

Crusade for Clean Movies Waged By German Catholics

By Dr. Frederic Funder (Vienna Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Vienna, May 1.—After watching the tide of motion picture fifth rise month after month until it had virtually crushed the protest of decent persons, the Catholics of both Austria and Germany have at last set to work on a comprehensive and wide-spread scale to halt this pollution.

In the mad dash for the money there is in the industry and the utter disregard for the moral issues involved, the pictures being turned out are menacing the virtue of the people. It is safe to say that 75 per cent of the plays shown on German and Austrian screens are composed of moral filth or dime-novel themes. Furthermore, the motion picture people have covered the public advertising boards with shameless posters which no other industry has ever dared to duplicate.

For years the Catholic Bishops have in vain insisted on motion picture reform and pleaded that this great industry be turned to the legitimate field of public education and proper diversion. But the industry has become more and more depraved. The German film output, which has now gained much prominence in European theatres, is worse and more injurious than that from America.

Catholic Associations Act. In Germany the Central Educational Committee of the Catholic Association of Germany, a very powerful body, has taken up the great problem of bringing the film industry to its senses and to decency. It is now establishing a working group for film reform.

Members of the Committee are the leaders of the big Catholic organizations, including film experts, critics, men of the arts and sciences and members of the clergy. The chairman of the film reform group is Heinrich Marschall of Cologne, Director of the Central Educational Committee. While the group has worked quietly thus far, it already has achieved important results.

In Austria there has been formed another group, the Union of Austrian Friends of the Film, with Eduard Heindl of the Christian Social party, a former Minister of the Government, as chairman. On the honorary committee are all the members of the Austrian Government, the Papal Nuncio, the non-Socialist heads of the Parliament, the chief of the Vienna police, Schober, and many prominent leaders in the arts and sciences.

This new Austrian group, while it intends to work to popularize proper films already on the market, has gone a step further and announced that it will produce its own motion pictures. In a proclamation just issued, it declares:

"Great dangers are threatening our cinema audiences through the unscrupulous speculation of mediocre producers whose products show demoralizing spectacles of a society as it exists only in the imagination of film managers. Disgusting erotics and trite sentimentalism are the main elements composing these monstrous, the evil effect of which is that classes are being alienated and antagonism heightened.

"What we want is to unite all those who have recognized the great inherent power of the film and wish to turn it to better purposes. At the same time, we are about to show to the public good films already in existence, and to produce good films of our own make. In place of the films that vilify, any feeling for the family and the State, we want to produce such works as are fit to enhance delight in the good and the beautiful."

Among the founders of the Union are bishops and abbots, the rectors of the Vienna high schools, the heads of large governmental institutions and the president of the Austrian National Bank. The Administrative Committee of the National Catholic Welfare Conference of the United States of America, is also on the list of founders.

Cardinal Piff's Appeal. Cardinal Piff of Vienna has made an impressive reference to the need for moral reawakening in Austria in an address which has been much quoted. He said:

"For ten years they have doctored and quacked poor sick Austria, but her distress has not been reduced. Does it not suggest itself that both the diagnosis of the doctors and the treatment of the patient were based on false suppositions?"

"The great mistake is that for ten years we regarded the Austrian question always as a purely economic, nay financial, one only, while in the first place it is a moral question, a question of moral regeneration, a question of moral renewal, of a moral resurrection of our whole Austrian nation.

"If with the help of God our country is to be saved, then our people must morally rise up from the dead. For a moral rising, however, great moral strength is required, which a nation will never be able to master if, entirely absorbed in earthly things, it has neglected its spiritual life. Only by turning its back, together with all its God, the very sense of duty."

Two Cripples Walk After Pilgrimage To Lourdes Shrine

London, April 28.—A crippled boy and a crippled girl who took part in the first British pilgrimage to Lourdes have returned here in an improved condition.

Both were born with deformities. The boy, now eight years old, could not walk at all when he went to the shrine four years ago. A year later, although his case seemed hopeless, he walked a few steps, and since then he has been making constant though very gradual progress.

On this occasion he was making a pilgrimage of thanksgiving. He made more marked progress during his four-day stay in Lourdes, and walked down some steps for the first time in his life. On the way home across the Channel, although still somewhat infirm, he was able to walk about the ship unaided.

The case of the girl is in one way more remarkable than the boy's, for not only has she never walked, but she has had no desire to do so. Nor did she want to go to Lourdes, and protested to her father and mother on the journey out. Her parents said they were not praying for a complete cure. All they wanted, they said, was that their daughter would get a desire to walk. Their prayers were answered.

