

Mass Aboard French Ship In Revolution Will Be Recalled

Philadelphia, Pa., May 12.—The 150th anniversary of the celebration of Mass aboard the French warship Languedoc on the day the officers of France's fleet learned they were sailing to help the American colonists in their war for independence, will be commemorated here May 20 with a solemn Mass in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul, presided over by His Eminence Cardinal Dougherty.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Mellon, rector of St. Agatha's church, vice-president of the American Catholic Historical Society, will be celebrant of the Mass, and Msgr. Henry T. Drumgoole and Msgr. Francis X. Wastl, two former presidents of the Society, will be deacons of honor to the Cardinal. The Rev. William J. LaRou, another former president of the Society, will preach the sermon. Shortly after signing the Treaties of Amity and Commerce with the representatives of the United States, the French Government decided to send a Minister Plenipotentiary and a fleet to America. The fleet, under the command of Admiral Count d'Estaing, sailed under sealed orders on May 17, 1778. On the 20th, the wind being favorable and the entire fleet under full sail, the Admiral signalled each captain to open his instructions. Then they learned that their destination was America, and that their mission was to battle on the side of the Colonists.

At nine o'clock that same morning the Admiral directed that a solemn Mass be celebrated on board his flagship, the Languedoc, in order to begin the campaign by asking God for victory over the enemy. Admiral Count d'Estaing and the other officers assisted in full-dress uniform, as also M. Conrad Alexandre Gerard, who had signed the treaties for France and who was on this morning for the first time presented as Minister Plenipotentiary of His Most Christian Majesty to Congress and General to America. Ships were decorated, at 10 o'clock flags were hoisted and a stack of arms blessed, before the Mass.

Catholic Women's Clubs Of Wisconsin Holy Convention

Madison, Wis., May 11.—Two hundred delegates, representing 55 Catholic women's clubs and 18,000 women, attended the thirteenth annual convention of the Wisconsin State Council of Catholic Women's Organizations held here this week. Mrs. John P. Ford of Wausau was elected president for the year 1938. Other officers elected were: Mrs. C. F. Geisse of Fond du Lac, first vice-president; Mrs. B. E. Henry, of Ashland, second vice-president; Mrs. Theodore Mesewen of Oconto, recording secretary; Mrs. James W. Madden of Madison, treasurer; and Mrs. James Flatley of Green Bay, auditor. Mrs. John F. Dolan of LaCrosse, Mrs. Thomas F. Hyde of Milwaukee and Mrs. John A. Brown of Racine were elected directors.

Mrs. Mary G. Hawks of Summit, N. J., president of the National Council of Catholic Women, addressed the banquet meeting of the convention. Among the other speakers at the convention were: The Rev. William H. Kieran of Green Bay, director of Catholic charities in the Diocese of Green Bay; Mrs. George V. McIntyre, president of the Catholic Big Sisters in Chicago; Mrs. E. S. Schindler of Green Bay; the Rev. E. J. McGuckness of the Catholic Church Extension Society of the United States of America; the Rev. William M. Dermott of Racine; Mrs. Mary Blake Flann, president of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae; Miss Minnie Keilher, of Green Bay, who presented a state survey of study clubs; Mrs. Mary Diamond of Milwaukee; and Mrs. Geisse, Prof. Charles Phillips of the University of Notre Dame spoke at the banquet meeting.

Seven hundred dollars was contributed toward the Mary Connor Memorial Scholarship Fund for St. Mary's College, Prairie du Chien.

Winners of Awards In 'Catholic World' Contest Announced

New York, May 12.—Miss Jane Conditine, a junior at St. Leonard's School of the Holy Child, Philadelphia, was declared the winner today of the national essay contest held in Philadelphia, was declared the winner of the national essay contest among the students attending the 100 Catholic high schools in the United States. The contest was conducted by 'The Catholic World' magazine, published by the Paulist Order in New York City. Miss Conditine submitted a paper on the subject of words.

Second and third places went to Miss Maxine Kaiser of Lytle, Hermann, both students of St. Joseph's academy, St. Louis. The following received honorable mention: Christopher Thomas, St. Charles College High School, Ottumwa, Mo.; Francis J. Gorman, St. Francis Preparatory, New York; and William E. Shea, St. Joseph's High School, New York.

Recognition Denied Mexican Educators By Santa Clara U.

