

POPE PIUS SENDS SPECIAL LETTER TO CARD. DEL VAL FOR HIS EPISCOPAL JUBILEE

Rome, July 10.—The following is the text of the letter sent by Pope Pius XI to His Eminence Cardinal Raphael Merry del Val, Secretary of the Supreme Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office and Archbishop of the Basilica, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of his Episcopate: "Beloved Son... Greetings and Apostolic Blessing... The near approach of the twenty-fifth anniversary of your Episcopate, while it must truly cause you gratefully to remember from your soul the signal favor God has accorded you, in that you are able to enjoy in the flower of your manhood and in the vigor of your strength the fullness of the Priesthood conferred on you in your youth, suggests to Us through the benevolence We feel for you—that We should participate in the joy of this week with Our congratulations and good wishes. "We well know with what fidelity you served Our Predecessor of immortal memory, Leo XIII, working at his side as Cameriere Segreto, or exercising in his name and with his authority more than an ordinary legation, or directing the education of the students of the Noble Ecclesiastical Academy. In discharging these affairs you gave such proof of care, diligence and prudence, as to induce Pius X, when he had scarcely ascended to the Chair of St. Peter, to elevate you to the Cardinalship, and to entrust you with the negotiations of the public interests of the Church. "Apart from the fame of his sanctity which grows daily in public opinion, history the teacher and repository of truth, at the fitting moment, will put in an ever clearer light the merits of the great Pontiff, and above all will exalt and magnify the very fervent zeal with which, after having revealed the spirit and intentions of the adversaries of the Church, he heroically defended the integrity of the faith and brought so many innumerable benefits to Christian society. Nor can it be doubted that the Divine Founder of the Church will praise the diligent cooperation which you gave that Pontiff in such laborious undertakings. "Work for Congregation Praesid. "We also are extremely satisfied with the diligence with which you attended to the affairs of the Sacred Congregation which has for its institution the safety of the faith and customs, and with your guardianship, as Archbishop, of the decorum and dignity of the Vatican Basilica. "Look back then with faith at this time of five lustrians already passed. That grace which you received by the imposition of hands on the day of your episcopal consecration, We hope that God will increase and multiply for you, so that each day you will more fully possess and more widely exemplify the sanctity of the Episcopal Order which you assumed 25 years ago. Profit, meanwhile, by this magnificent occasion of joy and gladness which is given you and to which are added Our paternal congratulations. To every comfort, of which this fortunate anniversary will be filled for you and those who love you, is added as a crown, the Apostolic Blessing which We impart to you as a augury of the heavenly gifts and as a testimony of Our particular benevolence towards your person.

Was Born in London. Born in London, where his father was a secretary of the Spanish Embassy, on October 18, 1865, the young Marquis Raphael Merry del Val was admitted to the Accademia del Nobilit Ecclesiastico in Rome in 1885 and there ordained priest on the 30th October 1888. The year before he had been sent to London in the suite of Mr. Rufo Scilla who went to present the felicitation of the Pope, Leo XIII, on the occasion of the Golden Jubilee of Queen Victoria. In March 1888 he went to Berlin with Mr. Gallimberti to assist at the funeral of William I and to congratulate the new Emperor; and that same year in November he was sent by the Pope to Vienna to present a gift to the Emperor Francis Joseph. On January 1, 1892 he was appointed Cameriere Segreto participant of Leo XIII and in the June of 1893 he was sent as pontifical Delegate to present the red hat to Cardinal Schuabach. In 1896 the