Nothing happened for two days, but on the third day, after the opening blessing of the sick, there was a stir among the crowd, for the child in which the girl had been sitting was seen to be moving. It transpired that she had asked to be taken out. Two other pilgrims assisted her, and with their help she shuffled along a few steps.

Progress of Irish Education is Cited By Labor Leader

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, April 30.—Thomas Johnston, secretary of the Irish Labor Party, addressing the annual congress of the Irish National Teachers Association, here, gave figures to indicate the progress of education in Ireland since 1914.

"In 1913-1914," said Mr. Johnston, "the amount spent on education in Ireland was \$1,000,000. The amount last year was \$31,000,000. That is a definite, positive, advanced towards educational efficiency."

P. J. Quinn, now residing in Dublin but of Catholic Northern birth and education, was elected president of the Teachers Association, and E. Carragher of Portadown, vice-president for the coming year.

The congress was addressed by the Very Rev. Canon Cullen, president of the National Training College for Teachers, and by H. O'Donnell, a Catholic leader of the organization. Some criticism was made at the congress of the limited arrangements made by the Government of the National University, which are not considered to provide sufficient opportunity for national teachers to acquire university degrees.

Scotch Priest Dies Suddenly At Desk

London, April 28.—While writing a baptismal certificate, Father Richard Hogan, of St. Alexander's Church, Denny, Scotland, fell dead. He was found sitting at his desk at the presbytery.

Father Hogan was 55 years of age and had been a priest for just over 30 years. Among those at the requiem Mass this week was Archbishop Mackintosh of Glasgow, a school friend of the dead priest. Bishop Graham, Auxiliary of St. Andrews and Edinburgh, presided at the Mass.

Two New South Dakota Councils

State Deputy A. J. Gorman reports the institution of two new Councils in South Dakota. The first was instituted at Philip, in the western part of the State, on April 15, with a membership of 25 insurance and 20 Associate members. More than 200 Knights were present at the ceremonies and the banquet that followed. The new Council will be known as Philip Council, No. 2679. Brother Thomas Fennel is Grand Knight.

At Wagner, on April 20, Father DeSmet Council, No. 2676, was instituted with 32 insurance and 32 Associate members. Another initiation, to be held in the fall, is expected to raise the membership of this Council to about 50. Brother Roy J. Harney is Grand Knight.

New Class at Prairieville

Prairieville, Louisiana, Council No. 2657, initiated a class of 35 candidates on May 6. This was the fourth initiation held in the Third District of Louisiana since September, 1927. In the past nine months, 160 new members have been received in this district.

New Knights in July

Knightsnews, published by Montreal Council, No. 284, will celebrate the fifth anniversary of its birth by appearing in July with a larger and generally improved book. And that doesn't mean that it's any weaker among magazines this minute. The July issue has sixty pages.

KNIGHTS OF COLUMBUS

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

Champlain Council Cares for Deaf Mutes

Champlain Council, No. 1926, Ottawa, Canada, has come to the relief of a group of forty deaf mutes, who had hitherto been under the care of a few charitable persons. They had no fixed quarters, meeting only at the homes of their patrons. The Council provided a regular meeting place for them and is arranging to give them every possible help to overcome their handicap and cheer them on. Brother A. T. Farill, Warden of the Council, is an expert in the training of mutes. He has acted as instructor to the group for many years, teaching them the Catechism and otherwise promoting their welfare.

Atlantic City Council Has Rooms Open

Atlantic City Council, No. 405, opened its new \$800,000 hotel and Knights of Columbus home on May 1. The hotel contains 105 guest rooms, with and without bath, and is fireproof and thoroughly modern in every detail. It will be open to the traveling public, both men and women. The dining rooms and banquet halls are equipped to serve large social functions. Joseph J. Higgins is manager. He will be glad to hear from Knights planning a trip to the popular sea coast resort.

More Mexican Clippings

The Springfield, Mass., News, commenting editorially on the death of Archbishop Jose Maria Del Rio, said on April 23:

"Small wonder that the archbishop, advanced in years and of frail physical resources, succumbed. His declining years were painfully saddened by the knowledge that his compatriots in the church and the faithful laymen who resided the tyranny of Calles and his crew have been tortured and slain right and left under circumstances that must have made his blood boil. As time has gone on the conditions in Mexico as regards religious freedom have grown worse instead of becoming even slightly better.

