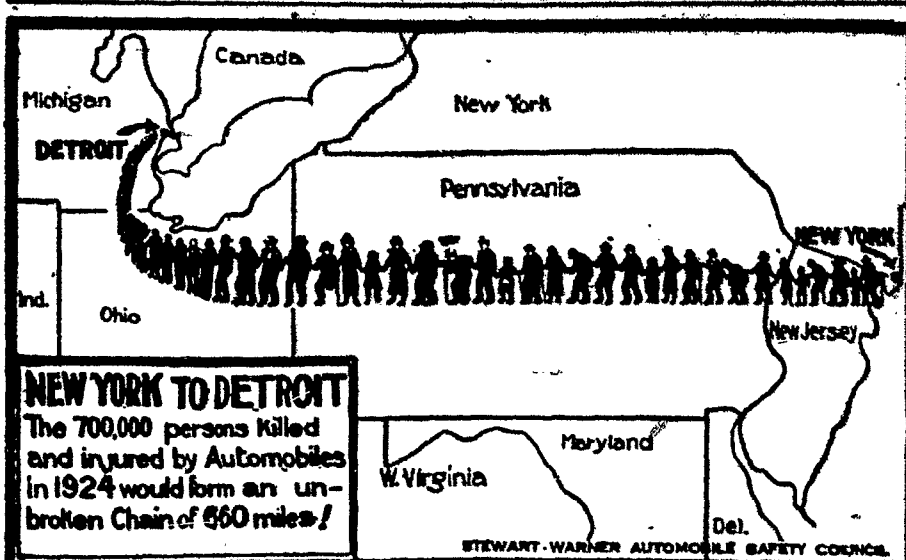


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Mexican Pilgrimage To Chicago Congress May Bring Thousands

Chicago, Feb. 10.—Several thousand Mexican Catholics will attend the twenty-eighth International Eucharistic Congress to be held here, June 20 to 24, according to information received at the Congress headquarters from Mexico City.

The pilgrimage will be headed by a number of distinguished prelates, including the Most Rev. Leopold Ruiz y Flores, Archbishop of Michoacan; the Most Rev. Francisco Croco y Jimenez, Archbishop of Guadalajara and the Most Rev. Juan Herrera y Pena, Archbishop of Monterey.

The Most Rev. Jose Mora del Rio, Archbishop of Mexico and primate of the Mexican Church, who was recently cited to appear before a government court following a clash with Mexican officials over ecclesiastical matters, has issued a statement of approval for the Congress urging all who can do so to join the Mexican pilgrimage to Chicago. The Archbishop's letter is as follows:

"We are still keeping in our hearts the vivid emotion caused by the imposing Eucharistic display our Catholic people made on the occasion of the first national Eucharist congress celebrated in Mexico, and our souls feel comforted anew with a magnificent demonstration of the steady development of Catholicism among all nations of the earth, attracted by divine grace as well as by the radiance of the Sacred Host.

"Next June, if it pleases Our Lord, an international Eucharistic Congress will be held in Chicago, and considering the fact that all arrangements are being conducted with fervent enthusiasm, it will no doubt result in being the greatest and most solemn homage rendered to the Blessed Sacrament. May it be so for the greater glory of the Church and the increase of faith.

"This country ought to be strongly represented in such a magnificent act of Christian faith, the transcendence of which shall be extraordinary. For this reason, we have willingly given our blessing to the plans submitted to us for our approval and advice, with the aim of organizing a pilgrimage of the Mexican Catholics to attend the Congress."

Jerusalem Observes Centenary Of Birth Of Card. Lavignerie

By Dr. Alexander Mombelli,
Jerusalem Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service.)

Jerusalem, Feb. 1.—The centenary of the birth of Cardinal Lavignerie, famed Apostle of Africa, was celebrated here with great solemnity during the past month. Prelates of several Rites in communion with Rome took part. Among those participating was the Very Rev. Paschal Robinson, O. F. M., formerly of the Catholic University of America and now Apostolic Visitor to Palestine.