Secretary of the Commission for the Study of the Validity of the Anglican Ordinations, and in the following year nominated him Domestic Prelate. In the March of that same year he went as Apostolic Delegate on extraordinary mission to Canada, and in October 1899 he was elected President of the Pontificia Accademia del Nobilit Ecclesiastico. On April 19, 1901, he was nominated Archbishop of Catania, and on May 6, of that year His Eminence Cardinal Mariano Rampolla of Tindaro, Secretary of State of His Holiness, conferred on him the episcopal consecration in the national Spanish Church of Santa Maria in Monserrato. On June 3, 1902 Archbishop Merry del Val represented the Pope at the coronation of King Edward VII in London. The venerable Pope, Leo XIII, died on July 20, 1902 and next day the Sacred College at its first meeting elected Magr. Merry del Val as its Secretary. To this office was united that of Secretary of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation and the now Pontiff, Pius X, confirmed him in it immediately after his election to the Pontificate on August 4, 1903, nominating him, at the same time, Pro-Secretary of State. As soon as the Pope had had time to recognize the talents of the young, pious, intelligent, extremely devoted and diligent prelate when he desired to have him permanently at his side, as his collaborator, and in the Consistory of November 9, 1903, created him Cardinal nominating him, three days later, as his Secretary of State. A Youthful Cardinal. The young Cardinal, who was only 38 years of age, assumed not only a very high honor but also a formidable responsibility. How faithfully he fulfilled his office is demonstrated by the confidence and very great affection shown him by the prudent Pontiff which never weakened for an instant during the whole of his Pontificate, but increased day by day, so that at the death of Pius X the life of his faithful cooperators also seemed to be broken by grief. On February 2, 1914, Pius X had nominated Cardinal Merry del Val Archbishop of the Vatican Basilica, and on October 14, 1914 Benedict XV nominated him Secretary of the Holy Office. In these two high offices Cardinal Merry del Val still exercises his activity. The magnificent Museo Patriano inaugurated a few months ago and promoted by him with so much ardor during the two last Pontificates is a very eloquent testimony of his work as Archbishop. Besides these offices which represent his activities as Cardinal, His Eminence is interested in hundreds of works of zeal and charity, some of which are known and admitted by all, while others are hidden in the secret of his pious and beneficent life. Among these works worthy of particular mention are the Pious Associations of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in Trastevere in the poorest quarter of Rome. He founded these in 1889 and has directed them always, never allowing himself to be detached from this work, even when he was occupied by the great cares of the Secretary of State of the Supreme Pontiff. With his generosity the Cardinal supplied the Association with vast halls, a sunny garden, a large theater, and ample land, on the neighboring hill of Monteverde, for games and country excursions in the midst of his beloved young people. Cardinal Merry del Val, even today, manifests the grace and simplicity of his soul taking part as a companion in their conversation and their recreations. Another work which absorbs the affections and activities of the Cardinal is the introducing of the cause for the Beatification of Pius X. Certainly among his records of his daily meetings with the grand Pontiff, the most gratifying, the most touching, and also the most comforting for Cardinal Merry del Val, is that of the humble and simple sanctity of the successor of Leo XIII, which he could see and measure in all its profundity. And it is certain that he feels himself that this opinion is held by the whole Episcopate and Christian peoples, a most comforting sweet thought.

Draw Rebuke From Bodies Of French Cardinals Removed To Paris Basilica

Paris, July 20.—The bodies of two of the last archbishops of Paris, Cardinal Guibert and Cardinal Richelieu, have been transferred from the choir of the Cathedral of Notre Dame to the Basilica of the Sacred Heart where they will be permanently interred. It was during the episcopate of Cardinal Guibert that the plan of erecting a basilica to the Sacred Heart was first conceived as a testimony of national piety. Cardinal Richelieu was most active in carrying out the work. It is natural that the bodies of these two princes of the Church should be buried in the crypt of the magnificent sanctuary raised as a result of their efforts. The transfer was effected with the utmost simplicity in the presence of a few prominent churchmen. No office is regarded here as an indication that the plan had been made in advance.

Costa Rica Decrees Religious Teaching In State's Schools

San Jose, July 23.—The Costa Rican Government, overruling sectarian measures of previous administrations, recently issued an important decree on the subject of religious instruction in the schools. This decree, which went into effect on the first of the current month, is as follows: 1. Whereas the great majority of the people of the Republic manifest great interest in the religious instruction of children, and 2. Whereas the Constitution, while establishing freedom of conscience, recognizes the fact that the majority of Costa Ricans profess the Roman Catholic faith and subsidize this faith with Government appropriations; and 3. Whereas although religious instruction is the duty of the Church and forms one of the most important obligations of the clergy, the Church of Costa Rica today has neither the personnel nor sufficient means to impart such instruction in accordance with the aspirations of the people who request it, and 4. Whereas in order to conciliate these interests and principles with those which constitute the true liberty of a democratically governed country religious instruction should be permitted and even assisted. Therefore, the President of the Republic decrees as follows: 1. The children of the primary schools and schools annexed to the colleges are to be exempted from the compulsory subjects prescribed by the rule on Saturdays between eleven in the morning and two o'clock in the afternoon in order to receive religious instruction during these hours. 2. The Bishop of the Diocese is to be encouraged to regulate this instruction and appoint the teachers who are to take charge of it, paying them the necessary remuneration and making use of the school buildings and facilities with the agreement of the school boards. 3. From the appropriations of the Ministry of Public Worship there is to be paid to the order of the Bishop, as the work is organized, a sum not exceeding one thousand pesos per month. 4. This decree will become effective on July 1, next.