Santa Clara, Calif., May 8.—The reception and luncheon scheduled to be held at the University of Santa Clara tomorrow for the twenty Mexican educators who have been touring the educational institutions of California, has been cancelled by the Rev. Cornelius J. McCoy, S. J., president of the university.

In a statement of his position regarding the affair, Father McCoy bitterly attacked President Calles. "It is now evident these visitors are friends and associates of Calles," Father McCoy said.

When informed of Father McCoy's statement, Dr. C. N. Thomas, secretary of the Mexican educators, conferred with members of the party at the Cardinal hotel, Palo Alto.

Father McCoy's statement, in part, follows:

"It is now evident that the so-called friends and associates of Calles, the so-called representatives of the Mexican government. It was expressly stated to me that all reference to politics and religion was to be excluded from the meetings of these educators, and yet we read of the disgraceful scene in San Francisco a few nights ago when at one of their meetings a toast was proposed and drunk to President Calles.

"Documentary evidence abounds, though our press maintains a steady silence on this point, that Calles is the greatest tyrant of modern times, a man that by cruel and bloody persecution is endeavoring to crush liberty of conscience in his backward country. He has made himself famous in the eyes of the world by his attacks on civilization and his ferocious cruelty and barbarity toward the Catholic people of Mexico.

"In view of these facts, the university must refuse any welcome to these visitors. I cannot to let in loyalty to my own associates, one of whom, Father Miguel Aronzo, Pro of the Society of Jesus, was barbarously murdered by Calles but a few months ago for no other crime than that he performed the religious duties of the ministry as a Catholic priest.

"I cannot tolerate it, out of respect to three cultured Mexican priests, my guests for the last year at the university, who were driven into exile from Mexico on a two-hour notice for the crime of being priests of the Catholic Church.

"I cannot tolerate it in fairness to the many friends of the university, loyal Americans, who would be justly insulted by my giving the recognition of a welcome to the representatives of these visitors and associates of Mr. Calles.

"If these Mexican visitors wish to visit our university as private individuals, I offer no objection. They will see a university administered under Catholic auspices and enjoying the recognition of our State. They will visit a site on which, over a century ago, Franciscan padres from Mexico established a mission and commenced to civilize and educate along Christian lines the inhabitants of our country. They will visit a restored mission chapel where it is no less a duty to celebrate and attend daily Mass as offered up in the Catholic Church. But no official of the university will welcome these visitors and no reception will be extended to them.

"For the same reason, out of self-respect, I cannot humiliate myself to attend the banquet to be given at the Santa Clara Hotel next Monday evening in honor of Calles' friends and appointees."

Cleansing of Stage Depends on Actors, Card. Hayes Says

New York, May 9.—Declaring that the American stage would best be cleansed by impressing upon the members of the theatrical profession the public demand for clean plays, His Eminence, Cardinal Hayes, who with the three Brethren Sisters, was guest of honor at the annual luncheon of the Catholic Actors Guild in the Hotel Astor yesterday, praised the work of the organization in this direction, and said:

"The guild is making a spiritual contribution to the community by emphasizing the good side of the stage even if the plays do not do so. At the same time we feel that by emphasizing the needs of the profession we are making considerable progress and we are laying the banner high. The right-thinking public is still calling for clean plays and this public wants the best of everything the stage can produce and will not be inquired by the fifth that the stage might produce if these influences for good are missing."

The attendance at the luncheon of the intrepid striven, Major Fitzmaurice and Captain Roehl being accompanied by their wives, was an unannounced surprise, but when they arrived they were warmly welcomed by the more than 2,000 guests present, and each of the three responded with speeches.

The Rev. Edward F. Leonard, pastor of St. Malachy's Church, and the Rev. Astor's Chapel, reviewed the history of the Catholic Actors Guild and the Actors' chapel, recalling that when the chapel was organized "everybody heard of an actor going to church." Now, he said, "the actor is hung out every day."

Too Many Studies In Grade And High Schools Deplored

Cincinnati, Ohio, May 8.—Speaking at the annual breakfast of the Cincinnati Circle of the International Federation of Catholic Alumnae here a few days ago, the Rev. Hubert F. Brockman, S. J., president of St. Xavier College, deplored the tendency to overburden the curricula of elementary schools and high schools with subjects which increase the expense of education and deprive pupils of the fundamentals.

