

Recruiting Of Priests In France Better Than At Any Period In Past

Falling Off In Vocations Among Sons of Peasants More Than Counterbalanced by Influx of Trained Men From Other Professions And Banks of Bourgeoisie

By M. Massiani,

(Paris, Correspondent N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, May.—"The recruiting of the clergy in France is better at the present time than it has ever been." This is the optimistic and categorical assertion, supported by details, recently made by Mgr. Roland Gosselin, auxiliary bishop of Paris, in his reply to an investigation on "the crisis in liberal professions."

The "crisis in liberal professions" is a well-known phase. People are accustomed to repeat that purely intellectual and artistic professions are being forsaken today in Europe not merely because the war has created a terrible void in the ranks of those from whom they were recruited, but also because the economic upheaval and the high cost of living has led young men to enter industrial and commercial fields which present a wider and more profitable field.

It was in order to ascertain whether this crisis really exists and how far it extends and what are its peculiarities that M. Jean Laporte, a French writer, undertook to make a survey of all the liberal professions. The first on the list was the clerical. Writing in the Revue de France, M. Laporte says that when he submitted certain questions to Mgr. Baudrillart, rector of the Catholic Institute of Paris, the prelate declared that the crisis in the liberal professions did not touch the clergy.

The rector admitted that there are not enough priests to meet the needs of the parish ministry, but he ascribes this to a twofold cause: "On the one hand," he said, "the religious orders—the Dominicans and the Jesuits in particular—attract some of the best subjects who find in the regular life of a religious order, rather than that of a secular priest, the conditions which satisfy their distaste for the world and the desire for sacrifice."

In the second place, Mgr. Baudrillart pointed out, the recent classes are less inclined to allow their sons to enter the priesthood on account of the precarious material conditions which it often involves.

"But on the other hand," he continued, "more and more numerous, infinitely more numerous than in 1914, are those who come from the ranks of the bourgeoisie."

Recruits of First Order
"And it must not be denied that this recruiting is a recruiting of the very first order. First of all, because it is devoid of all human considerations. Secondly, because these young men come to us with a much higher general culture. Many, instead of entering the priesthood at eighteen and nineteen, wait until they have carried their studies further. They enter the seminary with university degrees, licentiate in law or letters, sometimes with the doctor's degree and even the 'agrégation'."

The Seminary of Saint-Sulpice includes graduates of the Ecole Normale (The Higher School of Letters) and of the Polytechnic School (School in which Civil Engineers are trained). It also includes former army officers and magistrates.

"It is not surprising that these conditions should have brought about a higher intellectual level among the clergy. It is a fact that the priests are studying more and more, some in the State universities, the majority in our Catholic Institutes. These latter are filled with ecclesiastical students engaged in every kind of library and scientific work, but principally, as is natural, in 'sacred studies.'"

"There is thus being trained a remarkable personnel not merely for the professorships in the little and great seminaries, for the Catholic secondary schools, and for the parish clergy. The same ardor, perhaps even more intense ardor, is found in the religious orders."

"In short, the Catholic clergy, both regular and secular, is in a state of full intellectual prosperity. You may judge of this by the number of philosophical, literary, historical and scientific publications brought out by priests and also by the interest in the recently founded Catholic reviews which are frequently edited and directed by religious."

Some Paris Figures.
Mgr. Roland Gosselin, Auxiliary Bishop of Paris, answered with the same assurance as Mgr. Baudrillart: "Look," he said, "our diocese of Paris will have fifty ordinations this year instead of twenty-five thirty years ago."

"Have you enough priests now, Monsignor?"
"No, certainly not. To the deficit created by the war must be added the increase in the demand: have not fifty parishes been created in Paris since the Separation?"

"But the number of ordinations is increasing each year, equilibrium will soon be reestablished between the number of vacancies and the number of annual recruits. If that was a critical time, it has passed."

