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Franciscans Plan For Third Order Rally In October

(By N. C. W. C. News Service).
New York, Jan. 22.—Preparations for the next National Convention of the Third Order of St. Francis, which will be held in this city October 3, 4 and 5 are already under way, according to an announcement made by Rev. Killian J. Hennrich, O. M. Cap., chairman of the local Convention Board. One of the first proposals adopted by the Order is the formation of a Convention Board, which will in effect have complete jurisdiction over all convention matters.

Father Hennrich made public the complete membership of the Board which includes: Very Rev. Mathias Faust, O. F. M., Rev. Felician Fehner, O. M. Cap., Rt. Rev. Msgr. John Chidwick, D. D., vice-chairman, James J. O'Neill, treasurer, and Mrs. J. Seidl, secretary.

Until the actual convening of the delegates, the New York headquarters will remain at 213 Stanton Street, and from time to time matters pertaining to the Third Order convention will be made public for the information of all members of the order.

Within the next fortnight members of the local Convention Board will meet in this city and appoint chairmen and members of the various subcommittees, seven in all, and it is expected that after all the committees are completed plans may be formulated to insure the success of the convention.

The subcommittees announced by the chairman are: Committee on Divine Service, which will name those who will officiate at the different services; take care of the issuance of cards to priests and servers for time and place of celebration and procure appropriate Church music for each celebration; Committee on Hotels and Lodging, which will look for hotels at reasonable prices; tabulate rooms in private families suitable for accommodation; arrange places for prelates at Catholic institutions, and arrange places for priests and religious who do not wish to stay at hotels; Committee on Meals and Refreshments, which will arrange for breakfast after General Communion, provide lunches at reasonable prices in restaurants easily accessible, and arrange for the services accessible arrange resting-rooms, of physicians and nurses; Committee on Reception, which will receive delegates and guests at the several railroad stations; direct them to hotels, hall and assembly rooms, assist them in regard to taxicabs and buses, street cars, subways, elevated trains, etc., and procure cheap and correct railroad tickets and furnish information about all railroad accommodation; Committee on Publicity, which will provide local and national publicity, provide advertisements, programs, special Franciscan editions of newspapers, keep in touch with publicity agencies of all kinds, and direct all other publicity features; Committee on Decorations, which will attend to decoration of churches and houses; fit out rooms where the different departments and committees meet, contract with photographers to take pictures of the convention, provide badges, arrange for the sale of Tertiary Literature and devotionals, and procure musical features outside of churches; Bureau of Information will consist of a manager who will conduct place of registration, receive and distribute mail, sell reserved seats for general meetings and furnish all information in regard to the gathering.

In addition to the subcommittees the following departments will also be established by the Local Board—Directors, Lay Delegates, Clergy including Seminarians and Students and Juvenile Tertiaries.

Modern Religious Teaching Methods Urged In England

By N. C. W. C. News Service
London, Jan. 18.—The plea made recently by the President of the London Metropolitan Catholic Teachers' Association for a revision of the religious syllabus in the elementary schools was repeated this week by the President of the Catholic Teachers' Federation of England and Wales, Miss E. Sullivan.

Urging that the latest educational methods should be applied to the teaching of religion in the schools, Miss Sullivan, addressing the delegates at the Federation's annual convention in Newcastle, opposed the present syllabus on the ground that it made religious instruction irksome to young children. She suggested that in addition to being provided with pictures and statues to illustrate the Church's teaching, the children should be allowed to dramatize incidents from the Old and New Testaments.

"Children love to act," said the President, "and usually the impression made is a lasting one."
She further suggested that education in Catholic schools would benefit if diocesan committees composed of school managers, inspectors, parents and teachers were set up to discuss everything connected with the schools, including changes in the religious syllabus.

Early Plaque Found At Ur, Represents First Idea Of Ark

London, Jan. 18.—The earliest representation of Noah's Ark is one of the most remarkable of the recent discoveries made at Ur, Mesopotamia, by archaeologists of the British Museum in cooperation with scientists of the University of Pennsylvania, according to a report received here from Leonard Woolley, leader of the party.

Mr. Woolley tells of finding houses occupied five thousand years ago and of tracing the inner face of the great wall built in the sacred area of ancient Ur, by King Nebuchadnezzar. Inside of this wall the scientists found some houses containing works of art.

"Close to these," Mr. Woolley's report continues, "there was a little plaque of alabaster carved on both sides. The scene represented is a boat rising high in the air. On one side a man is standing at the stern, while in the cabin is a pig. On the other side the pig's place is taken by a goose, and two fish are hanging against the stern by a string. Here is a piece illustrating the life of the marsh-dwellers; in this case a prehistoric folk, later in Babylonian history the people of the sea, today the marsh Arabs.

"The temptation to see more in it than this was too strong. We called it Noah's Ark, and as the earliest representation of Noah's Ark it will take its place among the treasures of Ur."

