

"Religious Art Days" In Paris Draw Large Number Of Exhibitors

By M. Massiani,
Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service.

Paris, Feb. 15.—For the fifth year the "Days of Religious Art" organized by the Cahiers Catholiques have been held here.

These days included a music day, with a solemn service in the church of Saint Eustache and a day devoted to the stage, at which the results of a competition which produced several valuable dramatic works were announced. An exchange of views also took place between the dramatic authors and the actors of the new Confraternity of Saint Genesius and the members of the association "Art and Faith" who spend their Sundays conveying religious instruction to the people in Paris and the provinces by means of appropriate theatrical productions.

Canon Bros, Superior of the college of Neun, in his report, explained how the arts and artists may aid the recruiting of vocations, inspiring love for the priesthood by representing it under its rightful aspect as the representative of divinity and by revealing to the masses the beauty of the ideal to which it is devoted.

A salon of religious art brought together for exhibition more than 250 works presented by 100 exhibitors. The works included paintings, statues, engravings, drawings, stained glass windows, church ornaments, altar pieces, gold vessels, etc. A large number of the works exposed were devoted to the Sacred Heart, for in the painting and sculpture branches the Salon had instituted a competition, the subject to be one of the verses of the liturgy of the Sacred Heart. The first prize was won by a woman, Mademoiselle Odette Bourgoin.

There was a large Polish section in the exhibit, to which the Poles living in Paris contributed.

Benedictine Monk, Once Head Of Abbey At Buckfast Is Dead

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

London, Feb. 16.—Dom Savinien Louismot, a French Benedictine monk who worked for thirteen years among Indian tribes in North America, died at Buckfast Abbey, Devon, aged 67 years.

Dom Louismot was professed at Plénequin, France, in 1877. Three years before an anti-clerical Government turned the religious orders adrift. Some members of the Community went to Ireland and others to the United States, where they founded the Sacred Heart Abbey in Oklahoma. On his ordination in 1882 he was sent to America, but at the end of thirteen years bad health compelled him to return.

For a brief period he was Superior at Buckfast and spent the rest of his life there. During the last two or three years he added to constant literary work the task of conducting visitors round the abbey church, which was built by the monks themselves. In this way he became known to many thousands of Catholics and non-Catholics, but he is even more widely known as an author of books on the mystical life.

Dom Louismot's last words were characteristic of him. When Extreme Unction had been administered, the dying monk said to the community assembled round his death bed: "God has been good to me—and His servants, too."

Transatlantic Flight From Ireland Called Off By Government

Dublin, Feb. 15.—General regret is felt at the unlooked for announcement that the transatlantic flight from Clifden, Galway County, to America is not to take place. One of the reasons given is that the experiment should receive more mature consideration, in view of the influence which it would have on the development of air traffic across the ocean. Aerial development on a big scale between Europe and America is regarded as one of the approaching certainties, and Ireland must be the natural gateway of such transit. Any blundering effort in the initial stage might only retard matters by dampening public zest.

Nevertheless Colonel Russell who was to have been one of the pilots does not conceal his disappointment. In consultation with noted aviators he had arranged most of the details and chosen the type of machine. The Free State authorities called a halt, partly for the reasons mentioned and partly on the ground of expense.

Jerusalem Patriarch Arrives In New York

New York, Feb. 17.—Monsignor Barlassina, Patriarch of Jerusalem, arrived in New York on the steamship "Paris." His Grace will spend some time in this country, visiting several of the larger centers.

Jerusalem is now quiet and peaceful under the mandate arrangement, and adding that the Church of the Holy Sepulchre has become more and more the gathering place for all Christian denominations.

American Priest Is Prominent At Mercier Funeral

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

Father Talbot, S. J., Calling At Sacristy To Ask For Press Privileges, Robbed With Cope And Placed In Procession Near King And Marshal London, Feb. 15.—Father F. X. Talbot, S. J., literary editor of "America", who has arrived here on a business visit, revealed today an extraordinary experience which befell him at Cardinal Mercier's funeral in Brussels.

Father Talbot was on his way to Europe and was a day out of Queens-town where he had arranged to land, when he heard by radio of Cardinal Mercier's death.

He promptly decided to attend the funeral and for that purpose to change the whole plan of his trip. He had his disembarkation papers altered and continued on the S. S. Celtic to Liverpool. There he got the first fast train to London to pick up an airplane for Brussels.

The Airplane from Croaydon-London's air port made a forced landing at Lympne just before the Channel was reached, and was held up for three hours. When another plane was got ready the only other passenger with Father Talbot was a London press photographer going to Brussels for funeral pictures.