"But the quality of the recruits?"
"From this point of view also, the recruiting leaves nothing to be desired. It is better than it has ever been. The reason, for the most part, lies in the variety of origin. Many of our young priests, of course, still come to us from the diocesan little seminaries, but many, many more than formerly, come to us directly from the Catholic colleges. And then we have many tardy vocations. By this I mean that Saint Sulpice has received a number of lawyers, doctors, officers, university professors, etc., who did not feel an inclination or take the decision to enter Holy Orders until after they had practiced their professions for several years. This phenomenon became evident especially during the years immediately following the war. It is con-

Ku Klux Seeking To Protect Secrecy of Membership

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Springfield, Ill., May 22.—A bill which would have the effect of outlawing the making public of lists of members of secret societies without their consent, has been introduced in the Illinois Senate. It is believed by many here that it is aimed to halt the acquisition and publishing of Ku Klux membership lists. Such lists have been made public from time to time in Illinois.

The measure, sponsored by Senator Ross, would make it a misdemeanor to take or make use of any list or compilation of more than 100 names without the consent of the owner. A fine of not more than \$500 or a year in jail, or both, is the penalty.

Making use of any such list already acquired would be punishable with a like penalty, as would aiding in the acquisition or use of the list without the consent of the owner. Thus the publishing of any lists now in the possession of foes of the Klan would be blocked.

A bill with the same provisions has been introduced in the House by Representative La Porte. Mr. La Porte is the Representative who recently introduced a joint resolution in the Illinois House which would permit the reading of the Bible in all the public schools of the state. This measure has now been reported out and is before the House.

Sings Seventy Years In One Choir, Then Transfers Services

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
London, May 18.—Seventy years a member of St. David's church choir, Swansea, Mr. W. Murphy, now 78 years of age, thinks he can lay claim to a record. He sings tenor and has now joined the choir of St. Mary's Church, Great Yarmouth.

The present organist at Great Yarmouth was organist at Swansea for 47 years, during which time he was private accompanist to Mme. Adeline Patti.

Great Yarmouth choir has a record of its own. Throughout the 98 years of the parish's existence a member of the Hulley family has conducted the choir.

It is conceivable that these exceptional circumstances should have contributed to reveal many vocations which had not "found themselves." But this phenomenon appears to have continued, to a certain extent, and you can imagine how we congratulate ourselves on this fact for we owe to this phenomenon an extremely valuable nucleus of priests with well-tried vocations who bring us at the very start the advantage of nature characters, solid and well-trained minds.

"But, Monsignor, are these priests recruited exclusively from the bourgeoisie?"
"Not exclusively. The lower classes supply many priests for the Paris Diocese. Many priests come to us from the working classes by way of the little seminaries and above all by way of the parish clubs, the 'Patronages.'"

The following reply came from an eminent member of a religious order: "The little seminaries are more abundantly supplied at the present time, and the great seminaries also. But the effect of this increase is not yet felt everywhere, for often fifteen years, twelve years at least, are required to train a priest (up to the age of 24 or 25 years) and during this time the aged priests are disappearing or are placed on the retired list."

"And after pointing out that the situation is not equally promising in all dioceses and that certain districts of the center of France are behind the others, the religious also declared that there are more vocations in the higher social classes: "This is very promising for the future, for these vocations represent an elite. The majority of the young men going into the priesthood have a very lofty ideal thereof and wish to devote themselves to it absolutely. In this connection there is marked progress, it may be said that what is lacking in quantity is supplied by the quality."

The religious then emphasizes the high intellectual capacity of the present clergy: "The theological studies, and others designated under the name of religious or ecclesiastical, have gained a great deal as is proved by the works published during the last thirty or forty years, the great encyclopedias, such as the dictionaries of theology, of apologetics, of the Bible, of canon law, religious history, liturgy and religious archeology, etc. Everything that has appeared or that is now appearing in the field of philosophy, morals, social sciences and pedagogy, shows remarkable results of which people who do not want to see them are not aware."

It is interesting to compare the foregoing statements with the results of the survey made in the field of the Protestant ministry. Pastor Boegner, one of the most important members of the Reformed clergy of Paris, declared that the recruiting of ministers was reduced by the Law of Separation which reduced pastors to an insufficient material remuneration. The pastors are able to support themselves only by writing for papers and reviews and by taking young foreigners into their homes as boarders.

