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True Marriage Not Dissolvable, The Pope Reminds

Report of Tribunal of Rota On
Matrimonial Cases

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Rome, Oct. 31.—Declarations of nullity in matrimonial cases brought before the Tribunal of the Rota have averaged only seventeen annually for the last five years, although most of the work of this ecclesiastical court in that period has been in connection with such proceedings. This information was contained in an address made to the Holy Father by Monsignor John Prior, Sub-Dean of the Tribunal, on the occasion of the inauguration of its juridical year, this month. Monsignor Prior added that this record of the Tribunal is worth remembering in view of the accusations of non-Catholics that the Catholic Church is inclined to facilitate the dissolution of the marriage tie.

Monsignor Prior spoke of the weakening of the family as a consequence of the World War and cited as evidence of that fact the excessive number of divorces in those countries whose legislation permits dissolution of marriage. He pointed out that in England alone 5,000 decrees of divorce were recorded in 1920.

The Tribunal of the Rota, Monsignor Prior said, had often been called upon to judge matrimonial cases, and that five-sixths of the causes coming before it were of that nature, but its declarations of nullity had totaled less than a hundred in five years.

In pronouncing upon such cases, he said, the Tribunal did not mitigate the just severity and the standards which were designed for the protection of the Christian marriage, and therefore, the Supreme Tribunal of the Segnatura which judges appeals from rotal decisions did not in any instance cancel a decree of dissolution, but merely modified some that were contrary to the dissolution.

The Holy Father, replying to Monsignor Prior's address, praised the zeal and wisdom of the Tribunal of the Rota. He agreed that the accusations uttered against the Church for its matrimonial discipline are rendered void by their inherent inconsistency. The increase in the number of matrimonial cases brought before the ecclesiastical tribunal, the Holy Father said, was attributable to the diminution of that sense of dignity and reverence with which everything in connection with Christian marriage ought to be regarded.

This diminution of respect for the sanctity of marriage, the Holy Father continued, is also the cause of multiplying the circumstances which can make marriage void and increase the number of appeals for the dissolution of the matrimonial bond. But the Catholic Church, he said, can never forget the words of the Divine Master: "What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder."

"This will always be my fundamental principle in matrimonial matters, since no man has the power to dissolve a true marriage in its integrity but can only determine if the marriage has been void from the beginning," Pope Benedict declared.

These words of the Holy Father made the profoundest impression

on his hearers and confirmed once more that sanctity and dignity of the Catholic morality which alone contains the solution of humanity's problems in the most critical period of history.

\$50,000 A Week Being Given From American Fund In Irish Relief

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Dublin, Nov. 4.—Three representatives of the American Committee for Relief in Ireland have had a long conference with the Most Rev. Dr. MacRory, Bishop of Down and Connor, during a visit to Belfast. The topic discussed was the distress in Belfast and the situation arising out of the disturbances. The American representatives were Judge R. Campbell, Mr. John J. Pulley, and C. J. France. The last mentioned has been in Ireland since last February.

The American Committee has been distributing through the Irish White Cross for several months past approximately \$50,000 a week. Of this sum half has been distributed each week in Belfast.

In America the Committee raised about \$5,000,000. Outside Belfast the fund is being distributed by Committees of the Irish White Cross. In Belfast the expelled workers Committee is operating in place of the White Cross.

Mr. France indignantly denied a report that the money raised in America had gone to the support of the Republican Army. The money had been distributed irrespective of political considerations.

Besides the American Committee's contributions, the Irish White Cross Fund has been replenished from other sources. Collections for the fund have been made in every diocese and parish in Ireland. In the Archdiocese of Cashel alone \$30,000 were collected. Up to the present the White Cross Association has disbursed \$1,350,000 in personal relief.

The recipients included the dependents of those who were interned, imprisoned or rendered unable to follow their avocations as a direct result of the recent warfare.

The situation in Belfast is peculiar inasmuch as it is due entirely to an outbreak by Orangemen against Catholics. At a meeting held in London in aid of the expelled Catholic workers it was stated by a member of the Belfast Corporation that employers in that city were using the religious question so as to divide the workers and to defeat them more easily. An English member of Parliament said the stand made by the Belfast expelled workmen should appeal for the support of every right-minded citizen.

Two Priests Freed From Limerick Jail

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Dublin, Nov. 4.—Rev. M. McKenna and Rev. M. Gaynor, two Catholic priests, have been released from Limerick Jail at the completion of a term of six months' imprisonment. The charge upon which they were convicted by Court-Martial was that they had "seditious" documents in their possession. Father McKenna was formerly an army chaplain.

Father Gaynor is chairman of the Clare Mental Hospital and Chairman of the West Clare Sinn Fein Executive. Both priests were accorded an enthusiastic reception on their return home.

