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Austria Upholding Indissolubility of Marriage

Subterfuges of Socialists to Secure Right to Re-marry

By Dr. Frederick Funder, Editor Vienna Reichspost

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Vienna, Nov. 10.—Reports sent to American newspapers from Berlin, announcing that "bigamy has been legalized by the Austrian Government," were in part correct, but not in the sense in which the dispatches intimated. In Austria the civil law regulating matrimony rests upon the canon law of the Catholic Church, and recognizes and enforces the indissolubility of marriages between Catholics. For years the Socialists and "Liberals" have sought to abolish this law, but their attempts have failed hitherto, since each time there was such a storm of opposition from the Catholics that neither Parliament nor the Government dared persist.

Socialist Subterfuge

Even the revolution of November, 1918, was unable to alter the firm view of Austrian Catholics. Accordingly, the Socialists have resorted to the expedient of allowing, occasionally, a second marriage and the dissolution of the first. This has been done by order of certain administrative bodies in which the Socialists have control.

As a cloak for their real designs these Socialist administrators take as their pretended authority Section 83 of the Civil Code, which permits "for important reasons," petitioning the provincial governments for relief in respect to lawful marriage impediments. The sense and character of the Code prove that this permissive authority governs only in the case of relative lawful impediments, and that an existing Catholic marriage is held by the law an absolute hindrance to re-marriage.

If, for example, the law determines that a convicted criminal is not allowed to marry during the period of his punishment, he may be dispensed by the Government from this relative statutory hindrance.

Without, however, respecting this sense of the law, the Government of Lower Austria—as yet the only one of the seven provincial administrations of Austria to take that action—has initiated the practice of granting dispensations from marriage hindrances, the existing Catholic marriage included. The Socialist Minister of the Interior, Dr. Ellenbogen, has concurred in his partner's practices.

Catholic Victory in Elections

The responsibility for some hundreds of these "marriages" whose status is so questionable, rests upon the Socialist provincial administrator of Lower Austria. After the victory which the Catholics have just gained in the elections for the National Assembly, it is pretty certain that these "sever marriages" will soon be stopped. With Socialists no longer hopeful of controlling the Ministry of the Interior, to protect and promote from that place of vantage the illicit practices of the provincial administration, there will be no possibility of continuing their "smuggling." The victory of the Catholics at these elections re-establishes at once the Catholic matrimonial statutes of Austria.

Catholic Movement In Switzerland

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

Paris, Nov. 12.—There is to be noted among the Protestants of Switzerland an unmistakable trend toward Rome, especially in the case of theological students. Lausanne and other cities offer the most important examples of this movement. Some pious Protestants, dissatisfied with the fruits of the Reformation, are turning instinctively to the Catholic Church. Many are coming back into the fold.

One prominent Protestant pastor is on the point of conversion to the ancient Faith. Another pastor has introduced in his service prayers for the dead. The result has been a larger attendance at his services.

This Romeward tendency cannot yet be compared to the "Oxford Movement" in England, in the middle of the last century, but it is strong enough to justify the remark made recently by a Protestant:

"The fashion is now to become Catholic."

Protestant churches in Switzerland are showing a disposition to reunite. The age of individualism in religion has passed or is passing as the necessity of reunion asserts itself. A new evidence of this tendency is the proposal for union between the two great Protestant groups, the national and state-supported body and the independent churches.

Mass At Sea To Be Encouraged By Two Atlantic Lines

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

London, November 15.—As a result of representations made to the management of two important trans-Atlantic steamship lines, assurances have been given that not only will facilities be provided for priests to say mass on board their vessels, but that arrangements will be made to permit Catholic members of the crews to attend the Holy Sacrifice.

Complaints had been made that the Catholics among the crews of English ships were not only denied permission to hear mass while at sea, but that they were subjected to pressure designed to force them to attend Protestant services. It has now been suggested by officials of these lines that priests who desire to say mass on the vessels notify the captains in advance so that Catholic officers and men may be present.

French Court Protests "Movies"

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

Paris, Nov. 12.—Before closing its session, the Criminal Court of the Department of the North filed a petition to the Minister of Justice, asking that a very strict censure be passed on moving picture shows. The jurors stated that most of the young men arraigned before them had been badly influenced by "detective stories" in which they appeared to have taken too great an interest.

Thirty Sermons on Same Subject

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

Paris, Nov. 13.—The Archbishop of Auch has issued an order that the subject of the Sunday sermon shall be the same in all the churches of the Archdiocese, on thirty Sundays every year. For instance, this year the thirty sermons shall run on the third part of the Catechism of Trent.

Its Diamond Jubilee

St. Vincent de Paul Society Celebrate in St. Louis

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

St. Louis, Nov. 19.—Seventy-five years of the St. Vincent de Paul Society's existence in this country was celebrated Thanksgiving Day in St. Louis, the city of its first foundation. Impressive ceremonies, in which Most Rev. John J. Glennon, Archbishop, and many prominent clergymen and laymen participated, marked the observance of the Diamond Jubilee.