"In spite of all," he said, "the number of students in the Protestant schools of theology has increased from 88 in 1923 to 108 in 1924. Almost all these students belong to the bourgeoisie. A great number are the sons or nephews of ministers."

The Protestant School of Missions received only 8 candidates in 1922; two young men and three young girls.

French Youth Make Study of Duties of Heads of Families

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Paris, May 21.—The Annual Congress of the Catholic Association of French Youth was held this year at Nantes. Seven Archbishops and bishops attended. It lasted several days and on the closing day 8,000 young men were present and communions were so numerous that communion Masses had to be said in three different churches.

The general subject of study for this year was the preparation of young men for the role of head of a family. Cardinal Charost, Archbishop of Rennes, congratulated the young men on the campaign which they are conducting to fight the wave of sensualism which appears to be sweeping over the young people of our time.

The work of the Congress was summed up in the following resolution: "Whereas marriage has for its object to associate man with the work of creation, to give to God souls which may adore Him, while at the same time promoting the mutual sanctification of husband and wife; and

"Whereas this great and holy mission demands, from all those who are not called to a higher vocation, a preparation which will govern their ideal of life and direct all their training; and

"Whereas the moral discipline of marriage imposed by God and which at the same time is the condition of any social order, demands, on the part of the young man, by reason of the sacrifices which it requires, the virile practice of the most scrupulous chastity;

"Be it resolved by the Congress that questions pertaining to the training of sentiment, domestic economy, the education of children and the social and civic activity of the family, should be made the subject of study by study clubs, with the understanding that certain questions of moral training, which require special adaptation, should be left to parents or directors of conscience."

"Be it further resolved that the Association strive to develop among its members a family spirit which will be manifested in their future homes by the special vocation which the family owes to God, by concern for the intimacy of the home and family traditions, at the same time avoiding a family egotism which would keep them apart from the social and civic action necessary for the development of the family."

St. Louis University Publicity Director Succumbs To Cancer

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
St. Louis, May 18.—George Locke Macfarlane, director of publicity for St. Louis University, died at St. John's Hospital following an illness of five months.

Mr. Macfarlane was the son of the late G. B. Macfarlane, former judge of the Missouri Supreme Court and at one time a curator of Missouri University. He had been connected with newspaper work for the past thirty years, having worked on papers in various parts of the country. He was connected with the "Kansas City Journal" and was a member of the staff of the "Republic" here for five years. Afterwards he worked in New York, Philadelphia and San Francisco.

He was a member of the publicity staff of the World's Fair organization in San Francisco and had charge of the Japanese exhibit there. He returned to Philadelphia and in 1916 he married Mrs. Caroline Vossburgh, a former St. Louisan, residing in Philadelphia.

He returned to St. Louis in 1918 and conducted the \$3,000,000 endowment fund drive of St. Louis University, and had been in charge of publicity for the institution since that time.

An injury received in a fall last year developed into cancer. Besides his widow he is survived by two brothers, Guy Macfarlane of Little Rock, Arkansas, and Charles R. Macfarlane of San Antonio, Texas. The Rev. Lawrence Kenny, S.J., of St. Louis University, for many years a personal friend of Mr. Macfarlane, officiated at the funeral services.

Lectures No Longer Draw, Report Says

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
London, May 19.—With its lectures of last year "shockingly attended," the Manchester branch of the Catholic Truth Society hints in its annual report, just issued, that the day of the lecturer is over.

"The race that would listen to anybody if he spoke intelligently is passing away," the report declares, remarking that it would seem a barren policy to continue the lectures which have been a feature of the branch's activity.

English audiences have never been as fond of lectures as Americans are. The experience in Manchester is duplicated in London where the Catholic Association has recently cancelled lectures already announced, on the ground that the attendance at previous lectures did not justify the renting of the hall.

Colorado Catholic Teachers To Fight For Rights In Court

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Denver, May 21.—The Colorado Knights of Columbus State Convention meeting at Walsburg on Monday, passed a resolution to have the Committee examine all cases where Catholics girls in this State are refused consideration as public school teachers on account of their religion. The cases will be taken to court; the Colorado constitution forbids tests for public positions.

FOUR AGES

Spring brings the Summer.