Catholics Honor Unknown Soldier At The Capitol

Delegates Pay Tribute of Respect
And Affection

THE UNKNOWN SOLDIER

NAMELESS—yet glorified in these

Are those who chose the noblest part. LIFELESS—thy death will ever be

Hope's angel to a nation's heart.

—Inscription on wreath placed by the catafalque of the unknown soldier by the National Catholic War Council.

Washington, D. C., Nov. 14.—A solemn religious note marked the nation's tribute to the unknown hero who now rests in peace, and glorified, in Arlington Cemetery.

President Harding's eloquent panegyric delivered in the beautiful marble amphitheater, crowded with the distinguished in American life, and many of the leading statesmen and heroic figures of foreign nations, was symbolic of the spirituality that characterized the entire exercises.

Following the expression of a devout desire that "this Armistice Day shall mark the beginning of a new and lasting era of peace on earth, good will to men," the President's address was brought to a close with the majestic words of the Lord's Prayer.

Catholic participation in the exercises consisted chiefly in the official tributes paid by the National Catholic War Council, Welfare Council, and by the Knights of Columbus in the rotunda of the Capitol where the body of the unknown soldier lay awaiting its burial and by the presence of distinguished Catholics, among them Marshal Foch, at the exercises in Arlington Cemetery.

The delegation from the National Catholic War Council was headed by the Right Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, rector of the Catholic University, who pronounced an impressive panegyric at the catafalque. Bishop Shahan was escorted by the Monsignor George A. Dougherty, vice-rector of the University and Monsignor George J. Waring, chancellor to the Most Rev. Patrick J. Hayes in his capacity of ordinary of the Catholic chaplains serving in the army and navy during the war.

Six men who had seen service in the war preceded the delegation from the War Council, two of them carrying the inscribed wreath which was placed by the side of the catafalque. The wreath was one of the most beautiful of any laid in the rotunda of the capitol, with orchids, easter lilies, and chrysanthemums, banded on sage palms and an encircling cluster of magnolia.

Supreme Knight James A. Flaherty led the delegation which paid its tribute in the name of the Knights of Columbus.

Georgetown University was represented at the exercises in Arlington Cemetery by Sergeant Michael J. Donahue, drill sergeant of the R. O. T. C. unit at the university, as official representative of the infantry branch of the service at the ceremonies of the day.

Many of the choirs of Washington Catholic churches, including St. Patrick's and Sacred Heart, took part in the choral exercises that were a part of the general programme.

Rabbi Praises Catholic Charity

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
St. Louis, Nov. 14.—Rabbi Leon Harrison, of Temple Israel, and several members of his congregation were among the guests at the annual linen shower of Father Dunne's Newsboys' Home and Protectorate, marking the wide interest that charitably disposed persons of every religion have taken in Father Dunne's work.

"In the Catholic Church or in the Protestant Church or in my historic synagogue," said Rabbi Harrison, "there is one great work in which we all unite and which we feel is the greatest practical work in the world; I mean the practice of doing good. I come to the conclusion that the great Church which has established all these charities is indeed blessed by Almighty God, because it is the source and fountain head of so much blessing to human kind."

Half a dozen creeds are represented in the home, according to Father Dunne. Several lads have already left the home to study for the priesthood.

Sheets, shirtwaists, stockings, towels, and other useful gifts were given at the shower.

Archbishop Hanna Again Chosen To Act On Trade Wage Board

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
San Francisco, Nov. 7.—The Most Rev. Edward J. Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco, has been named as a member of the new wage board to adjust wages in the building trades industry in San Francisco. The appointment was made by the Industrial Association, which had been appealed to by members of the Builders' Exchange and representatives of the labor unions. Archbishop Hanna was a member of the wage board dissolved last spring, when the labor unions refused to accept a decision temporarily reducing wages in seventeen crafts seven and one-half per cent, and is the only member of the old board offered an appointment on the new board, which includes, in addition to Archbishop Hanna, H. U. Brandenstein, former chairman of the finance committee of the Board of Supervisors, and C. F. Michael, a local merchant.

The new Board, the formation of which was announced at the close of the last labor dispute will endeavor to stabilize wages and make for permanent good-will between employers and employees. The board will begin public hearings shortly.

Los Angeles Women Making New Citizens

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Los Angeles, Nov. 14.—Practical work in aiding aspirants to citizenship is being done by the Catholic Women's Club of Los Angeles through its Educational Department, which is now giving classes in Italian, French, literature, parliamentary law, drama, music and history. In order the better to equip themselves for their work several of the members have enrolled in the series of lectures on citizenship being given by the University of California.

The Club has already made plans for the erection of its new clubhouse, at a cost of \$20,000. 800 members are enrolled.

Passion Play To Be Presented Next Year at Oberammergau

New York, Nov. 16.—After an interval of eleven years the villagers of Ober Ammergau, Bavaria, are preparing for the production of their famous Passion Play, which should have been presented in 1920 but had to be postponed until 1922. Thomas Cook & Son, the tourist agents, who are official agents for the play, received a cable yesterday announcing the selection of players for the leading roles.

