

CATHOLIC JOURNAL

The Catholic Family Newspaper

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

The work of the Catholic press has been most gloriously successful. Their news has been effective auxiliaries to the faith.—Pope Benedict XV.

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

PHONE FOUR EIGHT

Jews' Conversion To Catholicism Causes Comment

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

Vienna, June 4.—Recently the Jewish press has commented on supposed special efforts being made in this part of Europe by Catholics to converts Jews to the Catholic Church. These comments are not surprising in view of the fact that in the last three years an ever growing number of distinguished Jews have been converted to Catholicism. It was painful to the Zionists to see Hans Herzl, son of the great Zionist leader, enter the Church. Recently, the author Van Leer, of Jewish blood, also has become a Catholic, and shortly afterward the learned rabbin Dr. Stein, son of an old family of rabbins spread all over Transylvania, caused an enormous stir among the Jews by entering the Catholic Church.

It may readily be understood that these conversions have given rise to all the more comment since quite a number of the converts display much activity as writers and speakers in explaining their breaking away from the Jewish belief.

However, there can be no doubt that these changes of religion have been brought about by the deepest religious conviction. Moreover, some of the comment by the Jewish press undoubtedly has been incorrect and based on faulty information.

Recently the Jewish Telegraphic Agency sent out from Vienna a report stating that a "Catholic Jewish Missions Society" had lately established headquarters at Budapest from which it was making an extensive literary campaign aimed at the conversion of the Jews. This report also stated that the Jesuit Father Bela Bangha, "otherwise known for his anti-Jewish activities," had appealed to the leaders of the Catholic Church to take joint action to expedite conversion of the Jews in masses.

As a matter of fact, there is no Catholic mission society of the kind described in Budapest. It is a fact that a Jewish convert to Catholicism, Mr. Ferdinand Szekely, has started a periodical called UJSION (New Zion) which he devotes to "every convert and Jewish believer in Christ," but the character of his work is not at all that ascribed to the "Catholic Jewish Missions Society."

Father Bela Bangha, S. J., the well known apostle of the Catholic Press in Hungary, has never, as the dispatch of the Jewish Telegraphic Agency says, addressed an appeal to the leaders of the Catholic Church. The only thing he has done which might have been mistaken for such an appeal was to write a small objective article in which he threw some light on the difficulties presented by the Jewish problem—difficulties which he proposed to remove by a purely religious work of enlightenment.

That the views held and expressed by Father Bangha on the Jewish question have been very mild and moderate is attested by the fact that the Jewish Hungarian daily Pesti Naplo recently described them as such, and expressed its appreciation of the fact. This was on the occasion of Father Bangha's last Advent lectures.

It might be suggested that the Jewish Telegraphic Agency made a mistake in referring to the Catholic Church as making a special effort for the conversion of Jews. It might well have spoken of the Scotch Reformed Church—the Calvinists of Hungary—who are working vigorously for the conversion of the Jews to their church, and in their campaign have established a special school for the instruction of Jewish converts.

Irish Soil Is Sent To Australia For Eucharist Congress

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

Dublin, June 5.—Mr. D. Cooper, manager for the Irish Free State of the Fox Film Company, has dispatched six sacks of Irish soil to Australia, to be placed on the scene of the coming Eucharist Congress there.

The Fox Film Company, which filmed the Congress in Chicago, has also contracted to film the Congress to be held at Sydney this year. Soil from many countries will be sent to Australia.

The soil was collected in six places, Dublin, Cork, Waterford, Kilkenny, Galway and Limerick, that from each locality being placed in a separate bag.

Texas Hero's Record Of Marriage Is In Catholic Church

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

Austin, Texas, June 3.—The marriage record of James Bowie, one of the immortal heroes of Texas independence, is among the many interesting documents in the archives of San Fernando Cathedral, San Antonio, photostatic copies of which are to be made by the Texas Knights of Columbus Historical Commission. Bowie, who was killed in the defense of the Alamo, married Miss Ursula de Verameendi, a native of San Antonio, April 25, 1831.

The historical commission is gathering all available data preparatory to writing a history of the Catholic Church in Texas, from the earliest Spanish times down to the present. Already some 2,000 documents from the Diocese of Galveston have been copied, while records from the Archdiocese of San Antonio and the Dioceses of Corpus Christi, El Paso and Amarillo also are to be reproduced.

This work is being done at St. Edward's University here, headquarters of the commission.

