

Open-Air Benediction Arouses Admiration Of Plattsburg Paper

CHIEF Haven, N. Y., Aug. 21.—Observance of the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary at the Catholic Summer School here with a brilliant procession participated in by more than 700 persons, and with a sermon and Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament in the open air, has led the Plattsburg Daily Express to observe, editorially, that: "When we find gatherings such as this on a summer afternoon in mid-week we may be sure that the torch of faith is still burning brightly and that material things have not obsessed the world to the exclusion of all else."

The editorial called the observance a "beautiful ceremony," held in a "lovely open-air cathedral of pines," in which humble tribute was paid to "one of the great mysteries upon which the Christian faith is founded."

"This beautiful little colony on the shores of our lake has done much for which Plattsburg may be grateful. But it has done nothing nobler, more worthy of the high respect of all our people than by the example its members give to us in the exercise of that high faith which is the staff upon which they all lean."

"The members of the colony come here to rest from labors which in many instances tax intellects of the highest calibre—teachers, scholars, physicians and those greatest of all workers, physicians of weary souls. In the spot they have selected in which to renew their strength to battle for the uplift and progress of humanity they find ideal surroundings. The peace which almost stills the gentle rustle of the pines, hangs all about them. And here before all the world they give demonstration of their great faith on occasions such as that of yesterday."

"We cannot," the editorial concludes, "always look into the hearts of men; we are not always able to judge motives, but we can realize the sincerity of such a gesture when we know that there is no worldly gain to be had from it, just the simple outpouring of a faith which asks nothing except the mercy it has striven to earn and the intercession of the Mother of the World."

The Rt. Rev. Joseph H. Conroy, Bishop of Ogdensburg, was celebrant of the Solemn Benediction. The Rev. C. E. Wheeler and the Rev. F. J. Hurney, both of Washington, D. C., were deacon and sub-deacon, respectively. The Rev. Walter J. Funcke of Ogdensburg assisted the Bishop, and the Rev. J. J. O'Rourke of New York City was master of ceremonies. The Rev. William Robbins, O. M. I., of the Immaculate Conception church, Lowell, Mass., preached the sermon on "The Assumption."

Sidelights of K. of C. Convention

Cleveland, O., Aug. 24.—Charles W. Darr of Washington, D. C., chairman of the committee on the good of the order, presented to Supreme Knight Carmody, during the 46th annual convention of the Knights of Columbus here, the pen with which President Coolidge signed the Congressional act setting aside a site in the National Capital for the monument to be erected under the auspices of the K. of C. to the memory of James Cardinal Gibbons of Baltimore. Supreme Knight Carmody announced that the pen would be placed in the organization's permanent archives.

Detroit has extended the Knights of Columbus an invitation to hold their 1929 convention there. The selection of next year's meeting place has been deferred, however.

It is estimated that fully 7,000 delegates and visitors attended the reception and ball held at Public Hall here Tuesday evening as one of the social functions of the convention.

Thousands upon thousands of persons lined the sidewalks along the route to witness the brilliant parade of uniformed Catholic societies and delegates which preceded the Pontifical Mass in Public Hall, Tuesday morning.

In a statement made to the local newspapers at the close of the convention Supreme Knight Carmody declared that it was the most successful ever held by the Knights of Columbus.

Marquette Students Score In Bar Tests

Milwaukee, Wis., Aug. 21.—Graduates of the Marquette University School of Law established an enviable record in the Wisconsin state bar examinations, the results of which have just been announced.

Seventy-four percent of the 1928 graduates of Marquette's school of law passed the bar examinations, while only 47 percent of the total number of candidates were successful. Half of the successful candidates were Marquette graduates.

Jacques Piou, At 90, Greeted As Champion Of Church In France

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

Paris, Aug. 20.—In a village in the vicinity of Bordeaux, his home for the greater part of his life, M. Jacques Piou is receiving many expressions of felicitation on the occasion of his ninetieth birthday.

M. Piou still is a vital factor in the Catholic life of France. For many years he was in Parliament the investigator of resistance to the political persecutions of Combes. He was a great orator and could clothe in most elegant and courteous expressions the most convincing and forceful logic. Four years ago, at the age of 86, he delivered at the conclusion of a banquet, without recourse to notes, a discourse of three-quarters of an hour in such impeccable form that his audience lost not a single word.

His intellectual and physical vigor is all the more remarkable since M. Piou some years ago was the victim of an attempted assassination on the part of a burglar who sought to ransack his home. For some time he hovered between life and death but recovered and set to work with wonderful activity. Three years ago he published a history of Albert L. Mun, and this year finished a volume of political studies.

Forty years ago, M. Piou was one of the first parliamentarians of the Right to harken to the voice of Pope Leo XIII and to rally to the cause of the Republic. As leader of the Republican Right, he formed in opposition to Combes the "League of Popular Liberal Action." The significant point of this organization was retention of civic rights for Catholics as well as for other citizens. The League grew quickly to 400,000 active supporters and only the war put an end to its activities. That year in an official document published in the name of the Sovereign Pontiff for the guidance of French Catholics, Cardinal Gasparri gave to M. Jacques Piou the highest praise declaring that his activity in public life had been exemplary of the role that should be taken by Catholics.