Protestants, Jews And Catholics Unite For Social Service

Chicago, Jan. 22.—"The Social Action Programs of Catholics, Jews, and Protestants," was the subject of discussion by clergymen of these three religious groups at the weekly meeting of the Chicago Forum. More than seven hundred persons attended, and applauded when the three speakers joined in expressing the belief that by interdenominational cooperation much of the discord of the present day might be eliminated.

The speakers were: the Rev. J. W. Maguire, C. S. V., Professor of Sociology at St. Victor's College, Bourbonnais, Ill.; Rabbi Gerson E. Levi; and the Rev. Hubert C. Herrington of a Boston Congregational Church. Each speaker explained and recalled the efforts made for the alleviation of poverty and the solution of economic problems by his respective religious group.

Announcement has been made here in connection with the Convention of the Big Brother and Big Sister Federation that an arrangement has been effected whereby Protestant, Catholic, and Jewish welfare workers cooperate to help children throughout the United States and Canada.

Lady Armstrong, wife of the British Consul-General at New York, and President of the Catholic Big Sisters in New York, declared:

"We don't all agree on religion and details of methods, but we know kindness and friendship for needy children is our duty."

Freethinkers Seek To Banish Religion From Public Schools

Albany, N. Y., Jan. 22.—A hearing will be held in the Supreme Court here February 13, on a petition for a writ of mandamus which would restrain school officials from permitting religious instruction of public school children during school hours. Supreme Court Justice Pierce H. Russell at Troy has signed an order requiring Frank P. Graves, State Commissioner of Education, to show cause why such a writ should not be issued.

The action is brought by the Freethinkers Society of New York which last year won a legal action to stop the Mount Vernon School Board from permitting school children to take forty-five minutes from each school week for religious instruction. In the present instance the action is based on the practice of school officials at White Plains where, according to the Freethinkers' petition, conditions are the same as they were at Mount Vernon last year.

Klan Officials Sent To Jail In Alabama For Raids On Chinese

Birmingham, Ala., Jan. 22.—Fines and jail sentences have been imposed on four men, two of them officers in the local units of the Ku Klux Klan, who were convicted on charges of complicity in raids conducted January 2 on three Chinese restaurants. The raiders on that occasion were robed and masked. W. J. Worthington, one of the Klan officials, was fined \$100 and sentenced to serve ninety days in jail. W. W. Israel, the other Klan official, drew a fine of \$100 and thirty days.

Judge Henry J. Martin, pronouncing sentence, declared:

"It is a matter of common knowledge that officers of the law do not proceed to exercise their functions while masked and robed, and this act alone, even though the raiders had been bonafide officers of the law, would tend to provoke a breach of the peace."

Dublin Tram Men Build Own Grotto To Blessed Virgin

Dublin, Jan. 18.—The most numerous workers in Dublin are those of the Tramway Company, which is one of the largest concerns of its kind in the world. These men have caused a beautiful grotto to be erected at Rathfarnham, Dublin, in honor of Our Lady of Lourdes. Surmounted by a crown of electric light, the figure of Our Lady stands in relief against the shadow of the recess, while a half-circle of trees gives the scene a fine natural background. There also is a statue of Bernadette.

Con Vaughan, a worker, first suggested the idea. With the aid of Inspector Scully he got a committee together, and all the other tramway men fell in enthusiastically with the proposal. At the dedication ceremony, Father Barrett, S. J., said:

"In erecting this Shrine to Our Blessed Lady the men of the Dublin Tramway Company have shown themselves not only good Catholics but in a special way patriots also. The priest who in the Rural Days turned from the Continent to Ireland at the risk of his life to minister to the people, did work not only for the Faith but also for the Fatherland. The families who heard Mass on the mountain sides at the peril of their lives were patriots, because they maintained Ireland's best and most glorious traditions. Like them, the workers of the Tramway Company in erecting this Shrine have done a patriotic as well as a religious deed. They have continued the dearest tradition of our race."

Irish Investments Abroad, Says Banker, Total \$750,000,000

Dublin, Jan. 18.—Although the showing on railway receipts in Ireland is seriously down for the year just ended, and the bank clearances for the year also shows a sharp decline, Mr. Smith Gordon, who founded the Irish Bank, points out that Ireland has \$750,000,000 invested abroad. He says that numbers of Irish people have an unjustifiable suspicion of their own country as a safe field for investment, although American investors were not afraid to subscribe half the capital of \$550,000 required for the recently formed Irish Industrial Trust Company.

He observes: "Every Irish bond invested abroad promotes immigration, because men follow finance. The key to successful industrial finance here in Ireland is nothing more than reasonable self-confidence. Our people have a fair share of money, and they must invest a decent proportion of it at home if they want to have national prosperity."

Report That Pope Will Visit Assisi Denied By Superior

Rome, Jan. 18.—A rumor was started by the "Tribuna" that when Mussolini visited the Basilica of Assisi in 1924 he was told by the Superior of the Monastery "When the government gives this monastery back to the Franciscan Order, the Holy Father will come to consecrate it. He promised this to the General of our Order and expressed the sincere wish to pray at the tomb of Saint Francis."

