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Catholic Press Month Campaign Plans Announced

Entire Country Aroused by Hierarchy to Necessity for Action

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.—The Press Department of the National Catholic Welfare Council, after a series of conferences with the heads of other departments of the Welfare Council, and also as a result of the receipt of correspondence from all parts of the country, has issued a statement summarizing the progress so far achieved in preparing the plans of the National Catholic Press Month which is to be conducted from sea to sea during March. The campaign, which was unanimously decided upon by the hierarchy at the last annual meeting, September, 1920, has for its special purpose a nationwide increase in the circulation of all Catholic publications, books, magazines, reviews, pamphlets, and, in particular, the newspapers affiliated with the News Service of the National Catholic Welfare Council's Press Department.

Bishops Taking Action
Bishop Russell, Chairman of the Press Department, has written to all the Archbishops and Bishops requesting them to ask their pastors to arrange for sermons on the subject of the Catholic press during the month of March, and also requesting them to issue special messages to their people urging them to support the movement in every way possible. Reports have come in from a number of dioceses showing that measures have already been taken by a number of Bishops in accordance with this suggestion. It is hoped that many thousands of sermons and discourses will be delivered on the subject of the Catholic Press throughout the country during March. In this connection the Press Department reports that spiritual measures are being relied upon in addition to the other steps adopted to make Press Month a great success. Rev. John J. Burke, C.S.P., General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Council, has sent a circular letter to all the Religious Communities of the country requesting their prayers and the prayers of the children under their direction, for the success of the press campaign.

Holy Name Society's Progress In Buffalo

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Buffalo, Feb. 3.—In a report which has just been submitted to Right Rev. William Turner, Bishop of Buffalo, by the Rev. John J. McMahon, D. D., diocesan director of the Holy Name Society, it is announced that there have been canonically established thus far in the diocese 113 parish branches of the Society, with an aggregate of 21,526 members. Junior branches of the Society exist in most of these parishes. Officials of the organization have set a membership of 50,000 as their goal for this year. Dr. McMahon and the other officers of the Society have already planned for a great parade and public demonstration to take place in Buffalo next June.

Dublin, Jan. 27.—Very Rev. Canon Dillon, D. D., has just passed away at the age of 80.

French Army Officers By Score Are Entering Catholic Seminaries

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Paris, Jan. 26.—Inquiry into recruiting the ranks of the priesthood in France discloses two remarkable facts:

First, that the number of vocations among youth of the rural and agricultural districts shows a decrease while that in the larger cities is increasing. Second, that a very large proportion of sacerdotal recruits are military officers who went through the world war, some of them having achieved distinction and holding high rank. The decline in sacerdotal recruiting in the rural sections, the correspondent of the N. C. W. C. finds, is attributed to the high cost of living, which leaves the people without the means to support their clergy. The effect is that the peasants who, in certain regions, are daily witnesses of the privations endured by their pastors, hesitate to encourage their sons to enter the priesthood, especially when they are not able to give them an allowance. As exceptions, however, may be mentioned the less impoverished dioceses of Brittany, Lorraine and Normandy. Even before the war the French army had given a number of priests to the Church. Canon Crepeaux, the present Rector of the most important parish of Nice, is a former colonel of "Cuirassiers," and Monsignor de Lingones, Bishop of Cahors, was a captain of cavalry. But since the war, there has been a sudden and considerable increase in the number of military men who have begun to prepare for the sacred ministry.

Passion Players Make Retreat

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
New York, Feb. 5.—One hundred players who are to have parts in the Passion Play to be produced at the Auditorium in Union Hill, New Jersey, next Sunday afternoon, have been in spiritual retreat all this week as preparation for the drama's successful presentation. This will inaugurate the seventh season of the sacred play's production at Union Hill. Right Rev. John J. O'Connor, Bishop of Newark, has approved the enactment of the drama during Lent, and given it his commendation.

Rev. Father J. N. Grieff, has invited many distinguished persons to attend the initial performance. Among these are John Drinkwater, author of "Abraham Lincoln," Brandon Tynan, Right Rev. William T. Manning, Bishop-elect of the Episcopal Church, and several Mayors of cities in New York and New Jersey.

Lack Of Home Interests Cause Of Divorce

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Cleveland, Feb. 7.—Lack of proper home interests was given as one of the reasons for the increase of divorce in this city by Bradley Hull, head of the Cuyahoga County bureau of domestic relations, in discussing the divorce problem before members of the Exchange Club, a civic body. Since its establishment at the instance of Common Pleas judges of the county several months ago, the bureau has cut down the number of fraudulent divorce cases 25 per cent. Hull said. The bureau also advises the court as to the proper disposition of children affected by divorce cases.