Woman Pilgrim Makes Record Walk To Rome

Rome, July 22.—Many stories have been told of pilgrims who have come to the Eternal City to great sacrifices to fulfill the conditions of the Holy Year. From many parts of Italy and some other countries of the European continent, pilgrims have come to Rome on foot, imitating the pilgrims of ancient days. But the record of endurance and abnegation is certainly held by a woman from Morocco, mother of three children, who walked to Rome, bringing the little ones with her. After covering the entire distance from Tetuan, her home, to Ceuta on foot, this pious woman sailed for Spain, and after landing at Cartagena she continued her journey on foot through Spain, France and Italy. The eldest child, six years of age, was able to follow her mother, but the two younger ones had to be carried most of the way in the mother's arms. The journey, undertaken under these conditions, lasted five months! "I wanted to make the true pilgrimage," the woman said, "to see the Holy City, and the Pope."

Lighting Home Altar, Aged Women Loses Life in Quick Blaze

New York, July 24.—A match slipping from a hand fidgeting with age as a devout woman lighted a candle before a home altar, cost the life of Mrs. James McShane here Sunday. Mrs. McShane was 80 years old. Her age made it difficult for her to get out to church, so an unusually elaborate altar was erected in the McShane home. Her faith ever bright despite her failing years, the aged woman daily sought the solace of prayer before it. Sunday as she lighted the candles for her usual period of devotion, the match fell from her unsteady hand. The carpet caught fire, and she tried to stamp out the blaze. When her scream attracted her husband, her clothing was aflame. He smothered out the blaze, but the shock and burns were too much. Mrs. McShane died a short while later, after Father Leody, of the nearby Church of Our Lady of Sorrows, had administered the Last Sacraments.

Oregon Grand Dragon Resigns His Office

Portland, Oregon, July 22.—Fred L. Gifford, grand dragon of the Ku Klux Klan in Oregon for the past three years, has resigned his office. Ben H. Sullivan of Atlanta, Ga., has arrived here to take charge of the work until a successor is appointed. The resignation of Gifford, formerly made a financial success of it, the office is regarded here as an indication that the Klan has ceased to pay.

Germany's Open-Air Theaters Produce Poet-Priest's Plays

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service.) Cologne, July 20.—There has been a tremendous increase in the vogue of the open-air theater movement in Germany since the war, and its latest development is a devotion to the plays of the Spanish poet-priest of the sixteenth century, Calderon de la Barca. The extent to which the open-air theater movement has captured Germany is indicated by the fact that the Fathers of the Holy Ghost have opened such a theater in the courtyard of their medieval monastery of Knechtsteden near Neuss Duessel-dorf. It was in this theater in the monastery courtyard that Calderon's present wave of popularity originated. After one of his plays had been presented with success there, other open-air theaters took up the idea and soon Calderon's plays were being produced all over Germany. Although the open-air theater movement in Germany dates back to before the War it has grown very rapidly in the past few years after a temporary lapse during the years of conflict. The movement itself is more or less an outgrowth of the attempt made by the "volksbuehnebund", an organization including both Catholics and Protestants, to rescue the stage from the curse of commercialism with its utter disregard for ethical considerations. As far back as 1910 the open-air theater had attained considerable success as was illustrated in the notable presentation of Grillparzer's "Medea" by eminent professional actors on the open-air stage on the Island of Grafenwerth between Bonn and Andernach. Since the war the movement has been largely of an amateur character, however, and surprisingly artistic results have been obtained. Theaters have been established in Bedbourg, Rheydt, Suchteln and many other places. The plays of Schiller, particularly "Wilhelm Tell" and the "Jungfrau von Orleans" were most popular until the present vogue for Calderon started. Conboy to Preside At Banquet Given Admiral Benson Washington, July 25.—Martin Conboy, President of the Catholic Club, of New York, will preside at the testimonial dinner to be given Admiral William S. Benson here at September 19 under the auspices of a Committee of One Hundred made up of leaders in all walks of the nation's life. This announcement was made here following a meeting this week of the Committee on Arrangements with members of the Committee of One Hundred who were in Washington. Admiral Benson, who in addition to his other distinctions is president of the National Council of Catholic Men, is being honored for the completion of fifty years as a naval and civil officer of his country. Close to a thousand of his friends and admirers are expected to attend the dinner. Three speakers of national prominence are now being selected for the function. Arrangements also are being made to have the program broadcast to the country. Scores of inquiries have begun to come in, notably from the east and middle west, following the recent announcement of the dinner. It also was announced after the meeting here this week that the following have accepted membership on the Committee of One Hundred, 80 members of which already have been announced. Gen. Tinker H. Bliss, former Chief of Staff of the Army, member of the Supreme War Council in France and member of the American Commission to negotiate Peace; John Barton Payne, Chairman of the Red Cross; Col. Edward M. House, once personal adviser to President Wilson; A. O. Stanley, former Senator from Kentucky; F. C. Marvina, banker, of Kansas City; Fred Eric I. Thompson and B. E. Haney, members of the United States Shipping Board; Rear Admiral Hilary P. Jones of the General Board of the Navy; Senator Joseph E. Ransdell, of Louisiana, and John J. Sullivan, attorney, Philadelphia.

