

Solemn Ceremonies To Mark Charities Conference Opening

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Los Angeles, July 21.—Plans for the National Conference of Catholic Charities, to be held in Los Angeles September 4 to 8, took a new and even more impressive turn during the past week, when it was decided by the general executive committee to mark the opening night with a great religious demonstration at Loyola College, instead of the meeting at Hollywood Bowl, as originally planned.

As now outlined, this event on the evening of Sunday, September 4, is expected to be the greatest assemblage of Catholics ever witnessed in the West. There will be accommodations for 5,000 persons, to hear addresses by nationally known speakers, and at the conclusion participate in the solemn pontifical benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

A massive altar, with bronze pillars reaching fifty feet high, draped in the Papal colors, which has been used at Loyola College commencement, will be refurbished and enlarged for the great charities gathering. The platform fronting the altar will seat 1,000 persons, to include the visiting members of the hierarchy and priests, both regular and secular, clad in their respective habits.

The religious procession will start from the corridors of the college buildings, the whole colorful scene being illuminated by hundreds of Klieg lights, which have been offered by Hollywood motion picture firms. Adding to the impressiveness of the scene, will be the participation of members of the Fourth Degree of the Knights of Columbus from all parts of California, who will act as a guard of honor. The religious orders of the Diocese of Los Angeles and San Diego will attend, being seated in places reserved for them in the audience. Leading non-Catholics in the civic and social life of Southern California, including many city and state officials, have been invited to attend.

Besides an address by the Rt. Rev. Bishop John J. Cantwell, host to the Conference, who will speak on the social service work in his diocese, former Congressman Igoe of St. Louis, will deliver an address on "The Catholic Layman in Social Work." Another speaker of national prominence will have as his subject "The State and Social Service."

Special plans are being made to render the acoustics of the great outdoor meeting place as nearly perfect as possible, so that every person in the vast throng may hear every word spoken. During the evening the celebrated Smallman A Capella Choir of forty under the leadership of John Smallman, will sing. The music for the occasion will be especially impressive, with the united Catholic choirs of Los Angeles, together with the clergy, participating.

In deciding upon using Loyola College as the scene of the opening meeting, the committee on arrangements took into consideration the fact that its grounds accommodate twice as many as can be seated at Hollywood Bowl, and besides, and equally important, it presented an opportunity for a thoroughly Catholic demonstration, with all the glorious ceremony of the Church, on grounds dedicated to Catholic purposes.

Notre Dame Gives Twenty Diplomas In Boy Leadership

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Notre Dame, Ind., July 22.—The first session of the 10-day summer school in Boy Leadership conducted at the University of Notre Dame here has closed with the awarding of diplomas to 21 of the 38 students enrolled. The class included six priests from six many dioceses and Knights of Columbus from 11 states.

The speakers at the closing exercises included the Very Rev. Matthew Walsh, C.S.G., President of the University of Notre Dame; the Very Rev. William Cunningham, Joseph D. Becker, of the K. of C. Boy Life Bureau; A. L. Pierce, director of the school, and others.

Nurses Help Rescue Patients As Fire Menaces Hospital

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Milwaukee, Wis., July 23.—Without a semblance of disorder, the Sisters and nurses, assisted by the firemen, policemen and other helpers, rescued 132 patients, men, women, children and young babies, from St. Joseph's Hospital here a few days ago when a fire caused \$10,000 damage.

Despite the fact that the fire occurred at 7 in the evening, the patients were rescued without a hitch. The fire broke out in the building of the hospital, which was built in 1892. The fire was caused by a short circuit in the wiring of a new electric light fixture.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

Issued Weekly From the Publication Bureau, New Haven, Conn.

Mexican Prosperity Is Obregon Myth

The Wall Street Journal, issue of June 29th, in an editorial captioned "A Mexican Windbag," comments on the forthcoming presidential election, which finds Obregon prepared to roll himself back into power. The Journal practically concedes the election to General Obregon for the very good reason that he, and his friends, Calles, will be able to poll more bayonets than their rivals. Mexico being a democracy, the citizens will be permitted to cast ballots. Obregon being Obregon, there is no danger that the ballots will be counted. The Journal offers this interesting evidence of Mexican prosperity under the reign of Calles and his boss:

"The senior member (Obregon) felicitates himself on the past services of himself and his partner. If the Mexican people who are not in office cannot join in this they are indeed stiff-necked. The evidence of Mexican prosperity is all around them. There is a fundamental matter of foodstuffs. Production is far below what it was in 1910 when they had too much to eat. In its issue of April 10, 1927, Excelsior says there are, according to the Bureau of Statistics, 3,500,000 farmers where in 1910 there were 12,000,000. This it says, is because the property regime is being destroyed.

"The same newspaper April 10 speaks of the exodus of Mexican labor to the United States as a pressing problem. That may have something to do with unemployment. Oil production in 1926 was 90,000,000 barrels, a decrease of 25,000,000 in the year and 90,000,000 from 1921. For the first three months of 1927 petroleum taxes were \$2,653,000 in United States currency compared with \$4,590,000 a year ago."

Four Hearty Laughs

It may be argued that any time spent on the subjects of Senator J. Thomas Heflin of Alabama is time wasted. Our only defense for such waste of time is that one must have recreation. This noted statesman provides large gobs of recreation. He has been touring the country denouncing, at regular rates, the fendish machinations of Catholic Church. We offer the following choice comments to be read after dinner in the interest of good digestion.

"It will be many moons before Shelby will forget Tom Heflin, and years before they say of another speaker, 'He is as good as Heflin.' Said the Shelby: 'N. C. Star.'

