent travel agencies as Thomas Cook & Son, that one hears explaining in St. Peter's or in some of the other churches, the great monuments of Christian antiquity.

Guides Spread Scandal

I have followed Cook's agents through St. Peter's and have heard nothing but allusions to immorality on the part of the Popes, to obscene legends, and downright lies. It is a first principle with most of these guides that only that which is suggestive of wrongdoing and of immoral living can have any interest for the American school teacher or for the American business man in such a center of sanctity as Rome.

But the great point, after all, is that an organization of so many hundred millions of Catholics has not in all its nineteen hundred years of existence had some one to give the world a proper Guide to this center of Catholic Faith.

Take the Irish Catholics, for instance. It was from Rome that Palladius and Patrick were sent to Ireland. Ireland has always been represented in Rome, and yet where can the descendant of Irish hearts find a book in his own tongue telling him of the glories of Irish history here in Rome?

For sixty years the Americans have been here, but no American has written an authoritative Guide to offset the insidious anti-Catholic spirit of the much-used and much-abused Baedeker.

The whole field—one of the strongest in the world for the spread of the Faith—has been left to the enemy!

Catholics Excluded From All Juries In Ireland

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

Dublin, August 1.—The ancient game of excluding Catholics from juries is being played again with all its old recklessness. There is method in it, nevertheless. Four political prisoners—all Catholics—were sent from their native country of Galway to be tried in Derry, the evident intention being to have them dealt with in an environment of religious and political hostility. One solitary Catholic was called on the jury—and he was promptly ordered to stand aside.

Present Fashions Are Denounced by Belgian Ladies

[By N. C. W. C. News Service]

Brussels, July 30.—A delegation of women, including 200 members of the Brussels and Antwerp Christian Societies were received by Cardinal Mercier in the Malines Archbishop's Palace to present a protest, bearing 1,027 signatures, against the present-day fashions and falling off in morals. The protest said in part:

"We, Belgian Catholic women, mothers, wives, and young ladies, hasten to answer the fatherly appeal sent by Your Eminence in his latest pastoral letter. We wish to be 'these voluntary best' that Your Eminence calls to the rescue of society, following the example set by our Italian sisters, who were congratulated and blessed by His Holiness, Benedictus XV, we are willing to accept the dictates of the ecclesiastic authorities, particularly with respect to morals and propriety in clothes. We hereby wish to pledge ourselves:

1. "Never to wear in Church, not even at weddings, décolleté dresses—this, out of respect for the sacramental rite. When in compliance with certain established customs, we shall be compelled to wear such dresses, we shall do it with all reserve possible. We shall try to stem the present fashions.

2. "We will not patronize theatrical plays, moving picture shows, and entertainments which offend against public morals and propriety.

3. "We shall not countenance in our homes, improper dances or such as shall be danced in a licentious manner. We shall also discard all dances not indorsed by competent society people.

4. "We shall still keep away from all dancing entertainments during Lent.

5. "We shall not allow on our tables illustrated newspapers or fashion papers which might place improper pictures under our children's eyes."

His Eminence, in replying to the address made by the women, said:

"Whether they will or not, the women of the upper classes give the style.

"I can but take up again my former warnings to them, and say: Think of it, while it is yet time to do so. Think of it, you mothers who have, heretofore, closed your eyes upon the faults of your children because you wanted to persuade yourselves that the tyranny of fashion is the rule, and that collective enthusiasm can justify the worst excess.

"No, no; tyranny, no matter where it comes from, is an attack upon liberty, and liberty was given to man, not to suppress virtue, but to promote it.

"You, wives and Christian mothers, in this salvation work the finest part is yours. The humble are watching and waiting for your example.

Chaplains Attend Military School

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

Chaplains Francis P. Joyce and Ignatius J. Fealy are attending the Recreation School near Rockford, Ill. These two priests, who have had several years with American troops, will assist the War Department in establishing a new and broad scheme of education in the military establishment.

HOLY PLACES

Pope Informs Patriarch of Jerusalem of His Views With Respect to Their Safeguarding

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

Rome, August 1.—On future work for the Preservation of the Faith in Palestine the Osservatore Romano publishes the following:

"The changed political conditions in Palestine seem to bring, on the one hand, the good results long awaited, of civil and liberal government given by mandate of the Interallied Conference to the nation which may be regarded as the most powerful and efficacious missionary of modern civilization in the world.