"We can not impose on our elementary and high schools the impossible task of preparing their students for any and every pursuit in life by a multiplicity of courses and call it education," said Father Brockman.

"These schools," he continued "are meant to provide only what is substantial and fundamental, the first progress in developing the endowment of mind and heart which nature has given. This seems to our commercial and material eagerness altogether slow and unwanted result, whereas it is the first function of primary and secondary education, subjects which do not make for this end should be dropped out or taught in a professedly trade or commercial school.

"Readjustment on this line will help educators solve in part the excessive cost of present day education. Our sixteen years of schooling from the grades to the university should be cut down to the benefit of our education and our finances.

"Outside of the United States, these sixteen years are regarded as typical American wastefulness, as being bad educationally and financially. Our expenditures for education during the past five years have increased 100 per cent while the pupils enrollment has increased 15 per cent. The excessive cost is a grave concern to all.

"These conditions are reflected in our Catholic schools at the present day. The problems of overburdened curricula and increased cost of education are as pressing as they are in our general national program. Let us not abandon solid educational principles and let us not forget that the problem of cost is greater for us because we have fewer financial resources.

"In the readjustment of our educational program two problems present themselves namely, curtailment in the curricula from the grades to the university and control of the cost of education. There is admittedly an excessive number of studies in most of our curricula. The result of the crowded course of studies is surface appreciation and understanding of the subjects on the part of the pupils and superficiality of mind and training which get the student nowhere. The mass of subject matter to be taught paralyzes the effectiveness of otherwise good teachers.

"The attitude created in the pupils is that of superficiality towards the duties of life for which we are training them, a sense of competency which the event proves to be a thorough deception. By the lack of serious mental training a group of young people is turned out unable to meet the complexities and emergencies which we expect them to deal with successfully for themselves and for the community in which they live.

"Neither the teacher nor the pupil is at fault. The sin is in the program. We have therefore come to the conclusion again that a few subjects worthy of the mental exercise of the pupil should comprise practically the entire curriculum. This process embraces the imparting of information or knowledge as the background of training.

"The mastery of a few worthy subjects is a discipline in the social and moral qualities necessary for future success, namely, habits of order, applications of mind, consecutive thought, determination and strength of will.

"In the opinion of many, a conservative return to methods similar to the English public school system, the German gymnasium and the French lycee should be made. George Bernard Shaw is quoted as giving to a freshman in one of our universities the following: 'A college student should make the most out of college by reading what he likes and discussing it at students' groups and doing the least minimum of dry work to secure a pass or even retire without one-shot of being kicked out.' The fruit of our present educational system is much deplored in a piece with Shaw's advice."

La Croix Associate St. Gregory Knight

Paris, May 7.—At the request of the Archbishop of Paris and the Bishop of Versailles, Pope Pius XI has conferred Knighthood in the Order of St. Gregory the Great upon St. Jean Babini, advocate of the Paris court, who is associated with La Croix and the Catholic press' association of France.

Mgr. O'Brien, Bishop of Versailles, who is just recovering from a serious illness, was able to officiate at the ceremony and himself planned the cross of the Order on M. Babini's breast in the presence of representatives of the press. Mr. O'Brien was accompanied by the condottier, Mgr. Roland-Gosselin.

Catholics Hold Film Congress At The Hague

Sixty Delegates From Various Countries, Including the United States, Attend—Priests Discuss on Importance of Photoplays

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

Louvain, May 7.—The first Catholic International Film Congress, held under the auspices of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, has just closed at The Hague, Holland.

Among the conclusions arrived at by the Congress were these: That, provisionally, the headquarters of the international association shall be in Paris.

That the Provisional General Committee of the body shall consist of Dr. Ernst, director of the Leo Film, Munich, president; Canon Raymond of Paris, secretary; Father Hyacinth Hermans, O. P., of Rotterdam, Father Caniziani of Milan, Canon Broeze of Louvain, and Mr. Froehlings of Cologne.

That this committee enter into correspondence with the proper persons in the various countries so that every nation in the world may be represented on the General Committee, and that it prepare for the next congress, which is to be held next year in Munich.

The Congress was attended by 60 States, Austria, Belgium, Chile, England, France, Germany, Holland, Hungary, Italy, Poland, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland and the League of Nations.

