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Foch Happy Over France's Reunion With Vatican

Says War Developed Better Religious and Spiritual Feeling

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

New York, Nov. 1.—"A fine result of the war has been the bringing of France and the Holy Church back to a closer understanding, and in developing a better religious and spiritual feeling among the people. Spirituality has made great progress as against the materialism which seemed to be sweeping the world in the early years of this century, but the great tragedy of the war brought the people to a more serious view of life and of its responsibilities."

This was a statement from Marshal Ferdinand Foch, in conversation with a correspondent of the N. C. W. C. News Service and the Right Rev. Edmund M. Obrecht, O. C. R., Abbot of Gethsemani, the famous Trappist monastery in Kentucky, on the steamer Paris, crossing from France. The correspondent had been questioning the Marshal on this phase of the war's effects on the spirit of the people, especially with respect to religious matters.

"There were many elements which brought about this improvement," the Marshal continued. "One big element was the presence of so many priests in the front line of battle. The French Cure was heroic. Whether as soldier or as chaplain, his calm courage in the face of overwhelming difficulties and dangers could not help but make clear to the people the injustice of the arguments of the anti-clericals, and this element of the French population soon found itself dwindling. The restoration of diplomatic relations between France and the Vatican was accomplished without any serious trouble. And the splendid example of these French priests, who so magnificently fulfilled their obligations to their country and to God, has carried its effect onward into these days after the war."

The correspondent spoke to the Marshal about an interview with him, published in Paris last year, in which he was quoted as saying that he had been inspired by God in his leadership, and that the result of the war was ordained by God, and asked him if he had been accurately quoted.

"Assuredly," was his answer. "The war was won by us through the grace of God."

It was impressive to sit and hear this great military leader, a man whose skill and prowess have been acclaimed by the world, sitting quietly and simply giving credit for the achievements for which he is acclaimed by the world, to the Divine power. It was what was to be expected of the leader who insisted that the Holy Mass should be celebrated on the battlefield every morning during the war.

In a more personal vein, the correspondent asked the Marshal about a report that he had a special devotion to the Sacred Heart.

"In June," he answered, "my devotions are paid to the Sacred Heart, but in May to the Blessed Virgin, and at other times to other objects of our devotion. But it is all worship of God."

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French Bishop's Appeal For Aid To German Sufferers

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

Bingen, Germany, Oct. 16.—Following the terrible disaster at Oppau, Pope Benedict sent a considerable sum of money through Mgr. Pacelli, Apostolic Nuncio, to be used for relief work among the survivors and sufferers. The Bavarian Government expressed its heartfelt thanks for the gift.

Bishop Paul Remond, who is chaplain general of the Armies of the Rhine, has also sent an urgent appeal for help to the Catholics of France. His message to them reads as follows:

"The frightful catastrophe of Ludwigshafen has plunged thousands of families of German workmen into mourning and distress. The town of Oppau, which had ten thousand inhabitants is completely destroyed. We all know what such devastation means. We have seen so many ruins and so much suffering at home. Therefore, heeding only the voice of our Christian charity, we must bow with respectful sympathy before this terrible disaster. We shall give to the work of relief our help, sympathy, and prayers."

Bishop Remond then gives instructions for prayers for the dead and urges that collections be made for the relief of the survivors.

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This attitude of the French Chaplain General has made a very deep impression.

Mrs. Harding Thanks Catholic Women

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

Washington, D. C., Nov. 7.—Mrs. Warren G. Harding has communicated with the National Council of Catholic Women, through her secretary, thanking the members for the resolution adopted at their annual convention in which they expressed their appreciation of courtesies extended them when they visited the White House. Mrs. Harding also expressed her regret that Mrs. Michael Gavin, the President of the Council, was unable to be present on that occasion.

The letter is as follows: My dear Miss Regan: Mrs. Harding asks me to express her appreciation of the resolution adopted by the National Council of Catholic Women.

It gave Mrs. Harding pleasure to greet the members of the Council, and her only regret was that your president was unable, because of the illness of her mother, to be with you.

Laura Harlan, Secretary.

Death Threat Sent To Omaha Priest

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

Omaha, November 7.—A death threat, has been sent in a note to the Rev. Patrick A. Flanagan, pastor of the Church of the Holy Angels, according to information revealed here by police authorities. The note demanded that Father Flanagan place \$500 on his church steps. The police are not alarmed over the message, but are making a strict investigation.

