

Change of Attitude on Church Question in Mexico Indicated

In Presence of Calles and Obregon, Dr. Pulg, Government Spokesman, Denies Intent to Tear 'Religion of Ancestors' From Mexican Hearts

RAISES CATHOLIC TRADITION

Mexico City, April 16.—A new Government pronouncement on the religious question in Mexico, to which much significance is being attached here, was made at Celaya Sunday by an official spokesman of President Calles, and in the presence of both Calles and General Obregon, at present sole candidate to succeed to the Presidency of Mexico.

In this pronouncement, it was denied that the Mexican Government "wants to erase the religion which was bequeathed to us by our ancestors" or that the Government is "trying to tear from Mexican hearts the beliefs which they have held for many centuries back."

Moreover, the statue of the Virgin of Guadalupe at the national Mexican shrine was referred to as "that divine image which is cherished in the hearts of all good Mexicans."

Perhaps even more significant than what it left unsaid. Previously every Government statement on the religious question, whether in defense or attack, contained, somewhere, sweeping charges against the Catholic hierarchy and vigorous declarations that the Bishops must yield to the Government. In the present pronouncement, for the first time, not a single word in this vein appears.

Pulg-Casuarine Mouthpiece.

Dr. Manuel Pulg-Casuarine, Calles' Minister of Education, was chosen as his mouthpiece. He spoke in reply to the State Governor's address of welcome to President Calles, General Obregon and their party, who had gone to Celaya for the annual Spring celebrations and observance of the anniversary of the death of Calles, where the Mexican Revolutionary cause was finally won.

Dr. Pulg declared that the Revolution has now "definitely triumphed," and added that it has neither hatred nor rancor on its banners. Then, referring to the religious question, he said:

"And this revolution which has been converted into a Government is completely respectful of religious beliefs. It is absolutely false that it is trying to tear from Mexican hearts the beliefs which they have held for many centuries back.

It is false, completely, that it wants to erase the religion which was bequeathed to us by our ancestors, and still less that it is trying to cause to disappear the tradition of the Virgin of Guadalupe, that divine image which is like an infinite tongue of betterment."

Significant Phrase Used.

"There have been previous Government pronouncements in which it was denied that a 'religious question' exists in Mexico or that the Calles Government is persecuting religion. But never before under Calles has a Government statement used such appreciative terms in referring to the Catholic Church in Mexico. 'The religion bequeathed to us by our ancestors' is a wholly new and notably fervent way for the Government to defend it."

Indeed, it is not so long ago that every official effort was being made to tear a schismatic church in Mexico and to tear Mexican Catholics from their ancient religious allegiance, and that tempting offers were being dangled before priests to renounce their Church. It is not many months since Dr. Pulg's own first assistant, Under Secretary of Education Saenz, was declaring in speeches in the United States that Mexico was evolving a "new Christianity," and Dr. Pulg himself has been an apostle before the people of the United States for Calles' anti-church policy.

Added significance is seen in the fact that Dr. Pulg is regarded as a close friend of General Obregon. The present visit of Calles and the General as companions to Celaya, the scene of one of Obregon's greatest military triumphs, has been taken to mean that harmony now exists between the President and his most probable successor, after a period in which there were many reports of friction. Thus the pronouncement is seen as not only a direct statement of Calles' present view, but one in which Obregon concurs, since it was made by his friend, and with Calles by his side.

Thought Preface to Peace-Offer. Whether or not the optimistic attitude is warranted, there are many here in the Capital who see in this annual statement a possible prelude to an extension of the olive branch in the religious controversy. Some even point out that Calles, should he actually be inclined toward peace, is now in a position where he could announce that, the harsh days of revolutionary necessity now being past, it is possible to relax the stringent religious laws.

Practical observers here advance many reasons why it would be convenient for Calles to effect religious peace in Mexico. The oil question

Bogus Priest Given Sentence To Prison By N. Y. City Court

New York, April 14.—James Kelly, alias John McCloskey, charged with having collected alms from parishioners of St. Patrick's cathedral while posing as a Catholic priest, was convicted of petty larceny and sentenced in Special Sessions Court here, yesterday, to serve from six months to three years in the penitentiary.

