

In vain will you found missions and build schools, if you are not able to wield the offensive and defensive weapons of a loyal Catholic press.—Pope Pius X.

CATHOLIC JOURNAL

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The work of the Catholic press has been most worthy. They have been an effective auxiliary to the papal in spreading the faith.—Pope Benedict XV.

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(BY N. C. W. C. NEWS SERVICE)

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Religious Radio Station Rulings Are Forecast

Washington, April 14.—An announcement made here by Commissioner H. A. Bellows of the Federal Radio Commission that it is intended to extend "special consideration" to radio stations maintained for educational, religious and experimental purposes, may, it is understood, mean changes of some moment to the religious stations.

Asked what is meant by "special consideration," Commissioner Bellows first emphasized that no decision whatever has as yet been reached in the matter, and stated definitely that such consideration would not apply to the selection of those stations which are to receive permanent operating licenses.

He suggested that it might be made to apply to the power permitted the stations. For instance, he said, there is a possibility that a religious station might be held down to a comparatively low watt strength on week days, so as to give the purely entertainment establishments more freedom in the air, and permitted to use more power on Sundays for devotional and other programs.

It is evident that if this possibility, which the Commissioner admits, develops into a reality the "special consideration" will not be solely one-sided. As an example, a "religious" station now broadcasting regularly with four kilowatts power might be cut down to two, or possibly one, kilowatt, on week days, and be permitted to use its full four kilowatts on Sundays only.

As for the colleges, it is understood there is in the minds of some of the Radio Commissioners a similar procedure for them. That is, where they are broadcasting peculiarly valuable information—for instance, crop reports, which are sent out by many—there would be an inclination to give them the fullest use of the air possible at certain times, but to cut them down where several were broadcasting at the same time, possibly in the evenings when entertainment programs were heavy. In this regard, it has been suggested that the colleges might agree among themselves to divide up the time.

All of these matters, of course, remain to be thrashed out, and no definite decision has been reached on any of them.

Some undue alarm has been caused by the turning down of several stations' applications for temporary broadcasting permits. After April 24, such permits will be required for all stations to operate, under heavy penalties. The permits will in turn be replaced by permanent licenses when the Commission has solved the problem of what stations will be assigned to the limited air field available.

Station WEW of St. Louis University, Jesuit institution, was among those whose applicants were temporarily denied. Incidentally, the station was Station WHEP, which broadcasted anti-Catholic addresses from New York. The reason for denying these applications was merely that the stations involved asked to broadcast on "split kilocycle" frequencies, whereas the Commission has ruled that they must operate on frequencies in multiples of 10. The stations have been advised to reapply, conforming with this ruling.

Some other stations were denied licenses because they sought to broadcast on channels already assigned to Canadian stations. These may similarly reapply.

No Catholic station was included in the first group to be granted temporary licenses, but the Commission expects to announce new groups licensed regularly until all who have been operating under old Department of Commerce permits will be cared for.

Preacher Who Slew Priest Is Indicted On Vagrancy Charge

Birmingham, Ala., April 16.—The Rev. Edwin R. Stephenson, "marrying parson," who in 1921 was acquitted after having been tried on a charge of murdering Father Coyle, pastor of St. Paul's Catholic Church, is one of 40 persons indicted on charges of vagrancy by the grand jury. Stephenson and the Rev. William Castleberry, a negro preacher, are alleged to have solicited marriage license applicants for the right to marry them. It is alleged they earned their livelihoods in this way. Stephenson's trial for the alleged murder of Father Coyle was one of the most sensational the country has known. Father Coyle was shot and killed a few hours after he performed the marriage ceremony for Stephenson's daughter and a member of St. Paul's parish. Stephenson pleaded self defense. T. A. Lappage, who was a member of the jury which acquitted Stephenson, was foreman of the grand jury which indicted him a few days ago.

Catholic Center Established In Heart of Paris

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

Paris, April 11.—Cardinal Dubois this week blessed the new quarters of the Confederation of Professions and their tricolor which he himself hoisted to the balcony of the building on the boulevards which the Confederation is to use as a Catholic center. Here in the very heart of Paris, Catholics will have a place to come together and talk, and to meet foreign countries stopping in Paris.

Lectures in different languages will be given here, as well as concerts. Groups of Catholic artists will have a permanent exposition. Some of these groups have promised to decorate the rooms free of charge. There will shortly be a restaurant and an employment office in the building.

The creation of this Catholic center was undertaken by the French Confederation of Commercial, Industrial and Liberal Professions which, one might say, a union of employers. Christian workers have for some time been located in the House of Unions on the rue Cadet. Christian employers also wished to have their meeting place and hence the Catholic center has been created.