Summer brings the wane.

Why don't ye linger.

The thought brings pain.

Love.

Love calls the Maiden.

Then the Matron fair.

Why don't ye linger.

My heart's in despair.

Youth.

Youth leads to Age.

Age from over there.

Who wants to linger.

Climbing the Golden Stair.

Age.

Here's where we linger.

And where you inhale.

From Age to Youth.

DeLeon's fount is here.

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Michael W. Scanlan

Dioceses Of Toledo

And Springfield

In Joint Pilgrimage

Springfield, Ill., May 22.—A two-months' Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome and the Catholic shrines and chief cities of Europe has been announced for the Diocese of Springfield.

The party will sail from Montreal July 11, and Bishop James A. Griffin, under whose auspices the pilgrimage will be made, is now busy with the details of enlisting the pilgrims and making the arrangements.

The Rev. Thomas B. Cusack, of St. John's Church, Carrollton, Ill., has been named by the bishop as spiritual director.

Those are being made to have the pilgrimage joined by another large party to be conducted by Bishop Strick of Toledo.

Sailing on the Cunard liner Aquitania, the pilgrims will arrive at Cherbourg July 13, and travel by rail to Lilleux, where they will visit the Carmelite chapel in which the body of Saint Teresa, the Little Flower, canonized this month, rests. Thence they will continue by train to Paris.

After a day's sightseeing in the French capital, they will go to Lourdes to see the famous shrine there. Marcelline, Nica, Mentone and Genoa will be visited before the party arrives at Rome July 28.

At Rome the pilgrimage visits will be made, the party will be presented to the Holy Father and there will be tours to the central Catholic shrines. August 7, a trip through the Apennines to Florence will begin, after which Venice, Milan, Lake Como, Lugano, Lucerne, Vienna, Regensburg, Mayence, Cologne, Brussels, Antwerp, Amsterdam, London, Dublin, Killarney, Cork and Queenstown will be visited in turn. In these cities the chief wonders of Europe will be viewed. There will be included a trip through the famed St. Gothard Pass, a gondola ride on the Grand Canal in Venice, a visit to a Dutch island and a tour of Southern Ireland. The party is due back in Boston Sept. 4.

The cost of the pilgrimage has been set at \$750, with special provision for leaving the party after the visit to Rome for side trips.

Newman Club Girl
Student Elected To
Illini Control Board

Champaign, Ill., May 19.—Florence Finn, a member of the Newman Club of the Columbia Foundation at the University of Illinois, was elected to membership on the Illinois Board of Control by students of the University on May 14. She is the second woman in the history of the University to hold that office.

The Illini Board, made up of four students and three members of the faculty, has charge of appointing the editors and business managers, and their assistants for all campus publications, including the Daily Illini, the student newspaper; The Illio, the year book; the Enterprise, publication of the College of Commerce students; the Agriculturalist, magazine edited by students of the College of Agriculture; the Technograph, publication of students of the College of Engineering; the Architectural Year Book; the R. O. T. C. Journal, published by military students; and the Siren, humorous magazine.

Miss Finn has the highest scholastic average of any sophomore in the university. Last year she was charter president of Alpha Lambda Delta, honorary scholastic society for freshmen women. She was the only member of the freshman class to maintain an average of A for the entire year.

Miss Finn is a member of Theta Alpha sorority. She is active in Women's League work and is on class teams in basketball and baseball.

She is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Richard J. Finn, 6708 Newgard Avenue, Chicago, and is a graduate of Marywood School, a Sisters of Providence academy at 2125 Ridge Avenue, Evanston.

Marquette Tribune Given First Place In College Contest

Milwaukee, Wis., May 13.—First place in the collegiate newspaper contest conducted in Wisconsin every year by the Wisconsin Intercollegiate Press Association has been won this season by The Marquette Tribune, student newspaper at Marquette university.

Second place was won by The Lawrentian, of Lawrence College; third by The Campionette of Campion college, and fourth by The College Days, of Ripon College. The Cardinal, of the University of Wisconsin, won first last year.

This is the second time in the last three contests that The Marquette Tribune has won first.