Trunk Exhibition Of Educational Pamphlets Pleases

Washington, July 25.—A specially-designed trunk exhibit has been assembled by the N. C. W. C. Bureau of Education and is doing effective work at various educational gatherings over the country. The trunk contains eight panels 20 by 30 inches in size, which can be removed and put in place in ten minutes. To the panels are attached the Bureau publications, which are available to Catholic schools, educators and others who are interested. The exhibit was first used at the Catholic Educational Association convention in Pittsburgh, then shipped to San Francisco for use of the archdiocesan summer school. Thence it was sent to the Los Angeles summer school, and then to New Orleans to complete its first tour at the Southern city.

CHURCH SCHOOLS AT GARY PROVING GREAT SUCCESS, REVEREND DIRECTOR SAYS

Gary, Ind., July 25.—One of the authorities to allow the children to unique features of the Gary School System is the Church School. Religious instruction is offered to all denominations by the novel and successful plan adopted. In the neighborhood of most of the schools, there is conducted a class in religion. Most of the Protestant denominations have united and have religious instruction at appointed hours. The work for Catholics in public schools forms one of the activities of the Judge Gary-Bishop Aldering Settlement House, 620 West 15th Avenue. It is far-reaching in importance because thousands of children, whose parents are perhaps careless and fallen away, are reclaimed and kept within the bosom of the Church, and through these reclaimed children, many of the parents are brought back to the Church. Not Injurious to Parochial Schools. Superficial observers sometimes claim that such work is injurious to the parochial schools. They are entirely mistaken. The parochial schools are crowded and there are over four thousand Catholic children frequenting the public schools. Again, even though there were room in the Catholic schools, our work did not create this condition but rather met it. Parochial schools have been established for years and our work is not to discourage their attendance but to rescue the stage from the curse of commercialism with its utter disregard for ethical considerations. As far back as 1910 the open-air theater had attained considerable success as was illustrated in the notable presentation of Grillparzer's "Medea" by eminent professional actors on the open-air stage on the Island of Grafenwerth between Bonn and Andernach. Since the war the movement has been largely of an amateur character, however, and surprisingly artistic results have been obtained. Theaters have been established in Bedbourg, Rheydt, Suchteln and many other places. The plays of Schiller, particularly "Wilhelm Tell" and the "Jungfrau von Orleans" were most popular until the present vogue for Calderon started. Chicago, July 24.—A whole community, made up in the great majority of people of other than the Catholic faith, paid a high tribute to His Eminence, George Cardinal Mundelein, when it formally observed the changing of the name of the Village of Area, Ill. to that of the Village of Mundelein, because of the \$3,000,000 seat of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, which the Chicago cardinal is erecting there. United States Senator Charles S. Deneen, a non-Catholic, was with the Cardinal, the guest of honor in the church, next Sunday at the eleven o'clock Mass. The Mass will be sung by Father Corcoran and the ceregale was changed to Mundelein, following the action of the county and village boards some time ago. "It is only fair to the man who has brought about a new era of conditions in our community with his progressive building plans, that this community should henceforth bear his name," said Ralph Rouse, president of the municipal corporation. "The population of this town is not Catholic, but it is American and fair and believes in justice." Cardinal Mundelein as a mark of his appreciation, made the celebration the occasion of presenting the town with an outfit of the most modern fire apparatus usable by a volunteer fire company. A drill with the new apparatus by the volunteer fire department, a special drill with the D. D. O. S. A. and Rev. Joseph A. Hickey, D. D. O. S. A. President of Villanova College. Catholic Young Men's Convention To Be On Leviathan New York, July 24.—At a meeting of the Executive Board of the Catholic Young Men's National Union, held at the McAlpin Hotel, it was voted unanimously to hold the (fiftieth) annual convention of the Union on board the "Leviathan," of the United States Line, while enroute to Cherbourg September 5 to 11, with the final session in Rome September 18. This action was taken when the president of the Union, Michael J. Slattery, announced that many of the delegates to former conventions, in response to his letter asking suggestions as to where this year's convention should be held, had signified their intention to attend the International Congress of Catholic Young Men's Societies in Rome September 15 to 18. Mr. Slattery, in his letter to the affiliated unit of the National Union, called attention to the importance of the International Congress, emphasizing that it is the special wish of the Holy Father that the Catholic societies of the United States should be well represented. The Young Men's Union party will sail September 5. The tour has been planned that all the principal shrines in Europe will be visited. The return voyage will be on the "Republic," also of the United States Line, October 2. The Rev. E. F. Garesche, S. J., chaplain of the C.Y.M.A., will accompany the party and will give daily talk on the shrines to be visited.