Mexico's War On Religion London Election Issue

London, April 11.—The Mexican persecution played a prominent part in a Parliamentary by-election here this week when evidence of the shooting of Mexican citizens was used to defeat the socialist candidate. The election was caused by the resignation of Dr. A. Raden.

Guest, a labor member sitting for North Southwark (London) who disagreed with his party's attitude on the China question and went again before the electorate as an independent constitutionalist. In the field against him were a socialist, G. Isaacs, and E. A. Strauss, Liberal.

There is a large Catholic vote in the division and Mr. Strauss reprinted for distribution among voters a photograph of the martyrs of Leon and showed that British labor is being used to support the Calles government. This is true to the extent that three British labor men were the guests last year of the CROM; that since their return they have whitewashed Calles and endeavored to blacken the Mexican Church, and that they are identified with the International Federation of Trade Unions of Amsterdam, which has pledged to Calles the support of European workers.

Mr. Strauss won the seat from the socialists. The photograph of the martyrs of Leon is also being used in a municipal election at Liverpool, where six official Catholic candidates are being run. Labor is putting up a fierce fight but the silent witness of the Leon martyrs will probably tell its tale.

So far no labor leader has made any effort to explain why British workers should support Calles. The propaganda of Calles is being printed in various labor journals up and down the country and the labor party has not yet disavowed those of its members who are responsible for the campaign.

Catholics here are taking a new interest in the subject since it has been shown that, with European labor giving the promise of its support to Calles, there is a very real domestic angle to the situation.

Messrs. Sheed and Ward published today a book which, entitled "The Mexican Reformation," seeks to supply background for the meager news reports which get into the daily newspapers. Its author is George Barnard.

Catholic Pupil Wins Literary Recognition

Cleveland, April 15.—Seventeen-year-old Mary Cummings, senior at St. Edward's Academy, sent her first literary effort to the magazine "Literary" some time ago. A few days ago Mary received a check for \$50 for it. The title of the story is "Violeta."

U. S. Catholic Gain In Year 604,574, Directory Shows

Kenedy's Official Publication Gives Church's Membership In 1926 As 19,483,296

Now 24,990 Priests

Pupils In 6995 Parochial Schools Number 2,167,241—Seminarians Increase

New York, April 15.—Substantial gains in the number of Catholics in the United States, in the number of priests, of churches and of schools, and in virtually every department of Catholic endeavor, are recounted in the 1927 edition of The Official Catholic Directory, which has just been published by J. P. Kenedy and Sons of New York.

According to the directory there are now 19,483,296 Catholics in the United States. This is an increase of 604,574 over the 1926 membership recorded by the volume, and although 103,100 of the number are accounted for by the inclusion in the General Summary of the Hawaiian Islands, the gain still remains large.

There are now 24,990 priests serving 17,651 churches. This is a gain of 838 priests, and an increase of 271 churches. There are now 6,995 parochial schools in the United States, an increase over last year of 176, and the number of pupils attending these schools is now 2,167,241, a gain of 94,775. There has been a substantial increase in the number of seminarians. There are now 13,988 as against 12,595 last year. This is a gain of 1,393, an indication that vocations to the priesthood are on the increase rather than on the decrease.

The number of orphans in orphan asylums is somewhat less than it was last year. There are now 128 Homes for the Aged as against 117 listed in the 1926 Official Catholic Directory, and 613 hospitals are listed in the 1927 edition.

There are 17 archbishops and 99 bishops, making a total of 116 in the Hierarchy of the United States.

Improvements In Directory. The 1927 Official Catholic Directory has been improved in a dozen respects over the 1926 book, both in its contents and in its typographical appearance and ease of use. These improvements have undoubtedly made it one of the finest volumes of its kind printed. The pages are considerably increased in size and the bulk of the book is considerably lessened, making both for better appearance and usability.

In addition, the text matter has been increased and several new and important features are included. Chief among them is a map in color showing the Provinces of the United States and the limits of each archdiocese and diocese.

There are included, as well, in this edition for the first time, statistics of converts throughout the country. While several of the larger Church divisions did not report the number of their converts for this, the first summary, even with these omissions the total reaches 35,751. It is expected that next year complete data in this respect will be available.

Another feature of interest is the inclusion of data regarding the diocesan agencies of Catholic charities in the United States. This information is grouped under the various States. Data concerning mission activities in the country have been rearranged, and the missionary communities are now listed separately and the missionary aid societies grouped together, both under the general heading Home Missions and Foreign Missions. Much data also are given on the foreign missions conducted by the various Orders and societies in the United States.