K. of C. Nation Wide Campaign Against Religious Prejudices

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

New York, Nov. 10.—Calling on all K. of C. lecturers and members throughout the United States to enroll in a nation-wide campaign against religious prejudices, Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty of the Knights of Columbus yesterday attributed to animus stirred up by organizations like the Ku Klux Klan the recent slayings of three Catholic priests in Birmingham, Oakland and North Dakota.

"We have evidence," said Mr. Flaherty, "that professional prejudice mongers are distributing vicious literature calculated to arouse the violent passions of the ignorant. We have seen this result in the brutal killing of priests—three such slayings having taken place within the last three months. All Americans must oppose this evil movement, the shameless exploiting of the ignorant for profit by malicious bigots. The Knights of Columbus will fight not only prejudice against Catholics but against Americans of any religion or any race and we invite all, who with us realize this menace, to join us in the fight."

An Exclusive Club

New York, Nov. 10th.—The most exclusive club in the world consists of only four members. They are Marshal Foch, Cardinal Mercier, King Albert of Belgium and the Duke de Veragua.

The first three need no explanation, and the fourth member of the club shouldn't, for the Duke de Veragua of Spain is the last living lineal male descendant of Christopher Columbus.

The four celebrities are the only European members of the Knights of Columbus, each having been made honorary members of the organization on the occasion of their visits to America. The Duke de Veragua was made a member of the K. of C. more than 20 years ago, when he visited America for the Columbian Exposition, held in honor of his ancestor's discovery of America. He was the first honorary member of the K. of C.

Cardinal Mercier and King Albert were made Knights in 1920 and Marshal Foch, the latest honorary member of the K. of C., was made a Knight in Chicago last Sunday.

Incidentally Marshal Foch is the millionth man to have the honors of Columbian knighthood conferred on him, as the present membership is 800,000 and losses through death and other causes in the history of the K. of C. amount to approximately 200,000. Several classes to be initiated were postponed to give Marshal Foch the millionth position.

1,000,000 LOURDES PILGRIMS

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

Paris, October 26.—Although the year 1921 has not yet come to an end, the railway station of Lourdes reports that already one million pilgrims have passed through there.

It must also be remembered that many pilgrims go to Lourdes by road, especially those who spend the summer in the neighborhood of Lourdes, in the Basque country, and in the Pyrenees.

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To Be Decorated By General Jacques

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

New York, Nov. 10.—Through the Belgian consulate in New York and the Belgian Embassy in Washington the Knights of Columbus have been informed that seven members of the organization will be decorated by General Jacques on his return to New York, in recognition of the part played by the K. of C. in welfare and reconstruction work.

The decorations will be conferred by General Jacques in the name of King Albert at a public demonstration in the New York Belgian Bureau.

Joseph C. Pelletier of Boston, Supreme Advocate of the K. of C., has received the Cross of Commander of the Order of Leopold 2nd from King Albert.

Prague Council Abolishes Feast Day Holidays

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

Prague, Oct. 20.—The Municipal Council of Prague has passed a decision that schools shall no longer be closed on the feasts of Saint John Nepomucene, the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin, and the Assumption. Instead they are to be closed on the revolutionary holidays, which are May 1, June 6, and October 28.

The "Sokola," the radical athletic societies, have published in their official organ, the Novi Rod a manifesto which reads as follows: "It is clear that a Sokol can not be a Catholic. Sokol and Catholic are incompatible terms. Whoever claims that one can be a good Sokol and a Catholic at the same time is a liar. Let us say it once and for all: we are not merely fighting the 'Oral' (Eagles, name of the Catholic athletes), we are fighting the Pope, the cardinals, and the Roman clergy."

The paper Slovak announces that the Czech Government is demanding the removal of Mgr. Fischer-Colbrie, bishop of Kaschau, in order to give his See to a bishop who "represents more intensely the national aspirations."

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

Paris, Oct. 26.—The papers have been commenting upon the remarkable case of a priest in the diocese of Nevers, Canon Perreau, who is a professor in the Catholic College of Chateau-Chinon. At the age of 78 he is still teaching foreign languages and drawing in the same college in which he started as a professor immediately after leaving the seminary. In his classes today are several children who are the grandchildren of his first pupils.

It is certainly unusual to find a professor who has taught three generations of pupils in the same school.

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

Milwaukee, Nov. 5.—The time is at hand when the message of Catholic teaching should be delivered by militant Catholic laymen by the roadside and in the streets of our cities, according to the Right Rev. John T. McNicholas, Bishop of Duluth, who addressed a great gathering of men of the Holy Name Society here last Sunday.