"But on the other hand, the new conditions do not exclude damage and danger to the Catholic Faith in that blessed land which was the field of the Divine life of the Redeemer, scene of His Passion, cradle of the Church. Damage and danger inseparable, indeed, from the very concept of modern civilization, which from the religious point of view is anything but perfect, and from the religious situation of Europe and the world is still far from the ideal unity foreshadowed and promised by the Divine Master. Catholic Duty Toward Palestine

Without going into particulars, it may be said that Palestine today is looked on as a land of conquest which all rival elements are trying to use and to civilize, each in its own way. Here comes in the urgent need for the Catholics, not only of the Holy Land, but of the whole world, to prepare means and arms to fight for the preservation, defense and propaganda of the Catholic Faith in the ever-dangerous field of rivalry and of liberty.

Natural chief of a special army for the defense of the rights of the Faith in the Holy Land, Lieutenant of the Supreme Pontiff as Grand Master of the Knights of the Order of the Holy Sepulchre, is the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem, Mgr. Barlassina. He has seen this need at once, with the keenness of vision and judgment and the Apostolic spirit that mark his character. When he was in Italy recently he organized the

"Work for the Preservation of the Faith in Palestine." To start, to organize and to develop this work, fruit of his happy inspiration, it was natural that he should call the knights of his army who are spread through the world in groups of varying numbers and who, as indeed was to be expected, have responded nobly to his appeal. For the future, then, the Chapters of the Order are constituted, or are at this moment constituting themselves, as so many committees of earnest action in favor of the work under their chief, the Patriarch of Jerusalem, who is on the spot, in the field of executive action in the Holy Land.

There already exists and in action there an executive committee composed of the superiors of all the religious communities of men at present in Palestine and of representatives of all the mixed rites. It is split up into four chief commissions, the heads of which, together with the Franciscan parish priest of Jerusalem, and the Auxiliary Bishop, form the Directing Council under presidency of the Patriarch. The principal activities to which the work proposes to devote itself are:

(1) Restoration and improvement of the Catholic schools to meet the rivalry of non-Catholics and its unhappy consequences;

(2) Diffusion of Catholic books, periodicals and propaganda sheets;

(3) Establishment of centers for conferences and meetings of all sorts.

The work of the Preservation of the Faith must not, of course, be confused with other works already existing, whose object is the preservation of the sanctuaries of the Holy Land. It will collaborate fraternally with these, but its object is the preservation of the Faith among individuals of right, and among those in the front rank, the representatives of all the communities who have the custody of sanctuaries take their places. A work so important and opportune could not fail to get the high approval and paternal encouragement of the Holy Father who forwarded through the Cardinal Secretary of State under date July 3, a letter to Mgr. the Patriarch.

Archbishop Urges Irish Clergy to Combat Evil Reading

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

Dublin, August 1.—To combat evil reading—especially the kind that is provided by the alien gutter press—is the task that Archbishop Harty urges on the clergy of Ireland.

The bad press, which is one of the endowments, that England showers on this country, has many aspects. There is the Sunday newspaper containing all the English divorce news of the week. There is the weekly paper that deals with nasty matters in a preachy tone—teaching the vices it pretends to condemn. And there is the quasi-intellectual periodical which under the cloak of an analysis of ideas, advances views subversive of Christian thought.

Dr. Harty wisely points out that to drive these purveyors of damnation from the haunts of men is not enough. Catholic reading must be available to keep them permanently out of the field. A greater activity on the part of Catholic journalism in Ireland is foreshadowed. The Catholic News Sheet has made an impression in influential Irish quarters as indicating how much can be done to disseminate interesting and authoritative Catholic information.

Catholic Nun Passes First In Pharmacy

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

St. Louis, Mo.—Sister Mary Dominic, pharmacist at St. John's Hospital, in this city, has been notified by the Missouri Pharmaceutical Board of Examiners that she has received the highest grade of all candidates taking the pharmaceutical examination during the fiscal year ending August 1.

As the highest ranking candidate, Sister Mary Dominic is awarded the annual prize of a year's paid membership in the Missouri Pharmaceutical Association. Sister Dominic has been head pharmacist at St. John's since receiving her state license last year and for four years previous to that time was assistant pharmacist at St. John's.

