Church In Spain Loses Foremost Active Layman

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

Madrid, May 20.—With the death of the Marquis de Comilas, the Church in Spain has lost one of her most illustrious laymen. Don Claudio Lopez y Bru, second Marquis of Comillas, was the foremost business man in Spain. But his great fortune and the vast industrial enterprises which he handled, merely served to bring into clearer relief the exceptional virtures of the Catholic.

Born in Barcelona in 1853, he inherited from his father the title and the grandeeship of Spain, 500,000,000 pesetas and a fleet of 14 ocean liners known in every port of the world under the name of the "Compania Trasatlantica." Don Claudio Lopez continued and enlarged the great undertakings of his father and soon came to be the leader in Spain's industrial life.

On the death of his father in 1883, the second Marquis de Comillas undertook, in extending his business ventures, to introduce the social reforms which Christianity advocates for the purpose of achieving an intimate and equitable collaboration of capital and labor. The first laws for the benefit of working men passed in Spain were not only inspired by him, but it may be said that they were applied before they were passed, for in addition to presenting the plan, he pointed out by his example the path which the legislator should follow.

Author of Labor Bills.

Spanish social legislation owes to him the practice as well as the letter of a number of legal decisions in favor of the working classes. As president of the Central Board of Catholic Action he drew up various bills which the government later passed, among them being the Workmen's Accident Law, the Law for the Protection of Working Women and Child Labor and the Sunday Day of Rest Law. During the last years of his life he had the satisfaction of seeing a Workmen's Pension Law passed which incorporated features of a plan which had long been in force in his own companies.

When the famous Encyclical of Leo XIII on the Condition of Labor appeared in 1891 the Marquis de Comillas had already applied in his factories and on his ships the doctrine of the "Workmen's Pope." And great was the surprise of the venerable Pontiff when two years after the publication of the Encyclical, the Marquis made a pilgrimage to Rome with 13,000 workingmen whom he presented to the Pope. Leo XIII, upon beholding this army of workingmen was forced to exclaim: "Of all the pilgrimages which have come to Rome, this is the most important."

Not content with paying high wages to his workers, he founded for their benefit school, stores, churches, sanatoriums, homes and cooperative associations, and provided low-priced houses and pensions.

The "Leo XIII Bank" to facilitate the granting of loans to the Agricultural Syndicates, the "Comillas Pontifical University," splendidly endowed, a national seminary which is a model for institutions of the kind and the great "Casa Social Catolica" of Madrid deserve special mention among the manifestations of his munificence.

Consistent Friend of Press

The Church found him always not merely a convinced and fervent Catholic but a generous benefactor. There was no Catholic work or religious order that did not receive help and donations from him. On his ships the clergy and religious traveled free or at half price and this generosity extended to every agent or propagandist of Catholic action. Missions and pilgrimages found in him a generous friend. The Catholic Press, particularly, was an object of his interest and munificence. Not content with Catholic papers of his own he was the first to come to the aid of any paper that found itself in difficult financial conditions and among the objects mentioned in his will the Catholic Press came first.

Prelates appealed to his inexhaustible generosity in the economic difficulties of the Church and when radical governments threatened to pass any measure opposed to the Catholic spirit of the nation, the Marquis intervened in favor of the Church, throwing into the balance the enormous influence of his vast industries and authority. His devotion to the Holy See knew no bounds, and he was ever present to smooth away any difficulty which might arise to disturb the normal relations of the Spanish State and the Vatican. To him was due, in large measure, the success of the visit of the King of Spain to Rome and the historic interview of Pius XI and Don Alfonso XIII at which he was present despite his advanced age and frail health, because it marked the fulfillment of one of the most ardent desires to his life. The Holy See esteemed him as one of its most illustrious and beloved sons, and of all Catholics in the world he alone held both of the two highest papal decorations, the Supreme Order of Christ and the Golden Militia.

Himself a man of the highest culture, he was the protector of Catholic scholars. The great poet Father Verdaguer and the novelist Pereda were among his proteges. He was not only a lawyer and an economist, but a scientist as well. In his palace of Comillas he established a very valuable archeological museum. He financed the excavations of Father Carballo in Santander, which resulted in many important discoveries in regard to the prehistoric days of that province and supported many enterprises of an intellectual character, such as the Menedez Pelayo Library.

His continuous activity did not interfere with his pious practices. Even during the last years of his life, without any weakening of activity or attention, he arose at his usual early hour to hear Mass and each week went humbly to confession in the church of the Jesuit Fathers.

"[illegible] virtuous," the Cardinal of [illegible] after celebrating his

First Norbertine Abbot in America Duly Installed

West De Pere, Wis., May 27.—The Rt. Rev. B. H. Pennings, O. Praem, first Abbot of the first Abbey of the Premonstratensian Order in the United States, was solemnly invested with his new ecclesiastical dignity here today. His promotion to the dignity of Abbot followed the elevation of St. Norbert's Priory to Abbatial rank.

