

## Fr. Parsons Discusses Principal Aspects Of Vatican-Italy Treaty

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

New York, Feb. 9.—The Rev. Wilfrid Parsons, S. J., editor of America, in an interview yesterday discussed various aspects of the agreement between the Vatican and the Italian government in the light of information thus far disclosed and revealed something of the contents of a cablegram he had received from Rome. He expressed the belief that removal of the "conflict of conscience" hitherto felt by Italians as swearing allegiance to the State will be one of the most important immediate effects of the reconciliation between Church and State.

"Heretofore," Father Parsons said, "every Italian had a sort of guilty conscience in giving allegiance to his State because he felt that in doing so he was violating his conscience as a Catholic, since the state had usurped some of the Church's rights. This conflict of conscience is removed at one blow. That is a very important thing for Italians, not only in Europe but in this country."

### Laws To Be In Accord

"It may reasonably be conjectured," he added, "that those laws contravene the canon law and, therefore, offend the consciences of Italian Catholic citizens will be repealed, and that no further laws of the kind will be enacted."

Explaining that he had received a brief cable from a correspondent in close touch with the Vatican, in reply to a message from him asking for further information regarding the acceptance of canon law by the Italian government, Father Parsons said:

"In explanation of dispatches on this particular aspect of the agreement, my correspondent mentions four points. The first is that the civil law will agree with the canon law. I take that to mean that the civil law will not disagree with the ecclesiastical law. That does not mean that the canon law has been adopted as the civil law."

"The second point is that, as in the case of the old Austro-Hungarian Empire, Colombia and some other South American countries and Belgium and Spain in Europe, the official religion of the State in Italy will be the Catholic religion. This does not mean that other religions will be proscribed. Judging from similar concordats made with other countries and knowing the present policy of the Holy See, I would say without doubt that other religions will continue to enjoy freedom provided they conform to the usual civic regulations."

### Church Marriage Recognized

"The third point deals with marriage. Heretofore in Italy the Church marriage was never recognized as a civil contract. As I forecast it, this means that hereafter the Church marriage will be recognized by the State as a civil contract, as it is in the United States and very few other countries in the world except England."

"The fourth point is religious teaching guaranteed in the State schools. That is a change from the old times, but not such a change from recent times. Before Premier Mussolini's regime the teaching of religion was excluded from the public schools. Recently religious teaching was made obligatory in the public schools with this exception—that a parent, if he so desired, could claim exemption for his children. Hence, this new treaty consecrates that situation by agreement."

"The epoch-making character of this settlement," Father Parsons added, "is that the Holy See has definitely renounced its legal claim to the city of Rome and the former Papal States. The final step that led to the agreement between the two powers was taken in October, 1927, when the Holy See allowed it to be known that it would be satisfied with a guarantee of its independence, with any territory, however small."

### Divorce Laws Unchanged

There would be no change in the Italian law regarding divorce, he explained, because even at present there is no divorce in Italy.

Speaking of the right of a clergyman to trial in either a civil or criminal action by a jury of laymen, Father Parsons pointed out that his correspondent had given him no information as to whether such a right was included, but added that it might possibly be that under the provisions of the treaty the clergy would be recognized by the government as exempt from the jurisdiction of the Italian courts for trial, though not for punishment.

"In the case of a violation of the Italian civil law by a clergyman," he continued, "the Italian civil court would recognize the defendant's right to trial by his own peers, by a jury of laymen before an ecclesiastical court. If such is the intention of the treaty, the Church would guarantee the State that the defendant would receive a fair and honest trial. Should the prisoner be found guilty, he would then in all probability be turned back to the civil arm for punishment."

## Novel Effects in Wraps and Gowns

### Thoughts of Spring Being Illustrated in Apparel for Women.

Early arrivals of couturier coats signally expressive of the American woman in all her types and in all her moods, turn the minds of domestic makers to thoughts of spring. And the close observer of fashion trends keeps her eyes alert to the smartest details in advance of the actual shopping period, says a fashion writer in the Cincinnati Enquirer.

Individuality in dressing is by no means a matter of chance. And by knowing what will best express herself sartorially each season, the American lady is acquiring a reputation for smartness in her attire.

Statements here and there in regard to the flare cause one to pause and wonder if all the fashion world has gone over to the side of the circular cut. Straight lines are well represented, but allied with new details in tailoring; collars and the like do not closely resemble the various types that have gone before.

Three cleverly cut coats are decidedly constructed on straight lines, but the silhouette is considerably softened and feminized. Students of style predict that the straight line will be predominantly the choice of the majority for spring.

Small collars, large full collars, satiny little side ties, the smart cravat of fur, face framing fur shapes less ample than those of winter necessity, and widened revers offer much in the way of suiting the type to one's personality.