Miss Anne Morgan Asks Assistance Of Catholics

Aid Needed in Work of American Committee for Devastated France

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Washington, D. C., Feb. 7.—Miss Anne T. Morgan, first vice-president of the American Committee for Devastated France; Colonel Colin Hamilton Livingstone, president and organizer of the National Boy Scouts of America, and Lorne W. Barclay, director of education of the later organization, have appealed to the National Catholic Welfare Council to take part in the work which the American Committee is doing for the French inhabitants of the battle-wrecked regions. The three representatives of the American Committee called on Dr. M. J. Slattery, executive secretary, at the headquarters of the National Catholic Welfare Council, here, last Thursday, and explained the activities of their organization and its plans for the future, at the same time urging Catholic participation. In the course of their conference with Dr. Slattery, Miss Morgan and Colonel Livingstone praised the Catholic Boy Scout movement in this country, and expressed the hope that its work and success could be duplicated in France.

To Raise Fund of \$1,250,000
Miss Morgan said that the American Committee for Devastated France intends to raise a fund of \$1,250,000 for the continuance and extension of its efforts in the war-swept areas. Of this total, she said, \$150,000 will be set aside for the furtherance of the Boy Scout movement in France. She was anxious to have the collaboration of the National Catholic Welfare Council, she said, and proposed that a representative of that organization be sent to France to make a survey and comprehensive study of the situation there.

Because of Dr. Slattery's identification with the National Catholic War Council and its successful efforts in France during the world war, and because of his intimate connection with Boy Scout work in America, Miss Morgan said, she preferred that he be selected to go to Europe as the Welfare Council's representative in the event American Catholic participation with her Committee was authorized.

Bishops to Consider Proposal
Dr. Slattery assured Miss Morgan that he would present the American Committee's proposal to the Administrative Committee of Bishops of the Welfare Council for their action. Without anticipating the decision of the Bishops, Dr. Slattery said, he would want the American Committee to understand in advance that if Catholics were to share in its work their participation would be permitted only in accordance with rules and regulations imposed and enforced by the proper ecclesiastical authorities, as was the case with the work done by Catholics in France during the war.

The visiting committee left with Dr. Slattery full reports of the work which it had done and planned in France.
New York, Feb. 7.—The Rev. John E. Morris of Fall River, Mass., has associated himself with the American Foreign Missions and reported at Maryknoll, Ossining, N. Y., February 1st.

Anti Catholic School Bills in Oregon Defeated

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

Salem, Ore., Feb. 8.—Senator Hume's bill denying recognition to graduates of private, denominational and parochial schools has been defeated through indefinite postponement by the Oregon upper house and a second bill, introduced by the same Senator, and forbidding the wearing in the public schools of any garb indicating adherence to any religious order has met with adverse sentiments on a roll call.

The two bills, it was declared by members of the educational committee which reported them out adversely, were evidently aimed at the Catholic Church, although this intent was emphatically denied by Senator Hume, who declared that they merely represented an attempt to protect the public schools of the state from the injection of religious propaganda, regardless of its nature. Senator Hume asserted that they were no anti-Catholic any more than were anti-Methodist and anti-Presbyterian, but declared that the Catholic Church was the only one which insisted in forcing the graduates of its educational institutions into the public schools.

Senator Eberhard, chairman of the educational committee insisted that it was very evident that the bills were "anti-something" and that from all the information he could gather they were directed at the Catholic Church.

A third bill, introduced by Senator Hume, and aiming at raising the standards of private, denominational and parochial schools above the eighth grade to comply with standards obtaining in state schools was reported on favorably by the educational committee, and is now on its third reading.

Lucrezia Bori Attributes Return Of Voice to Prayer

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

New York, Feb. 3.—Senorita Lucrezia Bori, lyric soprano of the Metropolitan Opera House, who lost her voice in 1915 and is now able to sing as well as ever, attributes her recovery to her devotion to St. Francis of Assisi, to whose shrine in Rome she made a pilgrimage for a novena to him. "At the conclusion of the novena I prostrated myself on the marble floor before his statue and vowed that I would live my life as closely to the model of his as it was in my power to do," said Miss Bori to a reporter a few days ago. "I knew he would help me, more even than the doctors, and now here I am back at the Metropolitan again."

In addition to her recourse to prayers Miss Bori consulted many physicians and took treatment both in this country and Italy.

Miss Bori was born in Spain and is descended from a long line of Catholic ancestors. She says her family were related to the Borgias who gave many distinguished men and women to the Church and the State.

Baltimore, Feb. 7.—Catholics represent more than one half of the total church-going population of Baltimore, if estimates based on figures gathered by a local newspaper during a survey conducted on Sunday, January 30th, are correct.