St. Joseph's Church here was the scene of the investiture ceremony with the Rt. Rev. Paul P. Rhode, Bishop of Green Bay, pontificating at a Solemn High Mass and blessing and installing the new Abbot. The Bishop was assisted by the following ecclesiastics: The Rt. Rev. Msgr. P. J. Lochman, V. G., Presbyter Assistens; the Very Rev. A. Broens, and the Rev. G. Casey, Deacons of Honor; the Rev. C. Ripp, and the Rev. M. Klosowski, Deacons of the Mass; the Rt. Rev. Alcuin Deutsch, O. S. B., of St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn., and the Rt. Rev. Vincent Huber, O. S. B., of St. Bede's Abbey, Peru, Ill., Assisting Abbots; the Rev. J. A. Van Heertum, O. Praem., Notarius; and the Revs. A. Koeferl, H. L. Traeger, O. Praem., and N. J. McKeough, O. Praem., Masters of Ceremonies. The Rev. C. J. Kirkfleet, O. Praem., delivered the sermon and students from St. Norbert's College and St. Joseph's School seved as acolytes. The church was crowded for the ceremony and admission for the laity was by card only.

The new Abbot of St. Norbert's was born in Holland June 9, 1861, and was ordained in that country in June, 1886. Together with another priest and a Brother of his Order, he left Berne Abbey in the Netherlands in 1893 and came to America in response to an invitation from Archbishop Messmer, of Milwaukee, then Bishop of Green Bay. They had been invited by the Bishop because of the imperative need of priests familiar with the French and Flemish languages for work in the so-called Belgian peninsula.

In 1898 the Premonstratensian House at De Pere was conconically established by Bishop Messmer and Father Pennings was made superior. The establishment of St. Norbert's College soon followed. Father Pennings has been Prior of St. Norbert's and Provincial of the Premonstratensians in America since 1903.

Giant Foundation Work On Shrine Draws Hundreds

Washington, D. C., May 26.—Among the major building operations of the National Capital is the laying of the foundations of the great dome that will surmount the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception. Hundreds of visitors gather daily to watch large body of workmen pouring cement and setting the steel rods, that combined will support one of the largest and most beautiful domes in the world. It was the particular wish of Cardinal Gibbons that the great edifice should be crowned by a noble dome. Each of these four great foundation piers is sixty-two feet square and thirteen feet deep, and represents 4,200,000 pounds of cement, or in all 16,800,000 pounds imbedded in this mass of cement are 201 tons of steel rods, forming a foundation of unexampled strength. The dome will be 254 feet from the floor of the Shrine. Each of the great piers that support the dome is seven feet larger than the base of the Washington Monument.

The foundations of the main transept are also being laid, and already within its immense lines, one hundred feet long by two hundred feet broad, have been poured over 4,000,000 pounds of cement. The Guastavino foundations of the High Altar are already in place and are calculated to support a weight of nearly 1,000,000 pounds. Above this High Altar will be placed the glorious mosaic of Murillo's Immaculate Conception, the "Purisima Blonda" at Madrid, of which Pius XI is having made an exact copy at the Vatican Mosaic Works for the National Shrine, to be ready in about three years.

An interesting feature of the transept foundations is the sub-basement, nine feet in height, thirty in breadth and one hundred in length, destined to serve eventually for the reservation of the plans and blue prints of the edifice, and as a constructional museum. It will be ready in the summer, and for the present it will be used as a rest, writing and lunch room for pilgrims to the National Shrine.

So far three hundred feet of the four hnudred and sixty five feet of the basement have been completed or are under construction. It is hoped that sufficient funds will soon accumulate to complete the remaining one hundred and sixty-five feet. When this is done it will be possible to contemplate the construction of the upper edifice which will surely have no rival in the New World, and few in the Old World. It is hoped that the Diamond Jubilee of the Immaculate Conception in 1929 will behold the upper church near construction, as a fitting fulfillment of the quasi-vow of the American Catholic people in regard to Mary's noble Shrine at Washington.

Cleveland Pilgrims' Spiritual Director

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

Cleveland, May 29.—The Rev. Maurice F. Griffin, pastor of St. Edward's Church, Youngstown, has been named spiritual director of the second Holy Year pilgrimage from this diocese, scheduled to sail from New York July 8. Father Griffin replaces the Rt. Rev. Msgr. James O'Leary, chaplain of the Dominican convent at Akron, who asked to be relieved because of the extended itinerary.

Th second journey will cover virtually the same territory as the first pilgrimage, which left Cleveland in April.