### Collars of Fur

Very distinctive collars of fur are represented on models of silky short furs affording contrast to the color of the coat. An unusually striking collar is that on a model from Paquin, white fur used on a black crepe coat, the fur stopping at the shoulders and the collar ending in very wide draped jabots.

Balanced fullness at either side of the front skirt section is accented by a hemline-cut diagonally across the corners of the closing.

By its sleeve the straight line of the faced coat directly and emphatically labeled spring. Fullness is inserted below the elbow, sometimes the sleeve hanging free, again caught into a close cuff or wristband. This gives an opportunity for the designer to employ interesting stitching, tiers, godets or even fur bands in a manner not seen before.

Noteworthy is the double band of white fur on a black crepe afternoon coat from Premet, showing an edge of white along the closing, white facing the lapel and a jaunty fur cravat tied at one side.

Typical of the full sleeve is a sports type from Paquin, the coat of blue-suede cloth, circularly cut toward the hem and with a small flared collar of light toned fur. This sleeve embraces the type known as the melon shape, more exaggeratedly illustrated in a coat from Bernard of beige tweed with



Kasha Coat Is Trimmed With Shawl Collar of Ermine.

self-scarf tied collar and short tucks placed at intervals down the front and on the puffy sleeves.

Short tucks are placed at intervals down the front of this model and also on the sleeves.

In lieu of fur Vionnet uses tucked black satin for the flaring sleeves, generous collar and part of the front on a straightline model of dark blue woolens.

Tucks establish the circular lines on a Paquin coat of blue suede cloth above described.

And when not tucks, stitching frequently is the trimming element as on a coat from Paton, of gray omdamoua ornamented in diamond-shaped motifs stitched in this design.

### Fabrics and Colors

More professional grows the use of color every season. Two fabrics and two colors must needs be combined skillfully or not at all. Color as a whole stands out prominently rather than special emphasis being placed on any given shade or color.

Contrary to all the accepted ideas and natural tendencies to cover light dresses with dark coats, two couturiers do quite the opposite in two models of spring persuasion.

This is not only a fancy in woolens but in silk as well. Germaine Leconte's ensemble consists of a two-piece frock combining red crepe marocain with a pullover of red jersey, having a draped collar and crepe incrustation. It attains greater distinction through its little chemisette of white crepe.

The coat of this ensemble is in white kasintulla, scarf collared and faced in the red.

Marcel Rochas employs red flat crepe for the dress of the jacket costume, using white crepe for the upper part of the round necked blouse and tops the dress with a collarless short coat of white crepe having bands of brown for trimming.

Glorifying the polka dot, Agnes features an ensemble combining gray dotted crepe with gray kasha. The one-piece dress is trimmed with steel buttons and shows a nice balance in the clever application of the two vastly different fabrics.

A few frocks of Parisian design show an interesting balanced delineation.



Advance Model for Spring of Silk Printed Plaid Check.

tion of skirt fullness, applique bands on the blouse, widening as they extend to the skirt for full flares.

An example of this is shown in an afternoon frock from Jean Patou, fashioned of a soft green crepe Elizabeth, simple in line but intricate as to cut.

Diagonal crossed bands of the fabric allowing fullness are used on both back and front in perfect balance.

### The Simple Bodice

The chastely simple bodice, with moderate décolletage in front and exaggeratedly low in the back, seems to have the single purpose of throwing emphasis on a graceful and elegant skirt in its rich fluffs or folds of fabric.

Color tones have become more important, with black leading, scarlet hues of red, greens, several blues and the tinted white shades being favored out of the wealth of color in the spectrum.

Solid colors are beautifully adapted to the lights and shadows in the hidden folds of skirts, whether the material be a heavier silk or one of the very fine wets.

Augusta Bernard's evening gown in the new red flat crepe, with a yellow lining, exemplifies the stateliness of this type of frock. It depends entirely upon its color, its cut, the manipulation of its drapery, and is devoid of all trimming. The fullness is acquired by means of three rounded petals attached to the hipline.

Moire, as a fabric for costumeing an entire bridal party, is quite a new thought. Dresses for bride, maid of honor, and bridesmaids have been shown all in the same style except that the bride's gown had long sleeves and was of off-white lace trimmed and worn with a long veil.

Belge more was employed L. tracks for bridesmaids with red tulle hats and red shoes; while the maid of honor was costumed in moire dress of garnet red, red moire slippers and a turban of red tulle. The dresses of the bride's party were untrimmed and without sleeves.

The difference in the costumes evolved from this clever and charming idea was brought out by the colors. Particularly novel was the fact that each dress had a long divided train.