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French Vote For Vatican Embassy In Committees

Finance and Foreign Affairs Bodies Both Favor Restoration of Relations

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

Paris, August 1.—The question of the restoration of the French Embassy to the Vatican has at last received its expected favorable solution in the two committees entrusted with the consideration of the bill.

The Foreign Affairs Committee had accepted the bill presented by the government, while the Committee on Finance had voted, with a slight majority, for the postponement of the discussion. On hearing of this vote, when he was attending the Spa conference, M. Millerand had intimated to the Finance Committee his desire to be heard on the matter. This meeting of the Premier and the committee took place on July 22nd.

M. Millerand stated again, briefly the motives that led the government to take the initiative of the resumption of diplomatic relations with the Vatican and urged the committee to reconsider the matter and vote the necessary credits.

He added that his intention was to ask for the immediate discussion of the bill in the Chamber, but, as the Senate could not possibly take it up before the summer recess, he thought it more practical that the two committees submit their reports before the holidays and that the public discussion come in the Chamber at the very beginning of the next session.

He insisted on the need of a close agreement with the Holy See for the administration of Alsace-Lozaine, as well as for dealing with the Catholic populations of the Rhenish provinces occupied by the French army.

To a member of the committee who asked whether it was necessary that the French representative at the Vatican should have the rank of Ambassador, M. Millerand replied the French representative must be worthy of his country.

To M. Varenne, Socialist representative, who expressed his surprise at seeing Bishops and clergy participating in public ceremonies with the authorities, as happened, for instance, on July 14, the President of the Council replied that the objector seemed to forget the great fact of the war.

In the course of the discussion a number of the committee suggested that a means be taken to have the French government represented in Rome without having a papal nuncio in Paris. M. Loucher, a member of the Clemenceau Cabinet, raised a strong protest against that idea, explaining that the experience he had gained in his office had convinced him of the necessity of accepting without restriction the bill submitted by the government.

Finally, the committee, by a vote of 19 to 15, rallied itself to the Premier's viewpoint and voted the credits.

After that vote was taken, one of the largest groups of the Chamber "Entente Republicaine Democratique" issued the following statement: "The group Entente Republicaine Democratique, having ascertained the complete agreement of the Committee on

Finance and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, in the restoration of the French Embassy to the Vatican, on the one hand, and the other the government's pledge to bring the matter before the Chamber at the beginning of the next session and to ask for a vote of confidence, expresses its unanimous approval of that procedure."

Catholic School of Auto Mechanics Proves Big Success

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

New Orleans, August 16.—The St. Charles University's school of auto mechanics, now one year old, has proved the problem of how to succeed in the number of students registered for the fall term, which starts next month. Two hundred and fifteen were registered during the season just closed, and as early as in June there were fifty-eight applicants for the fall term. The system is practical in every respect. Students are first shown how to do a thing. Then they are shown how to do it and finally, under the direction of expert instructors, they do it themselves. The Rev. Wallace, who is president of the school, takes the greatest interest in the work of the students and is a constant visitor to the various departments, which include a machine shop, motor, repair and electrical departments, in which every phase of the subject is thoroughly covered.

Sister Writes Movie Scenario

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

Paterson, N. J., August 1.—"Classified," a motion picture which the scenario was written by Sister Mary Vincent, of St. Elizabeth's College, of Orange Station, New Jersey, was given its first production last week at Alumni Hall, Furman University.

The story has to do with the life of a girl who, through the influence of the most prominent men of the time, is brought to the attention of the moral standard of the world. The story is a masterpiece of the sisterly spirit and the prevalence of a rich girl's life for an orphanage. It is a true light.

Miss Florence Dunt, one of the finest class of St. Elizabeth's, which is operated by the Sisters of Charity, has the principal roles. Sister Vincent, the author of the scenario, is the author of the play.

Editor's Daughter

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

Omaha, N. D., August 1.—Miss Gertrude, daughter of the editor of the Omaha Journal, has been one of a group of young women who received the Foreign Missionary Society's diploma of the year.

The Omaha Journal, edited by the Rev. Charles J. O'Connell, in the presence of the James Walsh, editor of the Maryknoll, Very Rev. Don, chairman of the

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