Search For Press Pass. Arriving in Brussels a few hours before the state funeral, Father Talbot set about getting a press pass giving him facilities to view the church ceremonies. The police could give him no help, the American consulate was closed, and Father Talbot went to his Jesuit brethren for advice. They suggested he might go to the church sacristy, where the clergy were robing for the procession to the station to meet the body which was due from Malines.

As he stood in the sacristy someone came up behind and put a cope over Father Talbot's shoulders and someone else gave him a biretta.

Hardly realizing what had happened, he found himself among a group of clergy, similarly vested, who were forming in line. He marched through the streets of Brussels to the station and found that he was to be one of the ecclesiastical bodyguard around the bier on the return journey to the church of St. Gudule.

Marched With King. Part of the way the American priest was walking with the King of the Belgians and with Marshal Foch. Photographs of the scene outside St. Gudule's show him lined up with distinguished Belgian clergy as the coffin was received at the church door by Mgr. Micara, Papal Nuncio at Brussels.

Father Talbot is still trying to find an explanation of his remarkable good fortune. Officials for such large state affairs are usually chosen in advance, and the honors are not bestowed upon chance visitors. He thinks he must have been mistaken for someone else.

The distinguished Jesuit will leave here in a few days for Ireland.

Card. Mundelein Says Prohibition Is Political Issue

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

Chicago, Feb. 19.—Prohibition is not an issue with which the Catholic Church as a church is concerned, in the opinion of Cardinal Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago. The Cardinal's position was made known in a telegram from Daytona, Fla., where he is sojourning, given out through the Archdiocesan chancery office here.

"I have consistently declined to bring the Church or religion into political discussion where the interests of the Church are not directly concerned. From the very beginning I have regarded prohibition as a purely political issue, not affecting the Church nor the faith of its membership, which question has now reached an acute stage.

"Under the circumstances, I would naturally hesitate to impose my own opinion concerning prohibition on others, which opinion has about the same value as that of any other American citizen.

"I have always found that when the American people wanted something hard enough they were usually successful in getting it in the end.

"If the American people do not want prohibition, or want it in a modified form, there is a Congress as their servant, and if this Congress will not do their bidding let them get another Congress that will."

An editorial in the February issue of the "Extension Magazine", organ of the Catholic Church Extension Society, predicts repeal of the Volstead act, saying:

"The handwriting on the wall of public opinion proves conclusively that the Volstead Act will be repealed, as it should be, for the benefit of the common people of this country, who are being poisoned and driven to lawlessness by an act of the government that was conceived in bigotry, brought forth while our red-blooded men were absent in the trenches, and is surviving only through the efforts of paid lobbyists and intolerant propagandists, who would otherwise be out of a job."

Frenchwomen's League Protests Exhibition Of Anti-Catholic Film

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

Paris Feb. 15.—Strong protest has been aroused by the presentation in Paris of an immoral and anti-Catholic film called "Witchcraft Through the Ages". Viscountess de Velard, President of the Patriotic League of Frenchwomen, which has a membership of 750,000, has sent a letter of protest to the prefect of Police of Paris. This letter reads, in part, as follows:

"Not only is the first part of the film indecent but the second part, which aims to be documentary, is an odious travesty of historical truth. This part shows monks inflicting torture, with sadistic joy, on innocent victims who are merely suspected of witchcraft, whereas the most elementary notions of history prove that in the darkest days of the Inquisition the Church turned the guilty over to the secular arm.

"The film (Witchcraft Through the Ages) seeks to inspire a horror for Catholicism; it was conceived and executed in a spirit of hatred. It is impossible for us, as Catholics, not to protest with energy against such a production which denatures and derides the history of our religion.

"This film is Swedish; we cannot admit that Swedish Protestants should come to our country to insult the Catholic religion which is that of the majority of the French people.

"We protest strongly as Catholics, as Frenchwomen and as mothers, we ask that the film censors take our protest into account."

One of the Municipal Councilors has informed the prefect of police that he will interpellate him on the subject.

Soldiers' Prayers, Found In Shrine, Made Into Album

Petitions Addressed To Our Lady Of Loretto Collected And Published With Preface By Bishop Of Arras

(By M. Massiani,
Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, Feb. 16.—A curious album of documents relating to the war has just been published by a committee of Arras with a preface by Mgr. Julien, bishop of that city. It is a collection of prayers written by soldiers and officers. Its history is a touching one.