Still another feature which is new for this year is the inclusion of statistics on hospitals.

Paris Church Robbers Risk Electric Shock

Paris, April 11.—On account of the numerous church robberies within the last few weeks several priests have had powerful electric circuits installed in the tabernacles, chest and boxes which contain precious articles, vessels, and ornaments. Besides causing a bell to sound, the robber will receive a severe electric shock for which the pastor will not be responsible for he has posted a notice to the effect that the danger exists when the church is closed.

Communion Refused By Catholic Priest To An Anglican

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

London, April 11.—Notifying the strange demeanor of a well-dressed woman who had approached the altar-rails for Communion, a priest here asked her "Are you a Catholic?" She replied that she was a member of the Church of England and, of course, Communion was refused.

This fact was revealed here this week in a letter from a priest published in the "Westminster Cathedral Chronicle." The priest's name is not given but the letter was written to Cardinal Bourne as a commentary on an outspoken passage in his recent pastoral in which he told non-Catholics that it was dishonorable to attempt to receive the Church's Sacraments without first formally submitting to Catholic authority.

In his pastoral the Cardinal said that non-Catholics were welcomed at Catholic services, but he made it clear that any attempt to receive the Sacraments would be "in the highest degree dishonorable."

The priest's evidence tends to show that Cardinal Bourne's statement was a protest against a growing practice. It is not suggested that any disrespect is meant to be shown by Anglicans who approach the altar-rails, and probably go to confession, in Catholic churches. It is simply due to their lack of ability to understand the Catholic position, being misled by those of their clergy who ape Catholic ceremonies and styles.

Cleric's Seized Villa Cause of Novel Suit

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

Paris, April 11.—An unusual case has just been tried before the Court of Appeals of Bordeaux in which refusal to pay rent was based on the fact that the villa had been taken from a Catholic cleric, M. Drouyn, who rented the villa in Arachon for a two months' vacation, made the following plea:

"I learned, after signing the agreement, that the villa was formerly a rectory, of which the Cure was dispossessed at the time of the Separation. I am a Catholic. I know that if I make use of the property taken unjustly from the Church, I incur the censure of religious authority. If I had been informed of the true origin of the villa offered me, I would not have signed the lease."

The Court of Appeals did not accept M. Drouyn's argument, declaring that the civil law cannot recognize and support the theory that former Church property is unavailable. This theory would interfere with the application of certain laws. It does not believe, moreover, that M. Leroy in offering his villa to M. Drouyn without telling him of its origin, made use of a reprehensible maneuver; he was not obliged to inquire into the religion and the possible scruples of a tenant.

In the end, M. Drouyn was condemned to pay M. Leroy, 1,600 francs damages for bringing an unjustifiable suit.

Ft. Wayne Catholic Center Dedicated

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

Fort Wayne, Ind., April 14.—The million-dollar Catholic Community Center of this city, said to be the only institution of its kind in this country, will be dedicated with a program extending from April 21 to 24.

The Rt. Rev. John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, will bless the building on the morning of April 21 and that afternoon Senator David I. Walsh of Massachusetts will deliver the principal address at the formal dedication. Charles M. Nizer, president of the Center, will preside at this ceremony and Mayor William C. Geake and Bishop Noll will speak.

At a civic banquet to be held in the auditorium that evening, the speakers will include Robert Koerber, vice-president of the local Y. M. C. A.; the Rev. Louis Rocco, president of the Ministerial Association; Rabbi Samuel Markowitz of the local Jewish synagogue, Emanuel; Arthur Hall, president of the Lincoln National Life Insurance Company; Senator Walsh and Bishop Noll. The afternoon and evening programs will be broadcast.

Kayle K. Rodine, Director of Athletics at the University of Notre Dame, will speak at the formal opening of the grandstand and stadium on Saturday evening.

World War Quota Far Exceeded By U. S. Catholics

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

Washington, April 15.—Catholics of the United States furnished approximately 100 per cent more than their mathematical quota of their country's Army and Navy during the World War.

This has been indicated by J. J. Ryan, director of the Bureau of Historical Records. N. C. W. C. will be the findings resulting from the research being conducted by the bureau with the cooperation of the bishops and pastor throughout the country. This participation will be shown by actual records, he said, with no attention paid to the vast number of instances wherein there is reason to believe a man, or group of men, in the Army or Navy, brought positive proof of the situation is lacking. Time record will be maintained, moreover, notwithstanding the absence of thousands of records from parishes in instances where it is impossible to get even a fair record.