Appearing as representative of Cardinal Hayes, the Rev. John Quinn of the cathedral told the court that Kelly was an impostor. Probation Officer Jacob Lichter also testified that the defendant had been getting money from Catholics for nearly ten years by posing as a priest and showing a Catholic magazine containing a group of pictures of the Paulist Fathers, one of whom closely resembled himself. Kelly, Lichter said, also carried letters, purporting to indorse his activities, from Cardinal Hayes's offices. He also wore clerical garb, Lichter said.

Kelly was found guilty on the specific charge of having taken \$5 from Mrs. Marie Robbins, after promising to have Mass said for her dead mother.

Lichter's report shows Kelly, under various names, was convicted and sentenced five times in New Jersey, Brooklyn and Manhattan for petty larceny, disorderly conduct, soliciting alms and other offenses.

Detective Irving Fry, who trailed Kelly and arrested him, said the prisoner admitted his record and several other misdemeanors not listed.

Seton Hill College Students Organize New Evidence Guild

Greensburg, Pa., April 17.—A new organization called the Church Evidence Guild has been founded among the students of the upper classes of Seton Hill College here. It is believed here that this organization is the first of its kind ever to be established in an American Catholic college.

"In this age," says the Setonian college paper, in commenting upon the new organization, "religion has become a current topic of conversation in politics, in the professions, in society. It is imperative, then, that the Catholic college student be qualified to present triumphantly the dogmatic truths of the creed and the professions. The Church Evidence Guild offers opportunity for such qualification. It will function as a laboratory in which upper classmen will prepare to defend the Catholic position. From this laboratory the Guild members will go forth to engage in active teaching of an apologetic nature. The field of action, for the present, is St. Joseph's Academy and the freshman section of Seton Hill College. Not only will the Guild member teach apologetics, but she must be willing to furnish instructive articles for the columns of the school journal."

Forty students already have enrolled in the Guild.

Pictures of Chinese Martyrs For Native Homes Being Made

Peking, China, April 1.—Bishop Sun, C. M., Chinese bishop of the Prefecture Apostolic of Hsinan in Chili Province, is having holy pictures made in Chinese style to represent incidents in the lives of native martyrs. Chinese Catholics know little of their own martyrs, and many still think that the martyrology contains only the names of saints of the white race. The Apostle Delegate to China, Archbishop Costantini, who desires the development of a Chinese Catholic art, has urged the making of the pictures.

It is a Chinese custom to decorate the walls of the dwelling with cheap pictures, which are changed every New Year's day. Henceforth, the Catholics will have their own pictures for all visitors to see and it is thought not unlikely that a good number of pagans will also paste up the Catholic pictures and their explanatory text. This is a new form of apostolate.

Now seems settled, they point out, and the land question involving compensation of owners for property seized in the pre-constitutional days, apparently is in a fair way to be solved. Thus there remains only one major question in Mexico today which is neither settled nor on the way to solution, and that is the religious question. It would be logical, say the commentators here, for Calles now to set himself to the removal of this last and most formidable obstacle to peace and progress.

It likewise has been commented upon that the present pronouncement seems to represent a considerable advance in the thought of Calles and Obregon in the religious controversy. It is remembered that only recently there was published in a New York paper an interview with Calles in which the old accusations against the Catholic clergy were repeated with such persistence that Bishop Diaz, secretary of the Mexican Episcopate, issued a counter-statement denying them. Now, however, in a pronouncement in Mexico itself all such charges are omitted.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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Supreme Convention Will Be Held at Cleveland

It was voted at the meeting of the Supreme Board, in Boston, that the Supreme Convention be held this year at Cleveland, Ohio, August 21, 22 and 23. Representatives of Louisville, Ky., Atlantic City, N. J., and West Baden, Indiana, also addressed the Board and asked that the convention be brought to their cities. The next meeting of the Supreme Board will be at Chicago, June 30 and July 1.

Excellent reports were made on the progress of the Selective Membership Extension program. Figures submitted showed that more than 3,000,000 pieces of literature, issued by the Supreme Office in connection with the membership program, had been requisitioned by subordinate Councils during the months of January, February and March.

New Council at Bessemer, Alabama. It was said that it would be impossible to put a Council of the Knights of Columbus in the city of Bessemer, Alabama. Nevertheless, Bessemer Council, No. 2031, was recently instituted there with 27 associate and 33 insurance members. Brother J. D. O'Gara is Grand Knight of Alabama's baby Council. May the infant grow and grow.

"Are You There, Moriarty?"