One morning in June, 1915, Major de Fossa, of an artillery regiment, was making a reconnaissance in the park of the Chateau de Noulette, not far from the famous shrine of Notre Dame de Lorette, in Arras, when he came across the mortuary chapel of the chateau. The door was wide open. The floor, as well as the tiny altar, was covered with scraps of paper and pebbles. At first the officer paid no attention to the litter, but there were little stacks of paper weighted down by pebbles, obviously to keep the wind from blowing them away. He then took them up and found that each scrap of paper bore a pencilled inscription.

They were prayers to Our Lady of Loretto, whose sanctuary, on the nearby plateau, was one of the most popular in the whole district before the war, but had already been entirely demolished. The messages had obviously been written in great haste and thrown in the chapel as their authors dashed by.

The chapel was being bombarded by the artillery and the pious messages were thus in danger of being scattered by the blast from the shells. So the major picked them up, wrapped them together and put them in a safer place, to which he later returned with the chaplain. By mutual agreement, in order to save them, they carried the letters to the Bishop of Arras.

Here are some of the letters which may be read in the album which has just been published:

A machine gunner, L. L. wrote: "Madame the Virgin—I am coming to you to ask you for the grace of insuring my return to my good parents and to her who occupies my thoughts."

Two of his comrades also wrote messages, and on the back of their slips L. L. added:

"Same prayer. May God watch over me and my comrades and my family, and I promise that someday I shall go to see the Virgin at Lourdes to reward her without fail."

An ordinary visiting card, bearing the name of M. V., an engineer of Chalons, said:

"I certainly had a narrow escape on October 12, 1914. Thanks to Our Lady of Lourdes."

Another letter, written in a large, laborious, childish hand, bore the simple words: "Julien, souvenir for Our Lady."

In his preface the Bishop of Arras points out that the album reveals to men of good faith what is the true soul of the men of the people when they are not playing the gallery:

"It is not a violation of the secret of consciences to have gathered these letters into this album. It is merely returning to the family of the faithful something that is their common property, that is to say the ancient faith of our fathers in Our Lord and Our Lady, ever ready to revive in hours of great peril."

Instruction League Unit For Cleveland Diocese Is Formed

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

Cleveland, Feb. 17.—A unit of the Catholic Instruction League was organized in the Cleveland diocese on Sunday night. Speakers were Bishop Joseph Schrembs, and Rev. John M. Lyons, S. J., of Chicago.

Bishop Schrembs appointed Rev. Peter A. O'Brien, S. J., of John Carroll University, Cleveland, spiritual director of the new unit. Other officers will be named later.

In their talks to the meeting Bishop Schrembs and Father Lyons outlined the need of such a body as the League proposes to put to work in the diocese. Many thousands of children of Catholic parents, it was explained, are not receiving education in their faith and in instances swell the large number of those who have fallen away from the faith. Lack of sufficient schools and of teachers was given by the Bishops as one of the reasons for this condition. He said that even if money were available to double the number of schools already in existence these could not be built because there would not be a sufficient number of Sisters to staff them. Young men and young women capable of serving as catechists will be enrolled in the League and will be trained to engage in this work in certain centers in this and other cities of the diocese.

Father Lyons told of the work of the League in other cities. Within a few days Bishop Schrembs said he would observe the fifteenth anniversary of his consecration as a Bishop and a little further on, he said, he would celebrate his thirty seventh year as a priest.

"I do not know how much longer God will permit me to live," the Bishop said, "but it would be one of the crowning events of my whole career if this diocesan unit of the Catholic Instruction League will get to work and strive to instill the principles of the faith into the minds and hearts of the many thousands of children who, under present conditions are deprived of that great privilege."

Card. Mercier Died A Martyr to Cause Of Christian Reunion

(By Rev. J. Van der Heyden,
Louvain Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Louvain, Feb. 15.—Cardinal Mercier died a martyr to the cause of reunion. This is revealed by a statement of his nephew, Charles Jean Mercier, Assistant Professor of Philosophy of Notre Dame University in the United States, who was with him in the weeks preceding his death. This was the statement:

"My uncle hastened his death by the burning desire of the last years of his life to bring about the reunion of the Anglican and of the Russian Orthodox Church with the Catholic Church. When, in spite of his eighty-six years, his principal collaborator, Lord Halifax, came to Brussels on January 21, it was at the request of the Cardinal himself, who felt anxious to have a last conference with him in connection with the Mechlin conversations of the spring 1925.