Rev. A. Stonner Denies He Gave Up Priesthood

Washington, June 7.—In reply to a letter sent to him by the Director of the N. C. W. C. News Service, calling his attention to a story circulated in the secular papers of the United States to the effect that he had renounced the priesthood to resume the life of a private citizen, the Rev. Dr. Anton Stonner, formerly of Vienna, writes from Munich:

"Many thanks for your letter of May 26 which reached me in due time. With regard to the newspaper account exploiting my retirement from the Jesuit order, my superior has already protested against the circulation of this story in a notice printed in the May 5 issue of the Vienna Zeitung Reichspost. Little need be added to this protest, except that I myself wish to say the following:

"During my third probation period in Holland, I decided, after full consideration before God and after consultation with my superiors, to sever my connection with the Society of Jesus in all harmony and love and only because I realized that I did not fit into the order on account of my ill health and because special concessions were continually having to be made because of the nature of my work. I do not have and have never had the intention of leaving the Catholic priesthood; to the contrary, as soon as it was possible, I strove to be admitted to a diocese as a secular priest. Through the mediation of the Cardinal at Vienna, who knows all about the case and has always been my kindly adviser and protector, I was admitted to a German diocese since April 5, 1923. I have been subject to Bishop Schreiber of Meissen who has given me leave for special study. With his sanction, I have been living in Munich with my friend, Professor Dietrich von Hildebrand, who is a convert and a devoted Catholic and can vouch for my reputation. The report that I am a private citizen is, of course, incorrect. I celebrate Mass daily in the parish church of Bogenhausen and assist the pastor in preaching and general parish work. If I do not do anything beyond this in the line of priestly activity, it is because of my poor health and my intention of writing a long philosophical work. After this work is completed, I shall be at the disposal of the Bishop of Saxony.

"That is the truth and I wish you would broadcast this story in contradiction of the stories in the secular press. If you publish these facts, even my enemies will realize that I am in no sense a basis for attacks of criticism of the Church. I have always been true to the Church and with the help of God, I hope to remain true as far as my poor powers will permit."

French Pastors Get Legal Right To Rent Seats

Paris, June 4.—Twenty-three years after the Law of Separation of Church and State, the question of the pastor's right to rent chairs in churches to parishioners has just been established by the Council of State, which declares that the mayor of a commune does not have the right to exercise police authority in the interior of churches.

The particular case before the Council originated in the Commune of La Charotte, where the mayor, Nicolas, forbade the curate to rent chairs or pews to individuals or to permit them to place their name-plates on these objects.

"Since," he said, "the church and its furnishings are the property of the community, parishioners do not have the right, because of an agreement with their pastor, to reserve permanently such and such a chair, or such and such a bench, and to place thereon marks indicating that they alone have the right to all there."

He also issued an ordinance suppressing the plaques, or name-plates, the curate then brought the matter before the Council of State.

It is customary in most of the churches of France for parishioners to pay a regular annual sum to the curate to reserve chairs or benches for their particular use, and the Council holds that this does not conflict with the law which declares that, whereas the church is the property of the commune and is to be kept in repair by the municipality, it is to be placed permanently at the disposal of the priests and the faithful.

Mexico Persecution Basis of New Play Notre Dame Produced

Notre Dame, Indiana, June 3.—The first play on record based on the persecution of the Church in Mexico has just been produced here by the University Theatre of Notre Dame University. The play, entitled "Tomorrow," was written by Richard B. Parrish of Fairmont, W. Va., member of the play writing class of Prof. Charles Phillips, and winner of the Mitchell gold award for the best play of the year. The winning play was "Frieda."

"Tomorrow" tells the tragic story of an old fugitive priest who is trapped by a Calles force while on the way to a dying soldier. With chance to escape, he sacrifices himself to save the life of a young leader of the Church on whom he rests his hope for the saving of the Church "tomorrow."

The play is to be published by the University Theatre and offered for production throughout the country.

Golfer Attributes Success To Priest

London, June 5.—Archie Compston, leading British golfer, attributes his success to the interest taken in his play by a Catholic priest, Fr. Dillon, who was formerly chaplain of Strangeways Jail, Manchester.

When he started playing, Archie told a reporter this week, Fr. Dillon took notice of him and showed the greatest patience in correcting his faults and teaching him new shots. Compston, who is not a Catholic, related how on one occasion he and Fr. Dillon were staying in the same hotel, and he ordered a cup of tea to be sent up to the priest's room. To the priest's surprise, the maid announced that his "big son" had sent it. She had heard Compston address his friend as "Father."