Many of us are acquainted with the gentle game called "Are You There, Moriarty?" But for the benefit of those whose lives have not been brightened by this little pastime, we will sketch the rules of the game.

The two players are blindfolded and armed with paper clubs. They are then placed on their hands and knees, fairly close to each other. One says, "Are you there, Moriarty?" The other, if he is an experienced athlete, says nothing at all, but swings his paper club in the direction of the voice. But if he is a good sport, he says, "Yes," or "No," or "Who cares?" Then the club swinging becomes general. The player who first wears out his weapon wins—or maybe he loses. We forget.

All of which is a long-winded way of saying that the News Sheet is wondering where all the Councils are and what they are doing. In the last 52 issues of the News Sheet there have been more than one hundred thousand words about the activities of Knights of Columbus Councils and the achievements of individual Knights.

Did any of these words mention your Council, or a member of your Council? The items that appear in the News Sheet are reprinted in more than three hundred Council papers. News sheets are posted on the bulletin boards of Council rooms everywhere.

The News Sheet gives your Council a chance to tell its story to every other Council in the Order. Take advantage of this opportunity to let your light shine by sending the News to the Publicity Bureau, P. O. Drawer 1670, New Haven, Conn.

St. Charles Council Jubilee

St. Charles Council, No. 753, Bellows Falls, Vermont, recently celebrated the 25th anniversary of its institution. The Council was organized in 1903 with 40 members, 31 of whom are still living. Dr. John T. Rudden, the first Grand Knight, has for many years been Master of the Fourth Degree in Vermont. The Council enjoys the distinction of having as members six men from one family. These are Brother Lionel Desroches and his sons Louis, Raymond, Charles, Benjamin and Theodore.

Interesting Trappist Booklet

The Trappist monks at New Melrose Abbey, Peosta, Iowa, have prepared a most interesting booklet containing a brief history of the Order and telling of the daily life of the Trappist. The monks desire to present every Council in the Order with a copy of "The Trappist Monk." Grand Knights who wish to take advantage of this opportunity to add an interesting and useful volume to the Council library, should write Very Rev. Bruno J. Ryan, New Melrose Abbey, Peosta, Iowa.

Om't July and October Insurance Assessments

The Supreme Board voted, on the recommendation of the consulting actuaries of the Order, that regular death benefit assessments for the months of July and October be omitted in the cases of all insured members on record on July 1st and October 1st, respectively.

Council Holds Spelling Bee

Oshkosh Council, No. 614, Oshkosh, Wisconsin, recently held its first spelling contest, open to pupils in the parochial schools of the city. The hall was filled to capacity for the event, which ended in a tie between two members of the St. Peter school team. These knew how to spell "liquor."

Supreme Knight Attends Massachusetts Dinner

Supreme Knight Carmody was a speaker at the Annual Patriot's Day dinner of the Massachusetts State Council, April 19, at Boston. More than nine hundred Knights from all parts of the state were present. Many more were unable to secure accommodations, so popular has this annual event become. The Knights were also addressed by Governor Elvan T. Fuller, Mayor Malcolm E. Nichols, of Boston, Graham McNamee, famous radio announcer, and United States Senator Sam Gilbert Britton, of New Mexico.

The Massachusetts State Council Convention will be held Tuesday, May 8, at Boston.

Monsignor Colin Chisholm Dies

Knights of Columbus, of Nova Scotia, mourn the death, on April 2, at Port Hood, of the Dean of the clergy of the Diocese of Antigonish, the Right Rev. Msgr. Colin Chisholm. Monsignor Chisholm was born at St. Andrew's, Antigonish County, November 26, 1840. He was ordained a priest in 1867. He was a life of edifying piety, of self sacrifice and unswerving devotion to duty. His influence for good was felt far beyond the bounds of his parish. St. Peter's Council, No. 2298, Port Hood, which had the honor of his membership, was in charge of funeral arrangements.

Economical, Safe, Prompt

The Supreme Secretary recently received a letter from the Grand Knight of a Quebec Council that brings to mind an additional feature of Knights of Columbus insurance—promptness in the payment of claims. The Grand Knight writes: "Owing to the quick attention given this claim and the promptness with which it was paid, I have taken four applications for insurance Membership totaling \$16,000. In addition, I have 23 applications from associate members for transfer to the insurance class."