The American at the Congress was Miss Mary C. Carey, an official delegate of the National Council of Catholic Women.

The Italian Princess Giustiniani-Bandini spoke for the League of Nations.

Priests Stress Photoplay's Importance

Father Hyacinth Hermans, O. P., president of the meet, delivered the opening address. He spoke warm words of praise for the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, whose zeal made the Congress possible and thanked Holland's Minister of Arts and Public Instruction, Mr. Wazink, a Catholic, at whose hands many favors were received, which greatly facilitated the work of the convention.

Father Hyacinth said further: "It would be bringing odds to Athens to dwell upon the paramount importance for us Catholics of the moving-picture problem. Far too long have we regarded moving-picture shows as a form of amusement from which it behooved Catholics to keep aloof. Our failure to realize the full their mighty influence may be accounted for by their phenomenal rapid growth. The moving picture show is a conqueror. It conquered the world by surprise as it were, and we Catholics, who possess the mightiest international organization in the world, have, alas, too long undervalued the significance of this greatest and most powerful of all languages.

"The film industry has drawn to itself and swallowed up everything: nature, art, science, ethics, history, journalism, politics. Verily, the morning-pictures, has become the master of the world, to whom temples have been erected in every clime—in the great metropolitan cities and in the country village.

"We Catholics have been wont to say: 'To possess the school is to possess youth'; but now we stand before the fact that to possess the movie is to possess the world. When the school harvest is ripe, the photoplay comes along and, like, unto another Samson, sends the foxes with burning torches into our fields to destroy them.

"This Congress could find occasion in plenty to expatiate upon the dangers of the film shows; but we have met, not to lament upon those dangers, but to concert means to conquer them.

"If there exists an essentially modern means to preach the Gospel of truth and to teach all nations, it is the moving picture show.

"Our main purpose in this convention is to lay the foundation of an international Catholic organization, to help in the solution of the moving-picture problem."

Canon Bruhee, professor at the University of Louvain and founder of the mighty A.C.J.B. (Association of Catholic Belgian Youth), read a report on the moving-picture shows in the various countries of the world, and then said: "We want to draw the attention of Catholics throughout the world to this problem and elaborate in this congress directions for the search of its solution and some principles by which to guide ourselves.

"In Belgium, despite all the dangers of this movie, Catholics are totally indifferent to the problem.

"In a very few words the movie sets up a code of morals and of living; it does not even need words; for the image speaks louder and better than words.

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25 Million Women Pledge Communions In Mexico's Behalf

(By N. C. W. C. News Service). London, May 7.—Twenty-five million women, federates of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues, are pledged to take part in the general Communion on behalf of Mexico, on June 9, Feast of the Sacred Heart.

A message from The Hague, just received here, records this decision as one of the important acts of the Catholic Women's Congress just held in Holland.

The president of the Congress, Mme. Steenbergh-Engelringh, who made the announcement, said women of 26 nations, belonging to 57 women's associations, also participated in a protest against "the conspiracy of silence which withholds from the world the news of the unrighteous persecution which has continued for many months in Mexico."

The persecution, a protest resolution affirmed, is an insult to religion, to justice and to human freedom.

Marquette League Sends To Catholic Missions \$65,000

(By N. C. W. C. News Service). New York, May 11.—In the report of the Marquette League, submitted at the organization's latest meeting showed that its fiscal year ending April 30, 1938 was its most successful one, with an increase in receipts of \$15,000 over the previous year and of \$43,000 during the past three years.

The sum of \$65,000 was sent direct to the poor missions of this country and Alaska. Most of this amount was made up of stringless gifts for our very needy Indian missions. Judge J. Talley is president, and Father William Flynn, a priest of the Pittsburgh Diocese, is director of the League. The League will celebrate its anniversary July 7, 1939.

Our Lady Sodality Convention Aug. 17.

St. Louis, May 10.—Cardinals, Bishops and archbishops have given their blessing and approved to the first convention of the Sodality of Our Lady to be held here on August 17, 18 and 19th.

Delegates thus far have been selected from most of the larger cities of the Union, on both coasts, and in the South and North. Provision is being made to house all the student delegates in the Catholic academies and colleges of the city, so that they will be under the guidance and supervision during the days of the convention. It is expected that upwards of a thousand delegates will take part in the sessions.