Missionary First Oil Finder

The University of the State of New York and the New York State Oil Producers' association designed the bronze tablet on the monument which was unveiled near Cuba, N. Y. on July 23. The tablet bears in relief the figure of a Franciscan monk of the seventeenth century and of an Indian of the same period, in commemoration of the fact that Father d'Alon, a Franciscan missionary was the first white man to learn of the oil spring, which had from time immemorial been held in religious awe by the Indians of the lake country.

Noted Tenor Will Sing For Convention Guests

Howard Melaney, famed "singing fireman," will be one of the many entertainers who will lighten the hearts of delegates and visitors to the Supreme Convention at Portland, Oregon. Mr. Melaney's voice, which grew up in a locomotive cab, was discovered accidentally. His train pulled up at Miles City, Montana, and while Melaney was busily engaged in oiling the cups on the locomotive he poured out the melody of "Within the Garden of My Heart," unmindful that anyone was within hearing distance. He finished his labors and his song amid the applause of passengers who had surrounded the locomotive. This incident was the beginning of Melaney's triumph as a singer. Sometime later, he was invited to appear at a radio station and has since established a reputation as a broadcaster. His radio and concert engagements have carried him all over the country. Schumann, Mendelssohn and the quality of his voice has urged him to devote himself to further study.

Boys' Work

The first session of the 1927 Summer Schools for Boy Leadership at Notre Dame University closed on Friday evening with the awarding of Boy Life Bureau diplomas. President Walsh, Joseph Becker, field secretary of the Bureau, Fathers Schumann and Cunningham and Director of the School, Professor Pierce, spoke briefly on the duties of Catholic laymen to supply proper adult leadership for our boys. Brother Barnabas was present at most of the sessions and gave a number of lectures.

PATIENTS HONOR KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS WORKERS

Col. Gall D. Allen, commanding officer of the government hospital at Whipple, Arizona, stated that he had never seen such a demonstration on the part of the patients as that which occurred when he presented Fred W. Gegg, Knights of Columbus secretary, with a check for \$200 and a Knights of Columbus ring with a diamond setting, and Thomas Phillips, assistant Knights of Columbus secretary for the last eight months, with a ring similar to Mr. Gegg's as a gift from the patients. The gifts were designed to the appreciation the patients felt for the work of Mr. Gegg and Mr. Phillips.

Priests in Germany Using Motor Cars In Care of Souls

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Capitaine, (Cologne Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service). Cologne, July 18.—Germany is taking a page from America's book and beginning the use of automobiles in its care of souls. The motor vehicles are to be used in both the missions and the diocese.

The first priest to have an automobile under this new arrangement is Vicar Morsbach at Dessau-Alten. In whose district there are more than 40 villages and towns. The priest, who is called upon to deliver more than 20 religious lectures and instructions a week in these different colonies, frequently employed a bicycle in this work in the past. To him the automobile is expected to be a distinct assistance.

During the war it was impossible for the army chaplains to have contact with all of their troops, and Cologne Catholics hit upon the idea of furnishing two automobile chaplains. The Count Frederic von Spee, at one time an officer at Potsdam, but now canon of Cologne Cathedral, used one of these vehicles. The roads were too bad at that time, however, and the automobiles, having been found impractical under prevailing conditions, were sent back.

The use of automobiles in religious work has again come up for discussion and adoption. The plan was first worked out in what was at one time German territory in Southwest Africa. There Bishop Joseph Gutthardt, Apostolic Vicar of Windhoek, contributed 14,000 marks, 4,000 of which went to the construction of a steam-engineered Plus XI, and 1,000 for an automobile. To insure maintenance, he sent to all the inhabitants of the woods and desert country.

Buenos Aires Daily Retracts Insulting Article On B. Virgin

Buenos Aires July 18.—How the editor of Nacion, a leading secular daily here made amendments to Catholics for "gross insults" to the Blessed Virgin contained in an article which the paper published under the heading "La Madre de Jesus," is related in the Informative Bulletin of the Argentine League of Catholic Women.

Mme. Adam, Convert To Church, Honored By French Academy

Paris, July 18.—Mme. Juliette Adam, who recently published a novel "Chretienne," in which she makes her conversion and which she presents as a corrective for the sensational novel of her youth, "Paganisme" ("Paganism") has received the prize of the French Academy for her works as a whole.

Bathing of Sexes In Common Banned

Munich, July 18.—By order of the ecclesiastical authorities of Munich, the Catholics of Ingolstadt are forbidden to patronize the community bath there. No other reason for the prohibition is given than the statement that it is sinful for persons of both sexes to bathe in the same waters. No mention is made of nearly bathing attire.

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Boys' Summer Camp Largely Attended Provo, Utah, July 19.—Caryap Glass, summer camp for Catholic boys, the Rev. J. S. Keeffe director, opened the season with the largest enrollment in its history. The camp is situated in one of the most beautiful spots in Provo canyon. It is sponsored by the Catholic Men's Club of Salt Lake City, and is opened for a period of six weeks each summer.

Mother of Fr. Finn, Writer of Stories, Dead At Age of 92 (By N. C. W. C. News Service) St. Louis, Mo., July 19.—Announcement was made here today of the death here last Monday of Mrs. Mary J. Finn, widow of the late John Finn and mother of the Rev. Francis J. Finn, S. J., author of widely known juvenile stories. She was 92 years old. The funeral services will be conducted at St. Rose's church. Father Finn will celebrate the Requiem Mass. Bural will be in Calvary cemetery. Besides her sons, Father Finn and Louis Finn, Mrs. Finn is survived by a daughter, Miss Teresa Finn of St. Louis.