"There has been hope that the Calles regime would sooner or later see the futility of continuing its iron handed course in the effort to make religion a tool of the state. We heard much of the 'good will' that was supposed to have been engendered by the visit of Lindbergh to Mexico. It was hoped that this visit and all that went with it would soften the heart of the Calles tyrants in more ways than one. But it appears that the only softening of the Mexican heart that has occurred was the exercise of more tolerance toward the owners of valuable concessions."

Dispatches from Mexico City, on April 27, hinted at an agreement about to be arrived at between Calles and the Church in Mexico. Further dispatches, on April 29, from the same place, announced five more Calles decrees confiscating Catholic Church property. This property will be converted into Government Public Schools, which will be exhibited to traveling American divines and journalists as evidence of Mexico's cultural advance under Calles.

Knights Stand Alone

Of the five largest men's fraternal benefit societies operating in the United States and Canada, the Knights of Columbus is the only society that made a net gain in the amount of insurance in force during 1927. Our insurance members know the reason.

Charter Members at Jubilee

Twenty-three charter members answered the roll call at the recent Silver Jubilee celebration of Oxnard, California, Council No. 750. The banquet was attended by more than 300, including many past and present officers of the Order. Messages of congratulation and felicitation were received from Archbishop Hanna and Bishop Cantwell.

Fourth Degree at Augusta

Seventy-five candidates from a dozen cities in three states were received into the Fourth Degree, on April 15, at Augusta, Georgia. The Degree was conferred under the direction of Richard Magill, Master of the Fourth Degree for the Carolinas and Georgia, and under the auspices of Patrick Walsh Assembly of Augusta.

Initiates 70 New Members

Knickerbocker Council, No. 221, New York City, has started its Selective Membership Extension program by receiving seventy new members into its ranks during the first quarter of this year. A First Degree was held on March 8 for fifty-five candidates. There was a First and Second Degree on April 2, and on Monday evening, May 7, the entire class of seventy received the honors of the Third Degree at the K. of C. Club Hotel.

Council Paper Persecuted in Baton Rouge

Last October, Baton Rouge, Louisiana, Council No. 969, began to publish a monthly paper called The Baton Rougean. It was, and is a good Council paper. It is the only paper published in Baton Rouge under Catholic auspices. It enjoyed the generous support of the business houses of the city in its advertising columns. The prospects of its increasing success were so bright that the attention of the Retail Credit Merchants' Association was attracted. For some reason, known only to itself, that body refused to permit its members to continue to advertise in the Baton Rougean. There was no complaint on the part of the advertisers who were spending their money for space each month. They were satisfied with their treatment and with the results of their advertising. But they were forced by the Association to cancel their contracts. No adequate explanation has come from the Association setting forth its reasons for depriving the only Catholic publication in the city of the revenue it needs for its existence. In the absence of such explanation, we are forced to assume that the Association does not want a Catholic paper in the city. And that is a very poor advertising for Baton Rouge. We hope it does not truly reflect the attitude of the city toward things Catholic. The Baton Rougean, needless to say, continues to carry on.

Have You Seen This Missing Brother?

Brother Garnet A. Doyle, member Chatham Council, No. 1412, aged 23, height 6 feet 2 inches, weight 190 pounds, fair, of 168 Gray Street, Chatham, Ontario, was in Detroit, April 2nd and 3rd on way to Chatham to spend Easter with parents. Brother Doyle telephoned his sister on the evening of April 3rd, in Detroit, that he was leaving city at 7 p. m., and expected to arrive in Chatham at 9:20 p. m. He has not been heard from or seen since. Brother Doyle was well dressed in blue overcoat and suit, check cap and low tan shoes. He carried black suitcase with Cuba label. He is brother of the late Father Herbert Placid Doyle, O. F. M., Knights of Columbus, who gave his life to the Great War, and Brother Fred Doyle of Ithaca, N. Y.

A Knight's First Duty

An editorial well worth reading is published in April 25 issue of the Michigan Councillor, weekly publication of the Michigan State Council. It reads:

"The strongest pillar in the foundation of the Knights of Columbus is found in the requirement that every member must be a practical Catholic. The readers should not construe that this is not the requirement for admission only. It is a constant requirement. The man who ceases to be a practical Catholic forfeits his membership by that fact.

"Upon that foundation is builded the great Order that has come to be such a force in American life—a force for cleaner living, better citizenship, truer fraternity and better example.

"Upon that foundation, too, is builded some of the success of the undertakings of the church in this country. It should be clearly understood by every member that the Order is not necessary to the church, but that the church is the vital essential of the Order. With that clear understanding, it is easy to perceive, however, that the existence of such a body of men, bound together by common faith and strong aid a the work of the church among its own.