The memorial services took place in the Greek-Catholic Seminary of St. Anna, founded by the late Cardinal forty-four years ago. This seminary has an interesting history. After the Crimean War some French Catholics in Jerusalem asked the Turkish Government to give them the Sanctuary of St. Anna, located on the traditional site of the home of the parents of the Blessed Virgin. The building had been restored by the Crusaders but in the thirteenth century was transformed into a Mohammedan theological school which had deteriorated and practically ceased to exist. The Turks gave the building to the French and in 1877 the French Government offered the building to the then Monsignor Lavignerie, Archbishop of Algiers, who had just founded the congregation of the White Fathers.

Foreseeing the dangers of secularism in France, Monsignor Lavignerie was glad to accept this opportunity to acquire a home to which his novitiate could be transferred if the need arose. A few years later the Greek-Melchite Patriarch suggested to the White Fathers that they use the building as a training school for Oriental boys studying for the priesthood. The establishment of the Seminary of St. Anna was the result of this suggestion and today most of the Melchite clergy consists of former students of this institution.

Move For New Irish Party By Opponents Of London Agreement

Dublin, Feb. 8.—Two vacancies in the Dail, one for County Dublin and the other for Leix-Oaly, are reviving political interest, as the electioneer has begun and the polling will be held before the end of the month. Government, Labor and Republican candidates are in the field.

At the same time efforts are seriously afoot to form a new party in the Dail, the prime movers being Mr. O'Malley T. D. and Professor Magor. T. D. who took the lead in the resistance in the Dail to the recent London Agreement, which amended the Anglo-Irish Treaty on the basis of leaving the North-East Boundary unchanged. The Republican Party has lately held long conferences in States held in Washington, Cardinal O'Connell, as Chairman, was asked the public statement was made and the delegates were pledged to secrecy.

Catholic Foreman's 70 Years With Big Company Rewarded

New York, February 9.—Several hundred members of the family of a great public utility honored John O'Connell, 87 years old, foreman of one of the large gas plants of the Consolidated Gas Company of New York who has just completed 70 years of service with the company, at a dinner held in the main dining room of the Company's building, Fifth Street and Irving Place, on Thursday evening.

In responding to demands for a speech, Mr. O'Connell gave what he said was his first public address. He outlined his duties as superintendent of the gas works and some of the many neighborhood activities incumbent upon him as one who was looked upon as a prominent personage in the "gas-house district."

Since Mr. O'Connell entered the employ of the gas company 70 years ago, he has seen 17 Presidents of the United States, he declared, of whom three—Presidents, Lincoln, Garfield and McKinley, were assassinated. All these years he lived a few doors from the gas plant at 21st Street and Avenue A, in this city, within walking distance of his work. He said that he was not a believer in vacations and has never taken one. He could be prevailed upon to take one. He told the audience that he had been for years a regular attendant every day of his life at the 8:30 morning Mass, at the Epiphany Church, in Second Avenue, and was one of the early promoters of St. Vincent de Paul's Society in this city. In making his accustomed nightly visits to those who are ill or incapacitated he always leaves his itinerary with his daughter, he declared, so that he may be reached by telephone or messenger at one of the houses he is visiting.

George B. Cortelyou, president of the Consolidated Gas Company, presented Mr. O'Connell with a purse containing gold commemorating each year of service with the company, and also a gold service badge.

Nun Who Was Friend Of Prisoners Dies At St. Louis, Aged 82

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
St. Louis, Feb. 12.—The funeral of Sister Mary of Mercy Brennan was held at St. Joseph's Convent of Mercy, Webster Groves, on Monday, the Rev. Thomas J. Lloyd officiating at the Mass of Requiem. Sister Mary of Mercy, a native of this city, was 82 years of age, of which nearly 61 years has been spent in religious life, as she entered her order March 24, 1865, the novitiate at that time being at Morgan and Twenty-Second streets, later the site of St. John's Hospital.