### Plaits Provide Manner

of Supplying Fullness

Variations of the plait have returned to fashion's favor. Often two, three or more widths diversify the fullness in one costume. With the straight line frock enjoying renewed interest, plaits are an excellent means of introducing fullness.

Every Parisian collection has shown some frocks in which the blouse falls in a loose line, simulating a bolero and barely covering the belt. When not actually a bolero, a loose tuck or an overlapping edge of fabric at the very least suggests this effect to give animation to the straight line.

## Soothe Doomed Shark

### by Tickling Its Hide

Few of us would like to tackle the tiger of the seas in his native haunts, but the brown men of Altutaki in the Southern seas have no such scruples. There, in the calm, emerald waters of the lagoon, fringed about with waving palms, are great hollows in the coral rocks; here, during the hottest hours of the day, the sharks love to bask in the welcome shade.

Ten feet of shark lies snug within the shadow, only a slowly waving tail proclaiming his presence. Then out from the beach creeps a canoe, with a rope of sinnet ready coiled. Silently the Kanakas paddle to the spot, where deep down in the clear water that silty-gray tail moves slowly.

Poised for a moment while he inhales a deep breath, the brown man waits, the loop of the rope over his arm. Then, in a beautiful curve, he dives. Now he is beside the shark and his hand softly rubs the rasping hide. The shark likes it.

Suddenly the noose is fixed over the flukes of the tail, and a brown form is seen scrambling quickly over the gunwale of the canoe.

Then comes a rapid paddling of the frail craft, the line is hauled in and the shark is effectively dispatched with a blow of a club.

## Difficulties of Life

### Have Their Purposes

Very rare are those who have always had their every wish fulfilled or forestalled; but even these should not be envied.

Man is not made to live in perpetual sunshine, and would very soon tire of having all he desires, without having to wait and work for the materialization of his longings. The greater the ease of obtaining what he wants—the sooner it would pall upon him.

Life's difficulties and prolonged trials, says the London Chronicle, are a test of character. If we had no difficulties to overcome and our patience were not tried, we might continue to exist—but our claim to be called "men" and "women" would be slender.

Though we often groan under its weight, we should "respect the burden," and thus retain our cheerfulness and serenity.

### Houses In Patriotic Hues

With all the house painting now going on so busily in city and country, the elders who as boys or girls lived on a farm will smile as they contrast the quiet colors used today with the vivid ones common to their youth. Blue and red were favorite colors then. They were the cheapest paints the farmers could buy and mix, except for a standard white.

Barn doors were invariably one of these two colors. A blue pump clashed with the green grass in the door yard. A blue wooden weather-vane rooster swung lazily on a red-roofed barn. Houses were mostly white, but for many years blue and red trimmings were much in favor. In many sections the countryside presented a decidedly patriotic appearance.

### Toad's Marvelous Tongue

The Spanish toad that lives in the zoo has a tongue that moves faster than that of the busiest gossip. It moves so fast that observers could not see it pick up a worm placed before it recently. The worm simply disappeared, as if into the air. Furthermore, an ordinary slow motion camera failed to take a picture of that moving tongue. Another film was taken, this time at three times the speed, and in this the tongue was shown moving at a rate quicker than a sixtieth of a second, which means that if the Spanish toad could eat continuously he would devour nearly 4,000 meals a minute!

### Land of Many Languages

The principal languages of Switzerland are German, spoken by 71 per cent of the people; French, by 21 per cent, and Italian, by 6 per cent. Other languages are Romansh and Latin. By the federal constitution of 1848 and 1874 German, French and Italian are recognized as national languages. So that debates in the federal parliament may be carried on in any of the three, while federal laws and decrees appear also in the three languages. The old dialects of Romansh and Latin do not have any political recognition by the confederation.

### Oh, Daniel!

A big-game hunter in Rhodesia tracked down a lion and wounded it. The beast turned on him, beat him to the ground, and was about to finish him off when the flap of the hunter's collar turned over.

Instantly the lion bounded off into the bush.

Wondering at his miraculous escape, the hunter looked down at his collar. He saw, on the inside, his name: "Daniel!"

### Mental Processes

A mother was cajoling her little daughter into taking some medicine that evidently was rather of unpleasant taste, saying:

"I don't like to take medicine any better than you do, but I just make up my mind to do it, and then I do." "Yes, mother, and I just make up my mind that I won't take it and I don't." The little girl won her point.

## New Era Began With Power Over Darkness

Among the most notable facts at present of the Children in Masonic lands under the joint auspices of the British Museum and the University of Pennsylvania are all lamps of beautiful design dating to nearly 4,000 years before Christ, revealing a civilization older than that of Europe.