"The true knight will be found ready to answer the call of his parish in such work and endeavors as tend to promote the welfare of his parish. Is there a committee that needs men? That is the place for the knight. Is there a call for ushers? That is the time for the knight to respond. Is there some actual labor to be done in connection with parish social events, school undertakings, boy and girl activities? That is another opportunity for the knight who is keen in his perception of duty.

"First call on the interest, activity effort and energy of the Knight of Columbus is with the church. And it is a noteworthy fact that the Council which has the largest proportion of members answering promptly to that call has usually the largest degree of success as a council."

Have Dinners on Meeting Night

Summerside, Prince Edward Island, Council No. 2070, helps along the fraternal spirit among its 200 members, by having the evening meal on meeting nights, at their beautiful Council home. The Council already has fifty candidates for initiation in June.

Council Furnishes Hospital Room Rapid City, South Dakota, Council No. 1489, is raising funds by popular subscription for the furnishing of a room in the new St. John's Hospital.

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St. Mary's College To Mark 20th Year Of Retreats There

St. Mary's, Kansas, April 30.—The twentieth anniversary of the foundation of the Laymen's Retreats at St. Mary's College, here, will be observed on August 5, 1928. It was announced today by the Rev. A. J. Kuhlman, S. J., director. The first retreat was given on July 24, 25 and 26, 1908, and was attended by approximately fifty men. Annually since that time, four retreats have been given and the attendance has mounted steadily.

Father Kuhlman, in commenting on the anniversary, said it was his desire that all men who had made retreats at St. Mary's in the past might find it possible to return on August 5, bringing their families and friends and joining with the College in marking the twentieth anniversary a happy and memorable day. Plans, which are in the formative stage, will be announced later on, Father Kuhlman said.

Fr. J. Gianfrancesi, Chaplain in Polar Flight, Scientist

Rome, April 23.—Father Joseph Gianfrancesi, who is being referred to as the "Popular Chaplain," is a well known mathematician and physicist and can render other than spiritual aid to the crew of the "Italia," if need be. The "Italia" has already departed on the voyage to the North.

Father Gianfrancesi was born in 1876 and entered the Society of Jesus at the age of 21. Most of his life has been devoted to the study of mathematical and physical sciences which subjects he has taught at the Massimo College and the Gregorian University at Rome. In the fall of 1925, he was made rector of the University, and His Holiness Pius XI selected him as president of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences or "Academy of the Holy Spirit" in 1926. He was elected to the Academy on two occasions.

It is Father Gianfrancesi's intention to conduct research work at Spitzbergen regarding the effects of gravity. He is the author of a work on molecular physics, a text-book on elementary physics, and a series of scientific monographs. A text-book on higher physics is in process of preparation.

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Thirty Irish Choirs To Sing 'Plain-song' At Music Festival

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Dublin, April 28.—Complete success has attended the introduction of Plain-song into the competitions of the Dublin Fels Ceoil. Thirty Choirs, from all parts of the Free State and Northern Ireland, already have entered. This number of entrants is an excess of the number for almost any one of the other competitions in which groups of artists perform together.

The Dublin Fels Ceoil is the chief Musical Festival of the Free State. The competitions last year, and are attended by all grades of musical society, from the wealthy to the laboring classes.

Among those who have in the past won singing competitions at this Fels are both Mr. and Mrs. John McCormack.

This is the first time that Plain-song has figured in the list of competitions. It has been introduced as a result of the successful campaign carried on for the past two years by Brother John Burke, dean of residence, National University College, Dublin, for the revival of Plain-song in Irish churches. Father Burke has written articles and delivered numerous lectures on the subject.

The prize for the winning choir is a magnificent silver cup, something after the general pattern of a chalice, but with a shallower bowl. It has been presented by Mr. Dixon C. Davies, and to be known as "The Joseph Sarto Cup," in memory of Pope Pius X.

Requiem Mass Sung For Mexican Bishop

(By N. C. W. C. News Service) Chicago, April 30.—A solemn requiem Mass for the late Archbishop Monroy del Rio, aged prelate of Mexico who died in exile recently, was celebrated today in the Church of Our Lady of Guadalupe, in Chicago's South Side Mexican colony. A tribute to the prelate was given by the Rev. C. James Tort, C. P. M., pastor of the church, who knew the archbishop during a previous exile under the Carranza regime. The Rt. Rev. Amado Alba, exiled canon of the Cathedral of Guadalupe, was celebrant of the Mass. Among those at the services were four nuns teachers at Our Lady of Guadalupe school.