Formal Observance Of Change Of Area's Name To Mundelein

Chicago, July 24.—A whole community, made up in the great majority of people of other than the Catholic faith, paid a high tribute to His Eminence, George Cardinal Mundelein, when it formally observed the changing of the name of the Village of Area, Ill. to that of the Village of Mundelein, because of the \$3,000,000 seat of the University of St. Mary of the Lake, which the Chicago cardinal is erecting there. United States Senator Charles S. Deneen, a non-Catholic, was with the Cardinal, the guest of honor in the church, next Sunday at the eleven o'clock Mass. The Mass will be sung by Father Corcoran and the ceregale was changed to Mundelein, following the action of the county and village boards some time ago. "It is only fair to the man who has brought about a new era of conditions in our community with his progressive building plans, that this community should henceforth bear his name," said Ralph Rouse, president of the municipal corporation. "The population of this town is not Catholic, but it is American and fair and believes in justice." Cardinal Mundelein as a mark of his appreciation, made the celebration the occasion of presenting the town with an outfit of the most modern fire apparatus usable by a volunteer fire company. A drill with the new apparatus by the volunteer fire department, a special drill with the D. D. O. S. A. and Rev. Joseph A. Hickey, D. D. O. S. A. President of Villanova College.

To Confer Doctorate On Pastor At End Of Mass On Sunday

Philadelphia, July 22.—For the first time in the history of Philadelphia, the degree of Master in Sacred Theology (S. T. M.) of the Augustinian Order will be conferred in public. Rev. Matthew J. Corcoran, O. S. A., pastor of the St. Rita's Church, is the recipient of the honor which in America is commonly referred to as the Doctorate in Divinity. The Rev. F. E. Tourseher, D. D., O. S. A., Senior Master in the American Province since the death of Dr. Middleton some months ago, will confer the honor in Saint Rita's church, next Sunday at the eleven o'clock Mass. The Mass will be sung by Father Corcoran and the ceregale was changed to Mundelein, following the action of the county and village boards some time ago. "It is only fair to the man who has brought about a new era of conditions in our community with his progressive building plans, that this community should henceforth bear his name," said Ralph Rouse, president of the municipal corporation. "The population of this town is not Catholic, but it is American and fair and believes in justice." Cardinal Mundelein as a mark of his appreciation, made the celebration the occasion of presenting the town with an outfit of the most modern fire apparatus usable by a volunteer fire company. A drill with the new apparatus by the volunteer fire department, a special drill with the D. D. O. S. A. and Rev. Joseph A. Hickey, D. D. O. S. A. President of Villanova College.

Communist Assault Catholic Athletes

Paris, July 20.—Violence instigated by communist politicians marked the athletic meet organized in the vicinity of Paris by a number of French and foreign Catholic athletic clubs. The meet was held on the athletic field of La Courneuve which belongs to some Catholic organizations. It was a very successful affair which won the applause of the public and the congratulations of the Archbishop of Paris. But in order to take the train, several societies had to pass through the industrial city of Saint Denis which has a communist municipal government. The mayor had issued an order forbidding any display of flags or any playing of bugles or beating of drums on the pretext that these are "symbols of war." The societies obeyed the order. But two of them, coming from Belgium, had not heard of the order and they arrived at the station of Saint Denis with a certain number of militant communists who hissed them and began to pommel them. The Belgians returned the blows and a general fight began. The police intervened and separated the combatants, whereupon the communists turned their attention to the police. One of the communists was arrested. The mob immediately laid siege to the police headquarters and it became necessary to telephone to Paris for reinforcements; after which calm was reestablished. Several arrests were made.