She made her profession in September, 1867, and taught in the parochial schools until 1876, when she was elected mother assistant. Later she became bursar, filling this office from 1885 to 1894, when she went to Eureka Springs, Ark., as superior of a new convent. In 1901 she returned to St. Louis and was superior at St. John's Hospital, where she devoted herself to works of mercy and established a school for nurses. After was particularly interested in the welfare of prisoners in the city jail, where she was instrumental in having a chaplain appointed for the celebration of Mass on Sunday. When a prisoner was condemned to die, she would visit him every day, consoling him and praying with him and teaching him how to gain merit by his sufferings. With her satchel filled with reading matter, rosaries and delicacies for her "boys" she was for years a well known figure as she trudged the streets. Infirmities of age finally obliged her to retire to the Motherhouse at Webster Groves.

Indulgence in Fasting
Received from Rome
By Card. O'Connell

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
Boston, Feb. 12.—Two indulgences concerning fasting and abstinence sought by the American hierarchy of the Roman Catholic Church from the authorities in Rome have been granted, it was set forth in a cablegram received by Cardinal O'Connell. One was the petition for the renewal of the indulgence for working people and their families during Lent. The other provides that during that period the law of abstinence be transferred from Saturdays to Wednesdays.

The renewal of the indulgence for working people means that to them and their families is permitted the use of flesh meat on all days of fasting and abstinence throughout the year, including Lent, except all Fridays, Ash-Wednesday, before noon on Holy Saturday and the eve of Christmas. The transference of abstinence from Saturdays to Wednesday means that those Catholics who are not exempt, instead of being required to abstain from meat on Saturdays in Lent are now required to abstain from meat on Wednesdays.

At the last meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States held in Washington, Cardinal O'Connell, as Chairman, was asked the public statement was made and the delegates were pledged to secrecy.

French Town Council Orders Removal Of Crosses In Streets

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

Paris, Feb. 8.—The little town of Villeneuve-sur-Yonne, in Burgundy, is all aflutter because of a resolution voted by its municipal council regarding crosses erected in public places. The municipal council, composed of a majority of politicians of advanced views, recently decided to have removed three crosses, one at the entrance to the cemetery, the other on the promenade and the third in the center of the stone bridge crossing the Yonne. The resolution was adopted by a vote of 14 to 7. The council members claimed that their intention was to relieve traffic, and likewise respect neutrality.

As soon as the vote became known, the people began to sign petitions protesting against the removal of the crosses. More than two-thirds of the adult population (exactly 763 men and 1028 women) signed the lists. A delegation was sent to make a protest to the prefect. The latter replied that the municipality was its own mistress in such matters but that he would advise that it use moderation.

But one night, some unknown persons sawed down the first two crosses. The committee of protest immediately brought a complaint before the court demanding that the vandals be sought. As for the cross on the bridge, an archeological society has requested the Ministry of Fine Arts to class it as a historical monument. This will be a permanent protection against the destructive projects of the municipal councilors.

New York Bar Pays Tribute To Cardinal, An Honorary Member

(By N. C. W. C. News Service.)
New York, Feb. 12.—Some of the nation's most prominent lawyers paid tribute to the late Cardinal Mercier of Belgium at special memorial exercises held by the New York City Bar Association here. The Cardinal was an honorary member of the Association.

William D. Guthrie opened the meeting by reading a memorial in which he told of the Cardinal's election to membership and recalled how, four years later, he had seen the membership certificate hanging on the wall of the archiepiscopal palace at Malines when he visited the Cardinal there.

"It was natural, indeed," Mr. Guthrie said, "that Cardinal Mercier should value highly the esteem of the American bar. The moral philosophy that he had taught at the University of Louvain for so many years embodied the essence of those fundamental principles which are the basis of all systems of jurisprudence."

Mr. Guthrie recalled the "immortal pastorals that the Cardinal during the German invasion addressed to the Belgian people and through them to the world."

"These pastorals," he said, "are now part of the evidences of international and municipal law, and among the classics of those fundamental juristic conceptions which should always govern the rights and duties of men and of nations."

A message from Charles D. Hughes, former Secretary of State, read:

"In the struggle which brought all the qualities of mind, character and heart to the severest test, Cardinal Mercier stood forth as humankind's noblest representative. More than anyone else I have known, he seemed to be the true saint—a militant saint—with the full armor of purity and righteousness and the flaming sword of justice—a saint canonized by the love and veneration of all mankind."