IRISH SAINT IS PATRON OF FRENCH HERDS

By M. MacLachlan (Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Paris, June 4.—In telling of a pilgrimage to the relics of St. Etienne, honored in the little village of Dompreire, Department of the North, La Joux, reveals that this saint, an Irish prelate, is invoked throughout France for protection of the herds.

Only one column and a small niche remains of the hermitage founded by St. Etienne at Dompreire when he came from Ireland in the seventh century. An inscription carved there in reads: "In the year 654, July 10, he blessed St. Etienne was buried here. I pray that you preserve us and our animals from all sickness."

The cult of the good bishop was perpetuated and when, towards the year 1600, some monks carried his remains to Belgium, the population of Dompreire began proceedings to recover the relics of their saint. In 1789, when the revolution broke out, the matter had not been settled. The peasants of Dompreire, faithful to the end and taking advantage of general conditions, marched to Belgium and returned in triumph bearing the relics of St. Etienne.

Since that time, a pilgrimage to his shrine occurs annually.

North Of Ireland Catholics Resent Belfast Bigotry

Dublin, June 4.—The Catholic members of the Northern Parliament, who have just obtained the foundation stone of the new Parliamentary Buildings at Stormont, Belfast, in accordance with their previously announced declaration that they could not take part in a ceremony which typified the permanent partition of Ireland into North and South and the persecution of the Northern Catholics.

Three days after the ceremony of laying the foundation stone, which was a gala affair with all officials and army officers in their full dress uniforms, Mr. J. O'Neill, a Catholic member, called attention in the Northern Parliament to the dismissal of a Catholic from the Government service.

This Catholic is Mr. John Malorian, who was employed in the Ministry of Agriculture, and dismissed for alleged misconduct. He demanded an inquiry before the Civil Service Commission, which is an impartial authority, and not under the management of the Northern Parliament. This Commission declared that Mr. Malorian was guilty of no misconduct, and awarded him compensation for wrongful dismissal. It is beyond the power of the tribunal to award compensation which is adequate for the loss of a regular salary, or to force the Minister of Agriculture to reemploy a dismissed person. Mr. Malorian is consequently deprived on his way out of living, though the Civil Service Commission has declared that he was guilty of no misconduct.

During the debate on Mr. Malorian's case, Mr. J. H. Collins, M. P., pointed out to the House that a year or two ago Mr. Archdale, Minister of Agriculture, explained at an Orange demonstration at Malpasbridge, Fermanagh County, that there were then only four Catholics employed in the whole Ministry of Agriculture in Northern Ireland. Mr. Archdale explained that he had been obliged to take these four over the old British Department of Agriculture, and that he himself had never appointed a Catholic.

Mr. McMullan, a Labour Member of the Northern Parliament in speaking to the House on the case, said that speaking as one not himself a Catholic, he could only come to the conclusion that Mr. Archdale displayed Mr. Malorian on some trivial pretext, so that at the next Orange demonstration, there would only be three Catholics for whom Mr. Archdale would have to apologize.

Marquette U. Gives Priests And Layman Honorary Degrees

Milwaukee, Wis., June 7.—Conferring of three honorary degrees on prominent Catholics was a feature of the 1923 commencement exercises of Marquette University, held last night. Seven thousand five hundred people were in the main hall of the Milwaukee Municipal auditorium for the ceremonies.

Dr. Thomas Walsh, New York poet and associate editor of Commonwealth Magazine, received the honorary degree of doctor of letters, while the Rev. Dr. Peter Guilday, professor of Church history at the Catholic University, Washington, D. C., and the Rev. John A. McCloy, S. J., of the University of Detroit, became doctors of humane letters.

The degrees were conferred by Rev. William M. Magee, S. J., president of Marquette. Marquette's commencement address was given by Father McCloy.

With 536 seniors, Marquette's graduating class represented 21 States and several foreign countries. The seniors come from Wisconsin, Nebraska, Ohio, California, Kansas, Tennessee, Minnesota, Montana, Illinois, South Dakota, North Dakota, New York, Idaho, Washington, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan, Louisiana, Pennsylvania, Maine and Missouri. From Ireland, India, Mexico, China, Porto Rico, Philippine Islands, and from Saskatchewan and Ontario, Canada.