"The doctors had given warning; the fatigue to result from the meeting could not be fatal. Notwithstanding, the discussion was protracted several hours. Finally the Cardinal called in his secretary and dictated a long letter to the Archbishop of Canterbury. The contents of that letter have not been made public. Mass was then celebrated in the sick-room; Lord Halifax assisted at that Mass and the Cardinal received Holy Communion for the last time at the hands of the celebrant of the Mass.

"In the afternoon, seated in his bed, His Eminence himself corrected the letter dictated in the morning, changing a word here and there, to emphasize some expression or other; then, suddenly, the pencil fell from his hands, a purple thread of blood appeared upon his white and emaciated lips. . . . It was the beginning of the end."

Forty-eight hours later the Cardinal had given his precious soul to His Maker.

Drunkenness Arrests In English And U. S. Cities Compared

London, Feb. 15.—That Prohibition is not a blessing to the people of the United States, but brings about many infringements of the law, is the inference drawn by Father M. J. Haggarty, of Seaham Harbour, from a comparison of the figures of the convictions for drunkenness in American and English cities.

Replying to a toast at a dinner of the Seaham Harbour and District Licensed Victuallers' Association, Father Haggarty pointed out that while in Boston there were 39,000 cases of drunkenness in 1923, there were only 4,445 in Manchester and 5,319 in Liverpool during the same period. The populations of the cities are: Boston, 743,060; Liverpool, 803,118; Manchester, 730,551.

Alluding to the chances of Prohibition enforcement in England, Father Haggarty said he did not believe the nation at large wished to take away the liberty of the subject.

Catholic Hospital Association To Meet In Chicago June 14-18

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

Milwaukee, Feb. 19.—The eleventh annual convention of the Catholic Hospital Association will be held in Chicago from June 14 to 18, preceding the Twenty-eighth International Eucharistic Congress in that city June 20 to 24. It has been announced here by the Rev. Edward F. Garesche, S. J., editor of Hospital Progress, organ of the Association.

Monsignor Quille, who is the representative of His Eminence Cardinal Mundelein in the direction of the Eucharistic Congress, has cordially welcomed the convention to Chicago at this time, and the program of the Hospital Association will be closely modeled on that of the Eucharistic Congress. The general subject of the papers will be "Religion and Science". Leading Catholic Sisters, nurses and physicians from all over the world will be asked to attend the conferences. Invitations to persons in the various countries of Europe and South America are now being prepared.

All who attend the convention of the Association will be able to make reservations so as to remain in Chicago for the magnificent ceremonies of the Eucharistic Congress which will take place only a few days after the close of the convention. It is announced.

The International Catholic Guild of Nurses, which is constantly growing in numbers and centers, will hold its third annual convention at the same time as the Catholic Hospital Association and at the same place.

At the request of the Association, made through its President, the Rev. C. B. Moulmier, S. J., the Rev. William Agnew, S. J., president of Loyola University, has proffered the Association the use of the commodious gymnasium auditorium at the University, and other buildings. The church and auditorium of St. Ignace parish will be used for religious ceremonies and for the general meetings. The exhibits, which will give a comprehensive view of the best and most modern hospital publications, equipment and supplies, will be housed in the buildings of the University, where the sectional conferences also will be held.

It is expected that the convention of the Hospital Association and that of the Guild of Nurses will be the most notable occasions of the kind ever witnessed in hospital circles. The presence of many distinguished visitors and the excellence of the program, it is hoped, will attract a larger number of delegates and guests than ever before, while the Eucharistic Congress with its sublime ceremonies and immense multitudes of pilgrims will offer an additional reason for hospital workers, Sisters, doctors and nurses to attend.

Details of the program and plans will be given in Hospital Progress.

Church In Tangiers For French Catholic Population Is Opened

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

Tangiers, Feb. 12.—Negotiations undertaken by the French Government with the Vatican and the government of Spain to secure a national church for French Catholics distinct from the three Spanish parishes of the city having led to a successful conclusion, a modest building has been erected and has just been formally opened to worship. The new church is dedicated to Saint Joan of Arc.

Mgr. Cervera, Archbishop of Tangiers, presided at the opening ceremony which was attended by representatives of all the power represented in Tangiers.

Father Koehler, chaplain of the French colony, in his address, defined as follows the spirit which is to govern the religious activity in the new parish:

"Just as the four arms of the cross indicate the opposite points in space but meet at a central point, in the heart of Christ, so also may nations of varying tongues, customs and aims meet here in the heart of the Eucharistic Christ, the source of charity, prosperity and peace."