Anton Lang, who appeared as Christ in 1900 and 1910 and became world-famous for his wonderful representations, has been chosen again to fill this part. His features bear a striking resemblance to traditional portraits of Jesus and his manners are of winning simplicity.

Other important roles will be filled as follows: Peter, Andreas Lang; Judas, Guido Mayr; Annas, Sebastian Lang; Herod, Gregor Breitsamter; Mary, Maria Veit; Mary Magdalene, Paula Rendl; John, Melchior Breitsamter, Jr.; Caiaphas, Hugo Rutz; Pilate, Hans Mayr.

The war wrought many changes in Ober Ammergau, 550 of the men under 45 having been drafted into the German Army. Of these 74 were killed and many wounded. Some were taken prisoners by the French. Several of the players lost an arm or a leg and other persons had to be substituted. Anton Lang being slightly over military age was not called to the ranks.

Until 1910 the play had been performed every ten years since 1684 in compliance with a vow made in that year, the only break having occurred during the Thirty Years' War. There performers are natural artists, highly trained and excelling in stage craft. Addition to the United States will be his first visit to that country. He has been in America in the course of extensive travels and is quite well informed about American life and conditions.

At present Dr. Hermann is Minister of Food and Acting Minister of Finance in the cabinet of Dr. Joseph Wirth, who, also by the way, is a Catholic. Dr. Hermann has the esteem of German people of all ranks, creeds and parties. Dr. Hermann was married last year to a fine Catholic woman. He is known as a Catholic religiously and professionally and practices his religion. He has never hesitated to assist all Catholic movements.

The Passion Play of 1922 will be presented at Ober Ammergau at intervals between May 11 and Sept. 24, and will comprise 32 performances. It is divided into two parts of seven acts each, with frequent tableaux and musical accompaniments, the thread of the narrative being maintained by a prologue and a band of soloists and choruses. The nucleus of the acts is always an incident in the life of Christ. The performances begin at 8 A. M. and end at 6 P. M. with an intermission of two hours for lunch.

Since the last performance, in 1910, a garage for 200 automobiles has been erected in Ober Ammergau, which can be reached by the electric railway from Munich in less than two hours. A noteworthy feature of the 1922 production, as far as American visitors are concerned, will be the lower cost of accommodations in the village, owing to the high value of the dollar at current rates of exchange.

Ober Ammergau today is filled with excitement over the preparations for the play, which is also a subject of much anxiety, the community having planned to spend three million marks on the production.

Many New Features Added To Catholic Encyclopedia

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
New York, Nov. 7.—Outstanding events in the Catholic life of the world during the past seven years, as well as institutions and people who took part in them will be included in the supplement to the Catholic Encyclopedia, which is now in preparation.

A range of seven hundred and fifty subjects will be treated in the supplement, which also serves to bring up to date articles already in the Encyclopedia.

Notable among the distinguished deceased Catholics who will have places in the supplement are Cardinal Gibbons, Patrick Pearse, Helena Modjeska, Louise Imogen Guiney, Joyce Kilmer, Terence MacSwiney, Archbishop Ireland and Archbishop Riordan. The war will be reviewed as will also the work of the Knights of Columbus and the National Catholic War Council.

A special article will be devoted to the work that the National Catholic Welfare Council is doing for sane and sober Americanism.

Among some of the subjects treated are Birth Control, Community Center, Dail Eirinn, the Great War, Woman Suffrage, the Treaty of Versailles. The supplement is expected to be an adequate record of contemporary Catholic life for the past seven years.

New Ambassador From Germany Is Active Catholic

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Cologne, Germany, Oct. 31.—Dr. Andreas Hermes, whose appointment as German Ambassador to the United States has been announced and generally accepted as a fact, is a practicing Catholic and a man of great culture and experience. His official residence in the United States will be his first visit to that country. He has been in America in the course of extensive travels and is quite well informed about American life and conditions.

At present Dr. Hermes is Minister of Food and Acting Minister of Finance in the cabinet of Dr. Joseph Wirth, who, also by the way, is a Catholic. Dr. Hermann has the esteem of German people of all ranks, creeds and parties. Dr. Hermann was married last year to a fine Catholic woman. He is known as a Catholic religiously and professionally and practices his religion. He has never hesitated to assist all Catholic movements.

Catholic Chosen Superintendent Of Boston's Schools

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Boston, Nov. 11.—Jeremiah Burke, one of the most prominent Catholic laymen of the Boston Archdiocese, has been chosen Superintendent of the public schools to succeed Dr. G. Thompson, who died last week.

Mr. Burke, who has been assistant superintendent for several years, is a graduate of the Suffolk County of the Catholic University of America, and is a member of the Catholic Union.

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