The report that the Holy Father would leave the Vatican to go to Assisi during the celebrations in honor of the Franciscan centennial were based on this fantastic report. Father Alexander, Custodian of the Basilica at Assisi has written to the "Tribuna" that he had no conversation with any political personage in the summer of 1924 and that the statement mentioned could not be attributed to him.

Liverpool Archbishop Seeks Harmony Among Catholic Candidates

London, Jan. 18.—An appeal to Catholic candidates to refrain from opposing each other at local elections is made by Archbishop Keeling of Liverpool in a New Year message. The Catholic candidates in Liverpool are divided roughly into Labor candidates and candidates who belong to an unofficial Catholic organization, and it is to these two parties that the Archbishop addresses himself.

"They are all good practical Catholics and would make useful members of the City Council or Board of Guardians," says the Archbishop of the candidates. "Goodwill on both sides will discover a modus vivendi which will enable both to serve the Catholic cause."

Medal To Honor Saint Slain For Faith In 929

Prague, Jan. 16.—The Czechoslovak Republic will award the Order of St. Wenceslaus, the early Czech saint-martyr, in 1929 in honor of the thousandth anniversary of Wenceslaus' death, according to the official organ of Premier Benisek.

Belfast Bigotry Charge Repeated By Irish Bishop

(By N. C. W. C. News Service).
Dublin, Jan. 18.—The recent exposure of the disabilities of Catholics in Northern Ireland caused Bishop Gwynn, formerly a Member of the Irish Parliamentary Party, to make a public protest in England against Bishop Mackay's intervention. Mr. Gwynn's arguments on the matter were very curious. The bishop had pointed out among other things that there was not a single Catholic on the judicial bench of the Northeast. Regarding this fact, Mr. Gwynn made the remarkable statement: "Many of us think that a judge ought not to be chosen merely because he is a Catholic." Bishop Mackay has retorted: "I entirely agree, but I should like to add—many of us think that a judge ought not to be chosen merely because he is a Protestant."

At Mr. Gwynn's misunderstanding or misrepresentation of the purpose of the bishop's statement respecting the attitude of Belfast University toward Catholic philosophy, the prelate has taken occasion to reiterate the actual position for the information of the British public. For Catholic or Scholastic philosophy, the University authorities declined to appoint a professor and would only permit a lecturer. Furthermore, they refused to permit an Honorary Course in the subject. Assuming that the professorship was withheld solely on grounds of economy, the bishop is anxious to know why the Honorary Course was deleted and invited Mr. Gwynn to tell him.

Press Sunday Letter Sent To His Priests By Bishop McDevitt

Harrisburg, Pa., Jan. 18.—Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg, has sent to all members of his diocese the following letter in regard to Press Sunday: "Reverend and Dear Father: The National Catholic Welfare Conference, at a meeting in Washington, September 1924, adopted the following resolution: 'That the Sunday immediately preceding the Feast of the Epiphany be observed as Press Sunday by the clergy and laity of the Catholic Church.' The National Catholic Welfare Conference, at a meeting in Washington, September 1924, adopted the following resolution: 'That the Sunday immediately preceding the Feast of the Epiphany be observed as Press Sunday by the clergy and laity of the Catholic Church.'"

Every Irish bond invested abroad promotes immigration, because men follow finance. The key to successful industrial finance here in Ireland is nothing more than reasonable self-confidence. Our people have a fair share of money, and they must invest a decent proportion of it at home if they want to have national prosperity."

"The Catholic Press needs to serve the practical ends of all Catholics. It is to be an antidote against the false doctrine, and false religion that willfully or unwittingly intrude into the home through the pages of secular literature. It supplements the teaching of the school in assisting the Catholic parent and the other agency outside the school to do, namely, giving the Catholic point of view of all questions, breaking down prejudice among the enemies of religion, and encouraging and inspiring the faithful." (Pile)

"Assured that you will keep upon your people the true influence of the Catholic Press."

"Sincerely Yours in Christ,"

(Philip R. McDevitt, Bishop of Harrisburg)

Propagation Society Directors To Listen To Chinese Students

Cincinnati, Jan. 18.—The Propagation Society of the Catholic University of America in Washington will be one of the directors at the dinner of the Propagation Society for the Propagation of the Faith and heads of the Propagation Society of the United States, held January 21 at the Hotel Hamilton here.

Mr. Woo, who has been in the United States three years, received a degree of Bachelor of Science at Little Rock College, Ark., and is now taking a graduate course at the Catholic University.

Born in Long Chow, China, he received his elementary education at Long Chow and Canton, and attended Sacred Heart College, Canton. He is 27 years of age, considered one of the most brilliant Chinese scholars ever admitted to the University at Washington.

The second speaker of the program will be Rev. T. G. Gwynn, widely known missionary and the late Sir Gavin Duffy, former premier of Australia, who is touring the United States giving illustrated lectures in the missions in India. The third speaker will be Rev. R. W. St. John, a member of the Propagation Society, who is also a member of the Propagation Society of the United States.