Dean Inge Rebuked By Father Gillis For Preaching Hate

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

New York, May 28.—More than 1,200 firemen of the New York Fire Department, members of the Holy Name Society of the department, heard the Rev. James M. Gillis, prominent Paulist lecturer, deliver a talk on loyalty and patriotism at the annual Communion breakfast held yesterday in the Hotel Astor, this city. Before the breakfast the firemen attended Mass and took Holy Communion in a body at St. Patrick's Cathedral.

"Any American who thinks that in order to be a good American he must hate all other nations and must stir up dissensions, or what has become more vital, any newspaper owner or any multi-millionaire who has a syndicate of newspapers and uses them to stir up a distrust for other nations, is doing this country a damnable injury," declared Father Gillis.

Without mentioning any name, but leaving it to be assumed that he referred to Dean Inge, the Church of England minister who recently spoke on certain classes of immigrants, Father Gillis said:

"I don't care whether he comes from England, or anywhere else. Like St. Paul, I say, 'I don't care whether he comes from Heaven,' for if he preaches a gospel like that he is doing the work of Satan."

Chief Kenlon of the Fire Department was also one of the speakers and he outlined his career from the time he arrived in this country, an immigrant boy, to the present position he holds, as head of the largest Fire Department in the world.

Former Judge William D. Cunningham, referred to Dean Inge in his address, and said that such men were unwelcome before they came to this country, unwelcome while they are here, and unwelcome when they left.

Through Cardinal Casparri, His Holiness, Pius XI, cabled his blessing to the Firemen of New York, which was read by Rev. Patrick F. O'Connor, spiritual director of the Holy Name Society. Governor Smith sent a letter regretting that he could not attend.

Non-Catholic Judge Lauds K. Of C.; Order 40,923 Strong In Ohio

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

Middletown, Ohio, May 29.—Reports submitted to the state convention of the Knights of Columbus recently held here show a membership of 40,923 in the state. This includes associate and insurance members.

The insurance membership committee recommended to all grand knights in Ohio that initiation fees be lowered whenever possible.

P. J. Kirwin, of London, Ohio, was reelected state deputy for his third term, and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. T. C. O'Reilly, pastor of St. John's Cathedral, Cleveland, was named state chaplain.

A feature of the convention was an address of welcome by Municipal Judge W. Todhunter, of Middletown, a non-Catholic.

Judge Todhunter praised the membership of the order, saying that it came from homes where love of family, reverence for God and religion, and the principles of civil and religious liberty were taught.

He deplored what he saw from the bench as a growing tendency toward mere girl and boy marriages, and urged the Knights to keep their children in school and home until their maturity was reached.

Next year's convention will be held in Marietta.

Techny Mission Play An Unusual Drama

Techny, Ill., May 29.—The Fathers of the Divine Word have announced their first annual Techny Mission Play, for June 14, 17, 21 and 24 after a long and thorough preparation. All idea of the school play or mere amateur theatrical has been abandoned in the work, the Fathers have prepared an original drama with professional assistance that is expected to attain wide note both for its unusual character and its dramatic worth.

In the story will be depicted the conversion to Christianity of Andalouma, a royal prince of the Wayao, one of the numerous and once powerful tribes of the African hinterland. The drama is in four acts, and through the presentation of this main theme the vivid, earnest, sometimes laughable, sometimes bitter life of the missionary, both Catholic and Protestant, will be portrayed.

An amphitheater capable of seating 1,600 has been constructed on the Techny grounds to care for the audiences. All seats will be reserved.

Martyrs of Jesuit Order to Be named Blessed on June 21

New York, May 27.—Contrary to reports in the daily newspapers, the ceremony of the beatification of the Jesuit Martyrs, of North America, Isaac Jogues, John de Brebeuf and companions, will take place on Sunday, June 21, not on July 5 or July 12. Many pilgrims from the United States will be present at the ceremony. A special pilgrimage will leave Montreal on Saturday, May 30. The Rev. Edward F. Devine, S. J., will be in charge as chaplain, and he will take with him to Rome the relics of the Martyrs, Brebeuf, Lalemant, and Garnier. The Rev. John J. Wynne, S. J., Vice-Postulator of the Cause of the Martyrs, will leave for Rome on June 3.

A book on the Martyrs, entitled "The Jesuit Martyrs of North America", by Father Wynne, is in press, and it will appear early in June.

FOUR ACES
Revised

Spring

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

Heaven's where we linger,
And where you inhere
From Age to Youth,
DeLeon's fount is here.

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Irish Bishop Resigns African Vicariate

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

Dublin, May 25.—The elders among the present generation of Irish people were touched by the news that Bishop John Rooney, Vicar Apostolic of the Cape of Good Hope (Western District) had resigned his heavy charge because of the infirmities of age. Originally an All Hallows College man, he was afterwards a student at the Propaganda College in Rome, where he was ordained in the distant 'sixties,' and immediately went out to South Africa. There he has lived and labored ever since, except for two brief visits to Europe.