Some of the religious exercises in connection with the anniversary were conducted in the Old Cathedral, where, when St. Louis was yet hardly more than a town, without railroads, telegraph or any of its present numerous Catholic churches, a few pioneers assembled to organize the first conference of the Society which has since spread throughout America and the remainder of the world.

In the number of these laymen was Bryan Mullanphy, once mayor of the city, and ancestor of many leading St. Louisans. The others were Dr. M. L. Linton, Dennis Galvin, James McGuire, Jr., Patrick Ryder and Father Ambrose Heim, known in that early day as the "priest of the poor." Father Heim was spiritual director of the first conference.

Solemn high mass was celebrated in the Old Cathedral at 10 o'clock Thanksgiving morning, with Very Rev. M. S. Ryan, C. M., D. D., as celebrant. Rev. Joseph Lubeley, pastor of Holy Trinity Church, was deacon; Rev. Thomas O'Reilly, pastor of Holy Angels Church, sub-deacon; Rev. Martin S. Brennan, noted priest, astronomer, master of ceremonies, and Rev. John J. Butler, secretary of the St. Vincent de Paul Society, assistant master of ceremonies.

Very Rev. Christopher D. McEnniry, C. S. S. R., provincial of the Redemptorists, and Very Rev. F. X. McMenamy, S. J., provincial of the Jesuits, were deacons of honor to Archbishop Glennon, who preached the jubilee sermon.

Pews in the Old Cathedral were reserved for members of the St. Vincent de Paul Society and their relatives and friends. Mayor Kiel, whose family are Catholics, and Frank W. Carter, president of the charities committee of the Chamber of Commerce, attended the ceremonies as special guests.

In the three-quarters of a century that has elapsed since the first conference of the St. Vincent de Paul Society held its meeting in America, the organization has grown in numbers and influence and has achieved a notable place among the Church's charitable agencies. Hundreds of thousands of poor and afflicted have been the beneficiaries of its unobtrusive but generous ministrations.

The Society's extension to other cities of the country is shown by the latest annual report of the superior council of the United States. This reveals that there are nine metropolitan central councils, four diocesan central councils, 53 particular councils, 1082 conferences, 15,159 active members and 3009 honorary members of the Society in the fourteen provinces of the United States.

The present members and officers of the metropolitan central council of St. Louis are, Archbishop Glennon, spiritual direct-

or; Congressman William L. Igoe, president; Christopher J. Kehoe, first vice-president; John B. Denver, second vice-president; Rev. John J. Butler, secretary, and John R. Cooke, treasurer.

Catholic University For Italy, at Milan, Soon to Be Opened

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

Milan, Nov. 7.—Plans for the establishment of a Catholic university in Milan, the first of its kind in Italy, have been completed, and it is expected that the new institution which is already being looked forward to by thousands of Italians will throw open its doors next fall.

The inspiration for the university is due to Cardinal Ferrari, of Milan, who in the spring of 1918, entrusted to the directors of the publishing society "Vita e Pensiero" and to the president of the "Italian Society for Philosophical and Psychological Studies" the work of establishing the institution.

Father Gemelli, Dr. Necchi and Don Olgiate mapped out the plans for the university. Many prominent Italian Catholics have contributed to the fund for the institution, including Count Lombardo, who supplied the money for the purchase of an old Milanese palace which has been modernized and equipped for university work.

Count Lombardo has been chosen president of the institution and among the directors are leaders of the Italian Popular Party who have long realized the necessity of such an institution. Angelo Mauri, a member of the Italian House of Deputies, is one of the directors. Father Gemelli is vice-president.

One of the first advocates of a Catholic University for Italy was the late Giuseppe Toniolo, in whose honor the corporation formed has been designated the "Giuseppe Toniolo Institution of Higher Studies." During the war Signor Toniolo made the following declaration:

"Catholic Italians, if they wish to reconstruct Italy, must have their university. It was Belgium which saved the cause of civilization by its heroic sacrifice. But Belgium means the Catholics of that country. And what has formed these Catholics but the University of Louvain? To save Catholicity in a country, liberty of education is necessary, but the first essential organ of education is a university."

The Bishop of Trent, Monsignor Endici, has given 300,000 lire for burses.

Carthage Site of Martyrdom In Christian Hands

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

Rome, Sept. 11.—The site of the celebrated amphitheater of Carthage, where St. Perpetua and St. Felicité met martyrdom, has come into the hands of the spiritual descendants of the martyrs.

The White Fathers, the missionaries of Algiers, now control the grounds where the ancient edifice stood, and recently a solemn high mass was celebrated in a subterranean vault which has been converted into a chapel.