Another speaker was Louis Marshall, prominent Jewish leader, who said of the Cardinal:

"One beheld in him a symbol of spiritual elevation, of exalted patriotism, of fearlessness and courage, of a steadfast and unshakable belief in justice and righteousness, and the unflinching trust of a faithful servant of God."

"Though of an alien race and one of the princes of a great Church to which the majority of Americans do not belong, he gained the unbounded admiration of all those who, rising superior to ancient prejudices, esteem in their fellow-men those elemental and universal human qualities which betoken true worth."

Other speakers were: Charles H. Strong, and James Byrne, and messages were received from Henry W. Taft, Wilson M. Powell, and the Louisiana State Bar Association.

Divorce Suits Jump 25 Per Cent In Year In Cuyahoga County

(Cleveland, Feb. 8.—The number of divorce suits filed in Cuyahoga County of which this city is the seat, increased 25 per cent in 1924 over those of 1923, according to figures gathered from court records by The Cleveland Times.

The Times article setting forth these figures and related facts says: "Twenty-five per cent more divorce suits were filed in Cuyahoga County last year than in 1923. 'The increase in divorce suits jumped accordingly.'"

"Figures at the new court house show that more than 30 per cent of marriages result in divorce. 'Increase in number of divorces filed here was much greater in the last half of 1924 than the last half of 1923, reaching more than 30 per cent toward the close of the year.'"

"Clerks and other officials could only explain the great increase by saying that it is a part of the general increase in court cases. 'In 1924 the number of divorce suits totaled 1,734 and in 1923 they totaled 1,388, an increase of 2,500.'"

"County Clerk George A. Wallace said that a week ago 175 cases of all kinds were filed in common pleas court about one-fourth of which were petitions for divorce. 'While the population at Cleveland and Cuyahoga County has increased considerably in twelve months it has not been great enough to account for the 25 per cent jump in the number of divorce suits.'"

"In addition to the divorce suits, the Bureau of Domestic Relations handled hundreds of cases each quarter involving marital troubles which did not reach the divorce court but which resulted from unhappy marriages."

Prof. Fenwick To Talk To Calvert Club On International Peace

(Chicago, Feb. 11.—Professor Charles O. Fenwick of Loyola University, a recognized authority on international law and peace, will speak at the Calvert Club on the subject of international peace.

The Chicago Calvert Club is composed of the local members of the Calvert Association, the national membership organization which publishes the weekly magazine, "Commonwealth." The Chicago Calvert Club has been established since 1914 and has a large number of members. Professor Fenwick is Director of the Department of Social Action of the N. C. W. C. and Miss Rachel M. Moran of the same were instrumental in the formation of the Chicago Calvert Club.

Parishioners Build
Church Seating 500
In Their Spare Time

(London, Feb. 8.—A church built by the local Catholics men in their spare time, from materials salvaged in the demolition of an old house, was opened this week at Wandsworth near Manchester. The new church, St. Salford (Mr. Salford) was associated with the district of St. Salford, marked the inauguration of the church.

Men of the parish pulled down an old house, trimmed the brick, stone, cleared the site, and put up the foundations and put up the church, seating 500, in their spare time, under the personal direction of Father J. V. Murphy. Much of the work was done during the long evenings last summer.

The total cost to the parish of the large building, including the purchase of the site, was \$12,500.

Labor Men To Observe Anniversary Of Pope Leo XIII's Encyclical

(St. Paul, Minn., Feb. 11.—Minnesota Federation of Labor will hold three meetings at various places in the state in commemoration of the thirty-fifth anniversary of the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII. at the Condition of Labor. It was announced here this week.

St. Paul has been chosen for the chief meeting, which will be held May 16. The Rev. Joseph J. Busch, Bishop of St. Cloud, will announce the invocation. William Green, President of the American Federation of Labor, the Rev. John A. Ryan, Director of the Department of Social Action of the N. C. W. C. and the Rev. D. Harrington of the St. Paul church will speak. Dr. Harrington will be the author of "Catholicism, Labor and Communism."

A second meeting will be held at Minneapolis on May 17. The message of the encyclical will be read at this meeting.

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