The first of these visits was tragic and historical. The Zulu War was raging. The heir of the exiled Imperial house of France, known as the Prince Imperial, had taken service with the British forces. One day, when surprised by the black enemy, he was speared to death just as he was climbing into the saddle with the object of evading them. His mother, the late ex-Empress Eugenia, the widow of Napoleon the Third, wished to have her son's body brought back to her for burial, and the sad duty fell to Dr. Rooney who was at the moment a Chaplain at one of the Naval Stations of the Cape. The choice is easy to explain—the stricken mother had expressed a desire that a priest of her son's faith should have charge of the remains on the voyage.

That was in 1879. The episode brought the brilliant young Irishman into prominence. Seven years later he was the Coadjutor Bishop of the Capetown See, and in 1908 he succeeded Bishop Leonard as the Vicar Apostolic. For the Past 17 years he was the guiding hand of that immense Vicariate. Like other Irish apostles he has been an untiring school and church builder, and it may be said that his monuments are to be seen today all over Cape Colony. On his initiative several religious Orders went to South Africa and have widely extended there. His retirement has been the subject of very sympathetic comment by the non-Catholic Press of South Africa.

Rev. D. R. Sullivan New President of Seton Hill College

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

Greensburg, Pa., May 29.—The Rev. D. R. Sullivan has been elected President of Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa. According to announcement made following the recent meeting of the College trustees.

The President elect was a student at Colgate University, Niagara University, the University of Pittsburgh, and the Seminaries of Mt. St. Mary and of St. Bernard, being ordained at the last named in 1909. He is Master of Arts, Doctor of Letters, Fellow of the Royal Society of Arts, and member of various learned societies for the advancement of science, physical, political and social. For the past eight years he has been professor of Social Science and Dean of the Faculty at Seton Hill, being closely identified with the growth of the College. The date for the installation was not been set but it will probably be in September.

Priest Held Captive By Chinese Bandits For 78 Days, Is Freed

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

Shanghai, China, May 11.—Word has been received here that Father de Clippele, Belgian missionary, has been released by Chinese bandits who had held him in captivity for 78 days. He owes his release to the fact that the bandits have been enrolled as a part of the regular army of Feng Yu hsiang.

During his captivity Father de Clippele was forced to witness many of the atrocities perpetrated by the bandits and he suffered greatly from the multitude of insects and vermin with which the bandits camps were infested. In spite of his severe sufferings, however, he appeared to be in good health when released.

Among the exciting incidents of his captivity related by Father de Clippele is the story about an attempt he made to escape. He sought to evade the guards by sliding from the back of the donkey on which he was riding and lying flat on the ground. The guards, however, were too vigilant and he was recaptured. Then the guards, as a method of preventing another attempt to escape, discussed whether it would not be better to kill him. There was considerable sentiment in favor of such a proceeding, but it was finally decided to spare his life.

Irish Archbishop Urges Confraternity Men To Promote Peace

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

Dublin, May 27.—Followed by 3,000 processionists who marched four deep through the streets of Ardee, Louth County, the Most Reverend Archbishop O'Donnell bore the Blessed Sacrament through the lavishly decorated thoroughfares while the marching crowd sang hymns to the accompaniament of brass bands, on the occasion of the Jubilee of the Sacred Heart Confraternity.

Addressing gathering, the Archbishop said:

"Bound together as a Confraternity, great influence is yours. To suppress practices that are a menace to the observance of God's Commandments is within your power. You, an active body, can exclude foul literature, discourage betting, and keep amusements within the limits of moderation and modesty. Therefore a confraternity is a special safeguard for the youth of a parish.

"But there is another public service of paramount importance which you can do great things to promote. That is, the removal of the bitterness, rancor, and hatred which so often disgrace public life nowadays. In sodalities men of every rank, grade, and political shade stand side by side in brotherly love. Let that spirit permeate all your relations in life. It is not for us to flatter each other, but neither should we vituperate and condemn. If any of our people are far from perfection, they are, thank God, still further from reprobation. We can differ in opinion. There is room for difference, even on points of principle, in temporal matters. Yet even in our differences our part is to practise the gospel of fraternal charity. Brethren of the Confraternity, your work is to spread good will among all sections of the people."

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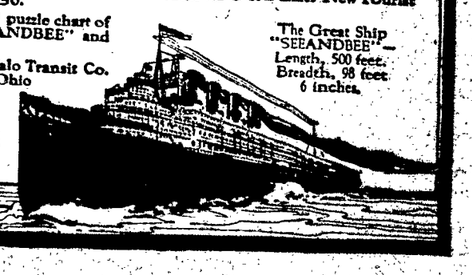
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