Host Of Catholic Laymen Attend New York Meeting

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

New York, Feb. 3.—The North Ballroom of the Hotel Astor, from side wall to side wall, and from end to end, the chairs placed as closely together as they could be and with aisle space reduced to the minimum, was packed last Thursday night at the fourteenth meeting of the Catholic Unity League under the chairmanship of President James A. Beha. The aim of the League is to enlist as many thousands as possible of the Catholic laymen in the country in the work of propagating the faith, and explaining its truths and its reason to non-Catholics, both by the distribution of books and pamphlets prepared to this end, and by aiding in the support of the missions for non-Catholics. The spiritual directors of the League are the Rev. Bertram L. Conway and the Rev. James M. Gillis, the noted Paulists who have had such remarkable success in the series of missions to non-Catholics which they have been conducting for some years, in all parts of the country.

There were two addresses, one by Prof. Carlton J. H. Hayes, of Columbia University, on "Catholic Social Action," and one by Father Conway on "The Catholic Unity League Library." In addition there was a musical program, consisting of violin selections by Mr. Sascha Jacobsen, and a series of songs by Mr. Tandy McKenzie, who took the place of Miss Margaret Romaine, of the Metropolitan Opera Company, who was reported as too ill to leave her bed.

Winning Kentucky

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

Covington, Ky., Feb. 7.—"No illiteracy in Kentucky" is the slogan with which the Sisters of Divine Providence have inaugurated an intensive campaign for Christian education and enlightenment in the mountainous regions of this state, where illiteracy is rife, and in many parts of which Christianity has scarcely penetrated.

For fourteen years the Sisters of Divine Providence have been fighting the battle for Christian education in Kentucky. After years of privation and self-denial they have succeeded in establishing at Corbin, St. Camillus Academy, the only Catholic day and boarding school, in the Kentucky mountains. It has thirty-five boarders and ninety day pupils. The boarders come from the mining towns and lumber camps railroad centers. The day pupils are mostly children of Protestants, and in learning to love and respect the Catholic Church they are helping rapidly to dispel the prejudice against Catholics in the community.

Paris Press Shows Increased Interest In Catholic News

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

Paris, Jan. 25.—All the leading newspapers of Paris, secular and "neutral," have found it necessary and advantageous to assign special reporters to the task of gathering religious news. These representatives of the various journals have been receiving assistance and advice, as well as information, at the Catholic Archbishop's office.

Sorrow For Ireland Eloquent Phrased By French Prelate

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

Paris, Jan. 27.—Following are excerpts from the letter addressed to Cardinal Logue, Primate of Ireland, by Mgr. Castellan, Archbishop of Chambéry, the reading of which previously has been announced by the cable service of the N. C. W. C.:

"Ireland is today sorely afflicted. Fires and murders make a sorrowful echo in your soul as a Pastor and a Father. Now France has always loved Ireland. It would be a shame if in the present trying hours France's heart should be the slave of politics and the voice of her commiseration be prudently stifled, and not make itself heard in favor of your afflicted nation."

"I recollect O'Connell and Lacordaire; I recollect the long martyrdom of your ancestors, and I also recollect your heart so left for all who suffer; I am intent on raising my voice to address to you, Pastor and Father of Ireland, this testimonial of my sympathy for you and your people."

"I beg the Lord give peace to your sons; I do beseech Him to break the fetters of enthralled souls, bear the voices of oppressed peoples and grant the largest possible freedom to the Irish nation, so firm in her faith and so valiant in her hours of trial. The free right to dispose of themselves has been acknowledged to all nationalities as the happiest conquest of this world war. May this right also apply to Ireland. This is the wish I beg to express, and it is also the object of my most fervent prayers."

Priests Victims Of Assassins in Czecho-Slovakia

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

Vienna, Jan. 26.—Two priests recently have fallen victims to outbreaks of violence against the Catholic clergy in Czecho-Slovakia, where dissatisfaction with the government has prompted many disturbances.

Rev. Father Paul Dubik of Predmier was killed by an unidentified assassin, who attacked the priest in his home. Father Dubik was found dead with a bullet wound in his neck. At Merschwitz, Father August Gramantik was beaten with staves by a gang that broke into his residence and several shots were fired at him. He was left in a critical condition. An attempt to murder a Protestant clergyman, Rev. Johann Molliner, is reported from Lambach. A bomb was thrown into his house, which was wrecked by the explosion. The minister was absent at the time.

These outrages are ascribed to the spread of communism and bolshevism.

Father Dominic, Chaplain Of MacSwiney, Killed

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

Dublin, Jan. 30.—Father Dominic, the Capuchin priest who attended the late Lord Mayor Lawrence MacSwiney, and who was arrested in Dublin when the monasteries were raided, has been sentenced to five years imprisonment for alleged assistance in the charges being based on the alleged to have been in him or found in his possession. Two years of his term have been remitted.