Los Angeles Mission House

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

Los Angeles, Nov. 20.—The Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America has purchased a house in Los Angeles, to be occupied by Sisters from Maryknoll who have the direction of the Japanese school already established by Bishop Cantwell.

Religious Inquiry Into Denver Tram Strike Completed

Dr. Ryan and Lapp of Catholic Welfare Council Sign Report

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

Washington, D. C., Nov. 19.—The report of the Denver Commission of Religious Forces on the tramway strike of last August is now in press. It will make a booklet of about 125 pages, and will represent one of the most thorough investigations ever made in this country on a strike which was confined to a single city. The Denver Commission of Religious Forces is composed of clergymen of all denominations, Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish, in the city of Denver. It was organized a few weeks after the strike began by men who believed that the important facts underlying the strike had never reached the public. These men desired to ascertain and publish these facts in order that the public might place praise and blame where they belonged, and in order that the lessons of the strike might become available for other communities.

Lessons of the Report

This unique enterprise seems to contain two important lessons. First, that it is possible for the religious forces of a community to unite in a task that profoundly touches social welfare and social justice. Second, it is hoped that the facts disclosed and the conclusions suggested by the report will prove of great value in similar situations, especially by suggesting that the religious forces of a community might with advantage intervene in an industrial dispute before the dispute has become acute. In the Denver tramway strike it was practically possible on several different occasions, the report will show, to have taken steps for a peaceful adjustment of the dispute. What was true of Denver is generally true of other places where a strike is threatened, the Commission of Religious Forces asserts in its findings.

As the composition of the Denver Commission was notable in its representation of all the religious bodies of the city, so was its choice of agencies to carry out the investigation and write the report. The Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Council and the Commission on Social Service of the Federated Council of the Churches of Christ (Protestant) were invited to take charge of the enterprise. Accordingly the Social Action Department sent Dr. John A. Ryan and Dr. John A. Lapp, while the Protestant body commissioned Dr. Edward T. Devine to carry out the wishes of the Denver Commission of Religious Forces. All three of these men spent several days in Denver (Dr. Devine was engaged there for more than a month) investigating the whole situation from all angles, interviewing persons on both the company's and employees' side of the controversy, and also representatives of the State and city governments.

Investigators In Complete Agreement

On every detail of their report, the investigators have been in complete agreement, and all three of them contributed to the writing of it. This, Thanksgiving week, Drs. Devine and Lapp will make another visit to Denver for a final consultation with the Denver Commission of Religious Forces concerning the report.

Rare Silver Cross Stolen From Church And Melted Down

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

Milan, Nov. 17.—Chalice, pyxes and the famous Byzantine silver-gift cross, which were stolen from the Gravados parish church on Lake Como, have been melted by a jeweler to whom the thieves sold them, and are forever lost to the world's treasury of art. Antiquarians long regarded the cross as one of the finest specimens of Byzantine craftsmanship. The chalices and pyxes were rare examples of Fourteenth Century artistry.

Through the confession of one of the sacrilegious robbers, it has been learned that a former attendant at the church planned the theft. He explains that he was tempted to commit the crime by the offers he received from numerous English-speaking visitors to purchase the relic at its weight in gold. The culprit probably would have escaped detection but for the fact that one of the three in the robbery dropped a pocket-book containing papers that identified him as a military deserter. They were traced and captured the same evening.

When the police learned the name of the Milan jeweler to whom the precious objects had been sold they hastened to his shop, but were too late. The jeweler had already placed them in a crucible and all were melted.

The Byzantine cross was valued at a million francs. The thieves sold it and the chalices and pyxes for 510 francs.

Rheims Cathedral Repairs Will Take Fifteen Years

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

Paris, Nov. 12.—More than \$2,000,000, and fifteen years' time—if the money is all available at once—will be required for the repairing of the Rheims Cathedral, according to an official statement by Cardinal Luçon.

Cardinal Luçon seems to be discouraged at the slowness with which contributions toward the reconstruction of the great medieval temple have been received. Thus far the only considerable sum for the Cathedral's rehabilitation has come from the French Government, which appropriated 1,000,000 francs to replace the roof, to support temporary timbers and to erect supports so that the building might again be used for worship.

A gift of \$10,000 is expected from the Knights of Columbus.

Catholic Trade Unions In Holland

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

The Hague, Nov. 12.—The Catholic Trade Unions are progressing. In 1909 they numbered less than 10,000 members; in December, 1919, these figures rose to 189,050. They have just opened a sanatorium where tubercular patients are treated. At Utrecht, they started a printing house in a building owned by their Union. A magazine published by them is also thriving, with 5,100 subscribers.

French Catholic Ministers Face

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

Paris, Nov. 10.—Two members of the present French Cabinet are the fathers of the law which M. Francois-Marsais, minister of finance, has just introduced. The law provides for the reorganization of the French Catholic Church.