Russian Baroness Lectures On Reunion

New York, Feb.—Baroness Catherine de Hueck, a convert from the Russian Orthodox Church, is in this city lecturing upon her personal experiences during the Russian revolution and upon the question of reunion. Baroness de Hueck is a noted lecturer and linguist. She acted as nurse and interpreter during the World War, and for the past few years has lectured widely in Canada and upon the Chataqua circuit in the western United States. She is in New York under the auspices of the Catholic Union, a society for the reunion of the Orthodox churches with Rome, which has recently established its headquarters at 50 Union Square, this city. The Baroness has lectured with signal success at such representative institutions as Manhattanville College, Academy of the Sacred Heart, De La Salle Institute, Villa Maria, etc., and she has a full schedule arranged for the next two months, after which she will probably be available for dates in other places.

Secretary Of War Seeks To Improve Chaplains' Status

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

Washington, Feb. 19.—Changes in existing legislation have been recommended by Dwight F. Davis, Secretary of War, to give the Chief of the United States Army the pay and allowances of a Brigadier-General and to remove existing discriminations against chaplains as compared with officers in the other professional branches of the services in the matter of promotion.

Under the terms of legislation recommended by the Secretary of War to the House and Senate Committees on Military Affairs, chaplains would be advanced from first lieutenant to captaincies at the end of three years service instead of after five years; would become majors after twelve instead of after fourteen years service; lieutenant-colonels after twenty years, the present requirement; and colonels after twenty-six years service.

In his recommendation of his legislation Secretary Davis said:

"The living expenses and responsibilities of chaplains, call for the same pay as that of other officers with whom they are associated and in order to obtain and retain the class of men desired for this service it is felt that grade for grade, there should be no discrimination between this professional service and others; such a discrimination now exists."

Fr. Garesche Asked To Repeat Radio Talk On The Little Flower

Milwaukee, Feb. 19.—Father Garesche, S. J., has for some time been giving a series of radio talks over Station WHAD, conducted here jointly by Marquette University and the Milwaukee Journal. They have proved so popular that he is now starting a new series. Non-Catholics have evinced much interest.

Recently Father Garesche spoke on St. Teresa, the Little Flower of Jesus. He has now received an unusual request. It is from a non-Catholic, who asks that the talk of the Little Flower be repeated. He was so struck by the account of the life of the little nun, he says, that he would like to hear it again.

Father Garesche spoke first on scientific and historical facts as evidences of the providence of God. The series he is now starting is for young people. Station WHAD is so powerful that it can be heard as far as the eastern coast. Upon the completion of the present series of talks, it is proposed to publish them in book form.

Each Of 362 Priests Recovers One Franc Damages From Editor

La Rochelle, Feb. 13.—A favorable decision has been handed down by the court in the sensational suit brought by 362 priests of the diocese against the editor of a political paper, "La Defense Republicaine". The paper in question had published a defamatory article against a priest, without, however, mentioning him by name. The editor thus thought himself "secure against recriminations, complaints and lawsuits. But he had counted without the energy of the local clergy.

Since no particular priest was mentioned, each of the 362 priests of the diocese claimed that the article could be taken as a slur on him personally. They therefore united to bring suit against the editor of the paper.

The court has decided that the priests had the right to consider themselves injured. The editor was sentenced to pay a fine of 200 francs, to publish the sentence in several newspapers and to pay each of the plaintiffs one franc damages.

Dr. Emmitt's Gifts To Church Charities

New York, Feb. 20.—More than \$125,000 is bequeathed to Catholic charities in the will of Dr. John Duncan Emmitt, well known physician who died in 1923 in Morristown, N. J. The estate has just been appraised here.

Two thirds of the residuary estate, or \$50,000 is given to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith; a third, or \$25,000 to the Little Sisters of the Poor, and \$20,000 to the Sisters of the Divine Compassion. Another bequest, of \$20,000, is to revert, after use by its recipient until death, to the Little Sisters of the Assumption and the Dominican Sisters of the Congregation of St. Rose of Lima.

Bomb Exploded Next To Chicago Church Breaks Fine Windows

Chicago, Feb. 19.—A bomb exploded in a nearby Chinese laundry shattered valuable stained glass windows in the Church of Sancta Maria Inconsonata and alarmed the worshippers at six o'clock Mass Sunday morning. No one was injured. It is estimated that the total damage amounted to several thousand dollars.

The priest who was celebrating Mass when the explosion occurred, calmed the congregation and averted any disorder.