Common Workmen Who Was Congenial

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

The Hague, June 4.—General Joseph Franssen, who has just died in Maastricht, Dutch Limburg, was but an ordinary every day workman; yet his name is attached to hundreds of musical compositions, mostly of a religious character. For forty years, Franssen directed, in his home city, the choir of the Cabaret Society of the Third Order of St. Francis and of the Communions of Reparation Society.

Although he did hard manual labor all his life to earn a livelihood for himself and family of eight children; he became, by his own unaided efforts, a composer of renown and a much appreciated choir-master. He never drew a cent of royalty for his compositions; his sole compensation for the trouble he gave himself to train and direct the free choirs of the above mentioned associations. His sole ambition was to use his talent for the greatest honor and glory of God and as a pastime, at the end of each day of hard labor in the support of himself and family.

Chicago Catholic Charities Spent \$750,000 In Year

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

Chicago, June 4.—More than \$750,000 was spent on the part of the archdiocese in the last twelve months by the Catholic Charities of Chicago, according to the annual report recently issued by the Very Rev. Magr. William A. O'Sullivan, supervisor of the organization. All of this money was contributed by Catholics of the archdiocese with the exception of \$125,113, which was received from Cook county to help bear the expense of caring for the wards of the juvenile court.

A total of \$39,811 was donated to charitable institutions; \$118,871 was spent on family relief and \$234,894 by the Catholic Home Bureau. The Catholic Home Bureau is incorporated under the laws of Illinois and looks after children placed in boarding homes temporarily and also cares for babies until they are adopted. It is a branch of the Catholic Charities.

The Charities realized 1,011 families in the last year 17,593 meals. Among these were 12,781 children and 12,940 adults. The largest donation to institutions was \$100,000 to St. Mary's Training School at Des Plaines, Ill. Next came the Chicago Industrial School with \$65,000 and the Angel Guardian Orphanage with \$69,000.

The report showed that 171 members and 644 children had been cared for at the Catholic Charities summer camp in Wisconsin. Another interesting item was 47,712 pounds of milk furnished families during the year.

The Charities operate with minimum expense. The work of investigating possible needy families is done by police and giving them aid is carried out from a central office. There are separate district offices with high salaried and satisfied staffs required by non-Catholic organizations operating on such a large scale. Nevertheless, the Catholic Charities has more district officers than any other big relief group. They are very busy in every parish of the archdiocese; every Sister in every parochial school and every member of every St. Vincent de Paul Society. They determine whether a case merits the attention of the central office or whether it can be taken care of out of the money in the local St. Vincent de Paul fund.

The land and buildings for institutional work cost the Charities nothing. They are provided by Cardinal Mundelein. Consequently there is no rent, no building cost to add into the fund available for actual relief work. Most of these institutions are run by Sisters; all reports in their line, who give their services for a mere pittance, none of them looking forward to an earthly pay day.

Names of persons assisted in their homes are never published. The Catholic Charities respects the poor as fellow humans while aiding them. Most of the families assisted are poor through no fault of their own and they resent having investigations and busy bodies from various relief organizations come into their homes to tell them what they should and should not do.

BISHOPS WILL MEET NOV. 14 AT THE C. U.

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

Boston, June 8.—This year's Annual Meeting of the Bishops of the United States will be held on November 14 and 15. The place, as usual, will be the Catholic University of America at Washington, D. C.

Word to this effect has been sent to all the members of the Hierarchy in a letter signed by His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston, as senior member of the American Hierarchy.

In the past the Annual Meeting of the Bishops has regularly been held in September. The selection of a date two months later for this year was made in order to avoid conflict with the Twenty-Ninth International Eucharistic Congress, which takes place September 6-9 at Sydney, Australia. A considerable number of members of the American Hierarchy are planning to attend the Congress, and had the Bishops' Meeting been held in mid-September as usual, these would have been unable to be at both gatherings.

Anglican Curate Becomes a Convert

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

London, June 5.—The latest convert to the Church from the Anglican ministry is the Rev. Ralph Everard Owen, curate of St. Augustine's church, Wembley. He is the son of the Rev. E. C. E. Owen who was an assistant master at Harrow School for 22 years and was formerly vicar of an East-end parish.

The new convert's vicar described Mr. Owen's resignation as a "loss to the Anglican Church in this town, especially among the young," for he was particularly interested in the work of the Church Lads' Brigade.