East and West Meet As Bishop Confirms Soldiers At Peking

Peking, China, Aug. 20.—Reverend Father Devine, formerly of Melbourne, Australia, now Catholic chaplain to the British troops at Peking, gives the following description of a ceremony where British soldiers and Chinese knelt side by side to receive the Sacrament of Confirmation in the Irish Vincentian church of this city.

"East and West met recently in the Irish Vincentian Church at Peking, in a manner possible only to an institution like the Catholic Church. The Bishop of Peking was conferring Confirmation. The vast congregation presented varied elements: Chinese, young and old, rich and poor, French and Chinese sisters of charity, and the church parade from the British Legation Guard. The latter was accompanied by the band of the regiment which played hymns during the Mass. Near the altar was a guard of honor, which presented arms at the Elevation, while the buglers sounded the salute from the gallery.

"After a sermon in English by the army chaplain, the Bishop preached to his flock in Chinese. He pointed out that the Catholic Church is not the Church of France, of Italy, or of England, but the Church of the world, bringing Western and Oriental, alien and native, foreign soldier and nationalist Chinese to the same altar to receive the same Sacraments.

"Then there filed to the altar young Chinese boys and girls whose families have been Catholic since the days of Father Ricci; old men and women, gathered into the Sisters refuge and baptized but twelve months ago; and young, stalwart British soldiers."

Slovenes Denounce Mexican Terrorism

Ljubljana, Yugoslavia, Aug. 26.—The antagonism of the Mexican Government toward the Catholic Church, the confiscation of Church property, the banishment of the bishops, the imprisonment, deportation and slaughter of clergy and lay, acts of ferocity against women and children, and the barbaric treatment in general of Catholics has aroused the indignation of the Slovenes.

Msrgr. Jeslo, Bishop of Ljubljana, has communicated to the Holy Father the sentiments of his people as expressed in a meeting held under the auspices of the "Prosvetna Zveza" (Educational Union), every member of which has pledged himself to do what he can in spiritual or worldly affairs to bring about a better understanding between the Church and State in Mexico.

Aged Prelate's Death In Bandit Lair Feared

London, Aug. 20.—A dispatch to the London Daily Mail from Hankow, China, expresses fear that Msrgr. Froewis, Prefect Apostolic of the Catholic mission at Sia Yang Chow, in southeast Honan province, was tortured and then slain by brigands who captured him a fortnight ago. Msrgr. Froewis, an Austrian, is 84 years old.

Nun, At 91, Observes 75th Anniversary Of Her Entry Into Order

Milwaukee, Aug. 24.—In the presence of Milwaukee and Chicago relatives and religious of the institution, Sister Mary de Sales, C. S. C., born O'Neill, in Milwaukee 91 years ago, and one of the heroic band of American nuns who, on battlefields and in hospitals and prison camps administered to the wounded and dying soldiers of both armies during the Civil War last week celebrated the seventy-fifth anniversary of her entrance into the Sisterhood of the Holy Cross at Notre Dame, Ind.

The Rev. James O'Neill, S. J., of Cincinnati, her grand-nephew, was celebrant of the Diamond Jubilee Mass. Sister Mary de Sales has another grand-nephew who is a Christian Brother, and six grand-nieces who are members of religious communities. One of these is Sister Emma of the Franciscan Sisters who conduct the Sacred Heart sanitarium in this city. A sister of the jubilarian who was Sister Athanasius, also a sister of the Holy Cross, died several years ago.

After the Civil War, Sister Mary de Sales engaged in hospital work and in teaching. For the last 25 years she has been at St. Mary's College Notre Dame, where despite advanced age she follows actively the community life of the Sisters.

French Priest Loses Life Attempting To Save Drowning Boy

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

Paris, Aug. 20.—Able Pierre Sacre, a young priest ordained only three months, has just lost his life in a heroic attempt to rescue a boy from drowning. He was the second of a family of fifteen children. The young abbe had taken a party of workmen a child from little to sea for a vacation. He saw one of his charges having difficulty in the water and fully clothed, jumped into the water in an attempt to save him. Although an excellent swimmer, Abbe Sacre was overpowered by the water after he had seized the boy and was trying to make land. Another young man, a member of the party, also lost his life in trying to save his comrade and the priest.

Before Abbe Sacre left Lille, the mother of the little Leclercq, the child whom he tried to save, said to him: "I have only four out of fifteen children left to me. I trust this one will protect him as you would your own brother."

"Re-assured," the priest answered, "if anything happens to him, it will be because something has happened to me as well."

Girl Athletes' Garb Is Upheld In England

London, Aug. 20.—Clerical opinion here is not so critical of women's athletic wear as that in Germany. Following a report, published through the English of the Bishop of Rotterdam's objection to the use by girls of running vests and shorts at an athletic display, a newswoman sought the view of a priest attached to the Westminster Cathedral staff, and was told:

"Women who take part in races and games can hardly do so in their ordinary walking clothes. So long as women are decently and becomingly attired, the Church would not object."