There has, heretofore, been no official estimate of what the statistics being compiled by the Bureau of Historical Records will reveal. It comes now at a time when slightly more than half of the deaths in existence at the time of the war are "over the top" with their records, and when the Bureau is launching a determined effort to "bring in" as soon as possible all the outstanding files.

Fifty-four dioceses have reported. At the present time 54 of the 100 dioceses that were in existence during the World War are "over the top." "Over the top" means that the diocese has given very definite proof that it furnished more than its mathematical quota to the forces of this country during the World War.

Of the remaining 46 dioceses, 11 have given proof to date of having furnished more than 50 per cent of their quota and may "go over the top" any day. Seventeen have proved about 70 per cent of their quota already, while 14 dioceses have less than 50 per cent proved at the present time.

The total of American forces under arms during the World War was 4,660,312. Of these, 29,036 were from districts outside Continental United States. Thus 4,631,276 came from the 48 states and the District of Columbia. The Catholic population, as given by the Catholic Directory, was at that time 17,442,411, or 16.94 per cent of the national population. Upon this basis the mathematical quota for Catholics of the men under arms was 779,525.

The Bureau of Historical Records can at this moment produce definite proof of the service of 749,000 Catholics. Considering the rigorous examination of proof demanded by the Bureau and the fact that but 54 dioceses have some "over the top" this is considered a remarkable record. The care being exercised in the compilation of the records is illustrated by the case of one pastor who claimed that 575 of his parishioners were in the United States Army or Navy during the World War. The pastor, it seemed, had every indication for his estimate but lacked definite proof of all but 279 men. Only the 279 were enrolled.

It is expected that the Bureau's greatest difficulty will be encountered in the collection of the outstanding records. In many cases it has been pointed out by the pastors of the parishes yet to be heard from have been moved, while in a great many instances the various records, scattered within a parish belonged to a highly mobile group, and because of their constant shifting a definite check is almost impossible.

Help of Hierarchy. Members of the Hierarchy have displayed a keen interest in the efforts being made by the Bureau to "bring in" all the remaining dioceses. In a number of cases the Ordinary has either communicated with his pastors or authorized the Bureau to communicate with them setting forth the priest's earnest desire to have the records completed.

Catholic lay organizations throughout the country have taken an active interest in the work and are contributing in no small measure to the success of the drive. Notable among these instances are the help of the State Council of the Knights of Columbus in Kentucky, the Diocesan Conference of Catholic Women in Seattle, the Rochester Fourth Degree Assembly of the Knights of Columbus, the National Council of Catholic Men through action taken at the Cleveland convention, and the National Council of Catholic Women at Newark.

France Exempts Its High Schools From Business Tax

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

Paris, April 13.—The Chamber and Senate have recently passed a fiscal measure expressly exempting primary, secondary and higher schools from the volume of business tax. The measure was proposed by M. Champetier de Ribes, a Catholic deputy, and was immediately accepted by M. Poincare, Minister of Finance.

The tax on the volume of business is the most important and its least productive of all French taxes. It amounts to 2 per cent of the total amount of business transacted (whether profitable or not) by commercial houses, industrial companies and enterprises of all sorts. It brings in an average of six billion francs yearly.

Since the creation in 1920 of the application to private companies founded to open and maintain educational institutions has been considered with a decision in the matter, the agents of the public treasury were beginning to demand payment. Some of the Catholic colleges of Paris would have had to pay an amount of \$1,000,000. The bill just passed exempts all French from 31 to 40 million francs for Catholic education.

Straits Settlements New Commissioner Is a Catholic

London, April 11.—The new Commissioner of the Straits Settlements and F.M.S., Mr. Hugh Clifford, C.M.G., is a Catholic. At the time of his new appointment he was Governor of Ceylon, and he was one of the chief members of the administration of British India.

It is claimed for Mr. Hugh Clifford that he was the first Commissioner of the Straits Settlements and F.M.S. to be a Catholic. He is a member of the Roman Catholic Church and is a native of England. He was born in 1866 and has been a member of the House of Commons since 1905.

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Two War Destroyers French Churches Are Rebuilt and Opened

Paris, April 11.—Among the hundreds of churches destroyed in the northern and western provinces of France, two of the most beautiful and most important have been rebuilt and opened for worship.

By reason of its situation on the Marne, the church of St. Etienne de Reims was destroyed by shells in 1917. It was rebuilt by the French Government and opened for worship in 1923. The church of St. Etienne de Reims was destroyed by shells in 1917. It was rebuilt by the French Government and opened for worship in 1923.

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