"That, however far back we are permitted to peep like the dim past," the leader, Mr. Patterson, said, "when man, with the same nature and feelings as we, lived and loved, worked and died, we find him facing the same problems as we do today. In seeking to regulate the light of day which entered his buildings, and to supplement it at night as effectively as his knowledge would permit."

"But from 4,000 years before Christ to 1800 A. D., close to 6,000 years, that knowledge took him no further than the use of a wick dipped in oil, or later, of the candle made from natural oil and fat. But with the beginning of the last century a new era began, an era in which dawned the possibility of unlimited light during the hours of natural darkness."

## Snakes in Captivity

### Turn Into Cannibals

Python, many of them 15 feet long, who are among the guests of the London zoo, spend most of their time submerged in the water of the most surrounding the enclosure. A few of the inhabitants of the park, especially the cobras, become cannibals, and attack and devour not only various harmless species, but also some of their most poisonous relations. Even puff-adders have been recorded as falling victims to the cobra's viciousness and voracity. Mr. Fitzsimmons, the curator of the Port Elizabeth museum, states that a cobra versus puff-adder contest may last as long as an hour, and that the latter does not give in to his more agile adversary until the effects of the injected venom of his enemy have induced complete paralysis. Not long ago a cobra, in the course of moving some of the snakes in the enclosure, was bitten on the hand by a large puff-adder. A special serum kept on the premises was immediately injected into the victim, and his life saved.

### Why Get Mad?

At Camp Grant, during the war, the officers had difficulty in getting the proper salutes from the men. Lectures followed lectures, but apparently to no avail.

A negro private met a captain one morning, and greeted him with "Howdy, boss."

Followed a long tirade from the captain on the correct way to salute. The buck private listened in silence, scratched his head, and finally said:

"Lawdy, boss, if Ah'd thought you was gwine git so mad about it, Ah wouldn't of spoke to you at all." From the Bulletin of Naval Post, American Legion.

### Bird Travels

The birds that live on insects in the East go to Cuba and the West Indies or to Central and South America in the winter. The bobolink at this season will sing in South American fields.

Flover and snipe are credited with the most extensive migrations. Some species breed within the Arctic circle and go to the southern end of South America for the winter. The sparrows, robins and bluebirds and many of the berry eaters spend the winter from the Middle states to the Gulf of Mexico. In the West the migratory birds go to Mexico.—Kansas City Star.

### Off the Target

It was a very hot day on the rifle range, and the instructor had just about had enough of it.

There was one more man to fire, and, closing his eyes, this individual loosed off his ten rounds in less than a minute.

"Have I got a bull?" he asked, when he had finished.

The instructor, who had just put down his glasses, glowered.

"Oh, yes," he returned, "you got a bull all right, but I expect you will have to pay for it. It's lying dead in the next field."—London Answers.

### Bill for Baby

Little Grace lived in a district where scarcely a day passed when an agent or canvasser did not call at the door.

One day when Grace was called into her mother's room to see a baby brother who had just arrived, she exclaimed, "Why, where did he come from?"

"The doctor brought him in," replied the father.

"Oh, I didn't know he was the agent for babies," responded Grace. "What did you have to pay down?"

### Probably He Was Right

An actor who seldom went to church was persuaded by a friend to make an exception in favor of a really soul-stirring preacher. (Waiter Sichel tells the story in "The Sands of Time"). After the service his friend inquired what he thought of it, and especially of the large congregation.

"Not much of the congregation," was the retort, "for it seemed to me mostly paper."

"Paper," of course, is stage slang for fake tickets.

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**Catholic Radio Group**  
**Organized In France**  
By M. Masland  
(Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C.  
News Service)

Paris Feb. 4.—The rapid development of the radio has caused a Catholic Radio Committee to be organized at Paris. Its purpose will be to study, from a Catholic viewpoint, questions affecting the development and utilization of this new science. With the approbation of the hierarchy, the committee has been organized under the presidency of M. Victor Bucaille, secretary of the Municipal Council of Paris and president of the Association for Religious Information.

The committee proposes: (1) to form a powerful association of radio listeners who are interested in the moral tenor of programs; (2) to safeguard religious customs and convictions and, if necessary, to intervene if programs are lacking in respect to these; (3) to encourage broadcasting programs of a moral, educational and recreational character; (4) to awaken a Catholic consciousness of the new moral responsibilities incident to radio installation; and (5) to encourage every opportunity to use the radio in connection with Catholic action and religious defense so as to do the greatest good to the greatest possible number.

**MISSIONS IN A LANGUAGE**  
Saints Clara, Cal., Feb. 1.—News in four languages will be broadcast from St. Clara's Church by Rev. Fr. Sichel. Services will be in English, Italian, Portuguese and Spanish.