London Sick Sent To Lourdes Shrine By Help Of Society

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

London, May 19.—Two hundred fifty sick pilgrims left here today for Lourdes with the national pilgrimage organized by the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes. Several hundred of others were with the party, which went out on two special trains. All the able pilgrims are traveling light and will take a hand in helping the stretcher cases and the infirm. Most of the sick are poor people who could not afford to make the journey, and whose expenses are being borne by the Society of Our Lady of Lourdes which exists for the purpose of helping such cases.

Sunday, May 31.—St. Petrus, a sick pilgrim, left here today for Lourdes. He was married before he was called to become one of the Apostles. She lived at home and was buried on the way to Arles where in ancient times a cemetery and church bore her name.

Monday, June 1.—St. Justin, martyr, born in the third year of the second century sought the true source of wisdom among the many diverse schools of philosophy. The Scriptures and the constancy of the Christian martyrs led Justin from the darkness of human reason to the light of faith. At Rome he sealed his testimony with his blood surrounded by his disciples.

Tuesday, June 2.—St. Pothimus, Bishop, governed the See of Lyons during the persecution that broke out in that city in 177 during which many were martyred.

Wednesday, June 3.—St. Clotilda, Queen, was the wife of Clovis, King of the Franks. By her virtue and wisdom she converted her husband to the faith and with him the entire nation. She died in 548.

Thursday, June 4.—St. Francis Caracciolo, born of a princely family, after being miraculously cured of epilepsy left his home to enter the priesthood. He founded an Order of Clerks Regular who maintained one of their number always in perpetual adoration before the Blessed Sacrament. He died in 1608.

Friday, June 5.—St. Boniface, Bishop and Martyr, was born in Devonshire in 680. Receiving authority from the Pope he preached the faith in Bavaria, Thuringia, Hesse, Frisia, and Saxony. While waiting to administer confirmation to some newly baptized Christians, he and his attendants were attacked by a troop of pagans. The saint forbade his attendants to offer resistance and he and fifty others were slain.

Saturday, June 6.—St. Norbert, Bishop, after leading a life of discipline at the Court of the Emperor Henry VI that was a model to his calling, returned and established the Canons Regular of Premonstratensians who were to unite the active work of the country clergy with the obligations of the monastic life. In 1138 he was named Bishop of Magdeburg.

Ohio Episcopalians
Told Prime Need Is
Religious Education

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Cleveland, May 19.—Religious education of children is the outstanding need of America today, according to Rev. Rudolph E. Schulz, of Warren, Ohio, chairman of the department of religious education of the Episcopal diocese of northern and middle-western Ohio.

In his report to the clerical and lay delegates to the annual diocesan convention held here last week, Mr. Schulz said: "The outstanding problem of America today is the religious education of children and youth. Reports say that 15,000,000 under 25 years of age are without any religious instruction. The present divorce rate in the United States is 17,000 a week. Actually 200,000 children come from broken homes in the juvenile courts."

"In Ohio in 1920, there was one divorce for twenty marriages. In 1920 there was one divorce for five marriages and in 1924 one divorce for four marriages."

"If we of the diocese of Ohio turn our attention to the smaller parishes and missions, if we see to go forward and keep pace with the procession of the old days are gone in every form of activity, save the eternal sacraments—and make an impression which will justify our claims and prove our honesty, we must apply the new methods. We must save the children and the youth."

Catholic Student
Winner For South
In Oratory Contest

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)
Austin, Texas, May 21.—William M. Ryan, a senior in the College of Arts and Sciences at St. Edwards University, Catholic institution here, has been selected a winner in the Southern District of the National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest. He has been informed by the judges that his oration "John Marshall and the Constitution" has been declared one of the seven best submitted in the district, which includes the twelve Southern States.

The victory of the Catholic student gives him the right to compete in the public contest to be held at Vanderbilt University, Nashville, Tenn. The winner of this contest will compete in the finals in Los Angeles.

Increased interest and respect for the Constitution of the United States is the object of the National Intercollegiate Oratorical Contest. It is conducted by the Better America Federation of California.

Mr. Ryan is grand knight of St. Edwards Council of Columbian, president of the student union, and chairman of the Student Government Committee.

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