California State Convention

The California State Council Convention will be held May 18 to May 25 at Hollywood. The session will open officially on May 20, when Bishop Cantwell will celebrate a Pontifical Mass in the Hollywood Bowl. His Grace Archbishop Hanna, of San Francisco, will deliver the sermon. In the afternoon Cabrillo Assembly will electify the Fourth Degree on more than 300 candidates. Supreme Director Thomas P. White, of Los Angeles, will be master of ceremonies at a banquet in the evening, which will be attended by more than 3,000 Knights.

Knight 17 Years, Absent Once

Brother Somdabough, of Wyandotte, Michigan, Council No. 1809, missed only two meetings of his Council in 12 years, and due notice of his absence was taken in the News Sheet, March 16. Now the Cincinnati Compass informs us that Brother William G. Chamberlain, of Cincinnati, can better that record. He has been absent from only one Council meeting in 17 years. There the record stands until we hear from some one who can top it. Don't be hasty!

Father Talbot Heads Guild

Rev. Francis X. Talbot, S. J., a regular contributor to the "Columbian," announces that a Catholic Literary Guild has been formed and is now awaiting the grant of a charter by the State of New York. The Guild will select books that Catholics should read and those that they might better leave unread. Funds necessary for the maintenance of the Guild have already been contributed by Catholic laymen.

Chalco Presented Maine Chaplain

Lewiston, Maine, Council No. 106, recently tendered a banquet to Right Rev. Msgr. M. C. McDonough and presented him with a beautiful chalice in appreciation of his many years of service as pastor of St. Patrick's Church and as State Chaplain of the Order. Grand Knight Roman J. Marcoux was in charge of the arrangements.

Benedict 50 Years, Knight 37

Mr. and Mrs. William H. Madden of Waterbury, Connecticut, celebrated on April 22 the golden anniversary of their wedding. Mr. Madden is an insurance member of Barcelona Council, No. 42, of Waterbury. He has been a member of the Order for thirty-seven years. The anniversary day began appropriately with a Mass of thanksgiving.

Club Can Serve 1,600 Diners

Recent installation of an auxiliary kitchen enables the New York C. Club Hotel to serve 1,600 people at one time. The Club also plans greatly to increase facilities for boys during the summer months.

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Hotel Man's Will Benefits Little Sisters of Poor (By N. C. W. C. News Service) New York, April 17.—The Little Sisters of the Poor of Detroit and Los Angeles are to share in the estate of the late Charles H. Ruhl, hotel operator, who died in Alhambra, Calif., on March 31, according to the will which was filed for probate in the Surrogate's Court here yesterday. Charities and schools scattered over the country will receive approximately \$1,000,000 from the estate.

St. Vincent College Exhibit of Pictures Opens on April 22 (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Beauty, Pa., April 19.—The annual exhibit of paintings at the art studio of St. Vincent College, here, will be opened to the public next Sunday. This exhibit is being conducted by the Rev. Benno Brink, O. S. B., who for years has been devoting himself exclusively to studies in art under the American masters. The Rev. Archabbot Aurelius, O. S. B., LL. D., president of St. Vincent College, is promoting the enterprise. Father Brink several years ago gave up his professorship at the college and began devoting all his efforts, time, and talents to the exclusive pursuit of painting. The success of his wide and deep studies is apparent in the present exhibit. The first of his mentors was the celebrated Rev. Raphael Plasterer, O. S. B., of St. Anselm Abbey, Manchester, N. H. From there he went to New York City where he became a pupil of George Bridgeman, and later also of Frank DuMont, both of the Students' Art League. Still later he had the good fortune to study with Michel Jacobs of the Metropolitan Art School. After a considerable time there he next turned his steps to the German mural decorator, Heinrich Nustgens, in Chicago, where he did extensive work in decorating churches. For the last two years he has been engaged exclusively in portrait painting with Edward F. Timmons of Chicago.

Fr. T. A. Haverstadt, 92 Years Old, Dies (By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dodgeville, Wis., April 16.—Funeral services for the Rev. Theodore Anton Haverstadt, nonagenarian chaplain at St. Joseph's hospital here, said to be the oldest priest in Wisconsin, were held on Friday, when a solemn Mass of requiem was celebrated in St. Joseph's church, with the Rev. John Feld, pastor of St. Mary's church, Fennimore, Wis. officiating. Eight priests participated. Father Haverstadt died several days ago.

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