It was pointed out here that conditions vary greatly among countries where there must be difference of detail. Women who take part in athletic events here appear in the usual athletic wear.

Two Motor Mishaps Bereave Welsh Home

London, Aug. 20.—Death and serious injury in two motor accidents have been the lot of the Furtwangler family of Cardiff within a few days. Agnes Furtwangler, a Catholic teacher, was injured when an auto-coach overturned in the Pyrenees, burning one person to death and injuring eight others.

She was able to continue her journey to Lourdes. While she was there her father, in Cardiff, was struck and killed by an auto.

Canon Sheenan's Novel Completed

London, Aug. 20.—Canon Sheenan's unfinished novel, "Tristan Lloyd," is to be published here by Longmans, Green and Co. The book has been completed by a priest friend of the author. The best known of Canon Sheenan's novels are "My New Curate," "Lake Dalmeg," "The Queen's Fillet," "The Ellidness of Dr. Gray" and "Lisheen." He died at Doperalle, Ireland, where he was parish priest in 1913.

Diversity Of Sects Involves Yugoslav Problems Of State

Belgrade, Aug. 17.—The diversity of religions in Yugoslavia complicates efforts of the young government to work out a policy with regard to the proper relation of Church and State. Statistics of 1921 show that 46.6 per cent of the population are Orthodox Catholics, 39.4 per cent Roman Catholics, four-tenth of one per cent Greek Catholics, 1.8 per cent Protestants, 11.1 per cent Mussulmans, one-half of one per cent Jews and one-fifth of one per cent without religious affiliation. Slovenia is almost entirely Catholic, or 96 per cent; Croatia has 72.2 per cent; Dalmatia 82.8 per cent and Vojvodina 52.2 per cent Catholic population.

The Orthodox Church has a slight majority and has profited from this, particularly in the budget. The fact that relations with the Vatican have not been definitely regulated accounts for much of the lack of order in Roman Catholic circles, and the clergy, naturally, are the ones who suffer most.

The Catholics, despite their numbers, are poorly organized with the exception of the Slovenes, who form the Slovene Popular Party and have 20 to 26 deputies in parliament. The situation in Croatia is not so favorable. The Catholic party there elected only one deputy at the last election. On the other hand, a member of the Slovenian Popular Party, the Rev. Korosec, a Catholic priest, has been made Minister of the Interior. It is confidently hoped that the Rev. Korosec will be particularly successful in his administration of Macedonia's affairs—a section that long was under Turkish domination.

Some foreign papers, including Catholic journals, have given the impression that the Catholics of Yugoslavia opposed the establishment of the new state. This is inaccurate. The Catholics are staunch supporters of the State and look forward to amicable relation between Church and State and the speedy conclusion of a concordat with the Holy See.

French Abbe Wins Suit Against Mayor

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

Paris, Aug. 20.—As predicted last week, a lesson has been given by the Council of State to the intolerant municipal council and mayor of La Bastide-Rouairoux, an industrial hamlet of the Tarn, who wished to put in prison the cure of the parish because he conducted a street procession despite their protests.

The Council of State has annulled the mayor's decree as constituting an abuse of authority. The facts leading up to the incident date back two years when the mayor issued his first prohibitive decree. The cure, Abbe Gautrand, brought the matter before the Council of State and asked for an annulment. Meanwhile he decided to continue street-processions as in the past whereupon the mayor had him arrested for infraction of a municipal law and a police court sentenced him to serve three days in prison. Some months later, the Council of State annulled the mayor's decree.

Last year, this anti-clerical official again issued an injunction, this time worded somewhat differently, but whose burden was the prohibition of street-processions. A second time, Abbe Gautrand appealed to the Council of State and, as previously, continued to hold his processions, and, again, he was arrested upon complaint of the mayor and sentenced to serve three days in prison. But knowing that the Council of State would again set aside the municipal edict, the judiciary authority suspended commitment to jail, realizing that the court would be held responsible for the unjust incarceration of the prisoner and would be subjected to violent protestation on the part of the parishioners.

Abbe Gautrand has now not only gained the right to continue to hold street processions, but he also has excellent ground for a damage suit against the municipal authorities, if he wished to press the matter.

Msrgr. Mann, Historian of Popes, Succumbs

London, Aug. 20.—Msrgr. Horace K. Mann, historian of the Popes and rector since 1917 of the Beda College, Rome, was buried at Gosforth, Northumberland, recently. He was in Great Britain on vacation and underwent a serious operation last month. He collapsed suddenly and died in an Edinburgh nursing home.

For many years he had been engaged in writing the lives of the popes in the middle ages. Last May he presented the fourteenth volume to the Holy Father. Born in London in 1859, he was educated at St. Cuthbert's, Ushaw. For four years he was on the teaching staff of St. Cuthbert's Grammar School, Newcastle, and in 1890 became headmaster.

When he celebrated his sacerdotal silver jubilee in 1911 the Holy Father awarded him the degree of Doctor of Divinity honoris causa. About seventy priests, many of them former pupils of Msrgr. Mann, attended the Requiem in St. Mary's cathedral, Newcastle, sung by Bishop Thorman, R. I. P.

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