Bishop McNicholas pointed to the barrier of ignorance that the Church must surmount if she is to survive and declared that the press and every other available method of education must be used to bring home the truths the Church has to teach.

Watson Slanders Army Nurses In Senate Speech

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

Washington, D. C., Nov. 5.—Senator Thomas E. Watson of Georgia, who is notorious for his calumination of Catholic nuns, is guilty now of the defamation of American women who served as nurses along the battle fronts of France during the World War. In the course of a speech in the Senate charging that American soldiers in France were hanged and shot by American officers without trial or hearing, Senator Watson also impugned the character and chastity of the army nurses.

Alleging that American soldiers, "volunteering, as it was said, to save civilization and make the world safe for democracy," were "neglected," "starved," "brutally mistreated," "hanged like dogs," and "shot by their officers without any kind of trial," Senator Watson declared:

"In the hospitals they (the soldiers) were neglected. The officers made courtesans of too many of the nurses—not all of them, but too many of them." (Congressional Record, November 1, 1921, page 7873.)

The maximum number of American nurses with the American Expeditionary Force in France during the war was 10,066. All of these were recruited for the Government by the American Red Cross. All were graduate nurses, and in addition to undergoing examination to determine their ability and fitness, they had to give proof of good moral character.

These nurses in many cases worked so close to the firing line that several of them were wounded, and many died as the result of the strain under which they labored in the hospitals. Their services at the front and in the base hospitals were praised by the War Department and the military chiefs in France. No question of their character or conduct was ever raised until Senator Watson raised it in his speech in the Senate last Monday.

Home Of Columbus May Have to Come Down

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

Genoa, Nov. 1.—The birthplace of Christopher Columbus in Vieco Penticello, will probably be torn down shortly to be replaced by a free area, planted with trees. Its present position seriously interferes with a building program contemplated by the city, which owns the ground, and prevents certain existing facades being lengthened. A special commission has been appointed to study the affair and as the house is in bad condition, it will probably have to come down. Columbus and his father are said to have been born in the house.

Auto Kills Two Nuns On Des Moines Street

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

Des Moines, Ia., November 8.—Two nuns of St. Joseph's Academy here were killed by an automobile as they attempted to cross a street in the central part of the city, yesterday. They were Sisters Mary Virginia and Mary Rosalie. The driver of the car with a Winton III, number 112,

Archbishop Hayes Urges Support Of Anti-Cancer Campaign

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

New York, Nov. 7.—Catholic cooperation with the work for the Control of Cancer is urged by Archbishop Hayes of New York in a communication to the pastors of all churches in the archdiocese.

"It appears," declares Archbishop Hayes in his communication, "that this terrible scourge is a menace to all and is on the increase, whereas simple knowledge and timely precaution will save lives without number from this deadly affliction of the human family."

"Remember Christ's mission was one of healing both of soul and body. His compassion for suffering humanity stands clearly in Holy Writ. His mission generally were wrought in disease and relieve pain. In imitation of Him the Church by prayer, sacrament and teaching urges man to develop a healthy body, a clean mind and a peaceful soul."

The letter calls attention to the Health Institute which opened November 8 and which is expected to bear to the people of New York a message of health for the prevention of disease, and the better understanding of personal hygiene and general sanitation.

May Fix Definite Date For Easter

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

Rome, October 24.—A conference of cardinals at which an attempt will be made to fix a definite date for the observance of Easter, is being made under the auspices of the Vatican. It is probable that Cardinal Mercier of Belgium will preside at the conference, which will be held next April.

Suggestions for a change from the present practice of determining the date of Easter have been made at various times and in different countries in recent decades, and the agitation has been renewed in England within the last year. The Church established the rule governing the date of Easter, which may fall on Sunday between March 22 and April 25.

Burglar Blackjacks Catholic Priest

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

Washington, D. C., November 4.—Father Louis Smet, pastor of St. Mary's Church in Alexandria, Va., fifteen miles from Washington, is recovering from injuries inflicted upon him by a burglar whom he discovered ransacking the parochial residence last Wednesday. The burglar beat Father Smet into unconsciousness with a blackjack.

The thief aroused Father Smet by ransacking a drawer. The priest grabbed the burglar and succeeded in throwing him on the bed, but the man was armed with a blackjack with which he beat Father Smet off Father Smet's knees and Father Smet's eyes, assistants to Father Smet came to his rescue.

The burglar fled, leaving behind his hat and a pocket containing but \$4 in cash.

Rome, Oct. 26.—A priest who was transferred to another parish, is expected to remain in Rome, Italy, until next month.