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Pope Thanks K. of C. For Congratulation

New Haven, Conn., March 1.—Pope Pius today cabled his blessing to the Knights of Columbus in appreciation of a congratulatory message sent him by the Supreme Officers after the signing of the concordat between Italy and the Vatican. The cable was signed by Cardinal Gaspari, Secretary of State, and addressed to Supreme Knight Martin H. Carmody.

It read as follows: "Holy Father most appreciative of your kind message on the occasion of the first meeting of the Supreme Officers after the signing of the treaty between the Holy See and Italy expresses his thanks for your felicitations and affectionate greetings and most willingly bestows the Apostolic Blessing on all members of the Knights of Columbus."

Sister M. Paulita Dies

New York, March 2.—A solemn Mass of requiem was celebrated this morning in the chapel of The New York Foundling Hospital for Sister Mary Paulita, who died Thursday, in the forty-seventh year of her religious life. For the last 27 years she was attached to the Foundling Hospital.

Before entering the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity in 1882, Sister Paulita was Bridget Clark, a native of Burlington, Vt. Sister Paulita entered welfare work in 1895, when she was assigned to care for the insane at St. Vincent's retreat, Harrison, N. Y., where she remained seven years.

Influenza Epidemic In England Cancels Lenten Abstinence

London, Feb. 28.—The influenza epidemic in this country has led nine in which the council expects to obtain fasting and abstinence. The usual Friday abstinence, however, is maintained. The diocese affected are Westminster, Liverpool, Brentford, Clifton, Lancaster (in the mining districts, where there is acute distress on account of unemployment), Manerbia, Portsmouth, Salford, and Shrewsbury. Cardinal Bourne, himself a victim of influenza, granted the dispensation on medical advice.

Humiliation and Indignities Are lot of Catholic Bishops Forced to Reside in Moscow

By M. Massiani

(Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service).

Paris, Feb. 25.—The painful and humiliating position of the Catholic Bishop of Moscow, Msgr. Neveu, is described by him in a letter to Msgr. d'Herbigny, Titular Bishop of Ilio, dated January 18, which has been given to La Croix for publication.

Msgr. Neveu, a Frenchman, was installed as apostolic administrator for Moscow by Msgr. d'Herbigny some years ago and is the Titular Bishop of Kitros.

In his letter Msgr. Neveu declares that he is too ill to care for himself properly and that he can not leave Russia to seek aid elsewhere since the Soviet Government would not permit him to return; that he is living under conditions as deplorable as they are onerous and has to submit to the most offensive promiscuities. But he also gives evidence of further charity and courage and submission to the will of God.

"If it were possible for me to relate pleasant things," he writes, "I should not hesitate to use my pen often; but, alas, I can scarcely speak of the suffering, and I prefer to keep my silence so as not to sadden you."

Return Would Be Forbidden

First, with regard to my physical state, I am not well. I have acquired heart trouble and frequent and painful attacks of nephritis afflict me. As my income is very modest, it is difficult to care for myself here. For that reason it would be better for me to visit France, where I have not been since 1912. I could consult skilled physicians and, possibly, seek the water-cures. I would also have the consolation of embracing once more before his death my poor father who is in his eighty-third year. He is a modest workman, a true proletarian, who has reared sixteen children by the sweat of his brow. The Soviet authorities would be glad to let me go, but they would refuse to let me return, just as though I were a conspirator or a malefactor. Therefore it is necessary for me to sacrifice the interest of my health and the most urgent family affection to that duty which commands me to remain here—even unto death. It causes me great suffering at heart, but may God's will be done!"

With regard to his pecuniary situation, he is in an equally unfortunate position because of the high cost of lodgings.

"After having lived very uncomfortably for a whole year with first one and then another family, I succeeded in finding not far from the church two little rooms, the smaller of which is occupied by the devoted Tania who continues to care for my little household," the letter says. "Up to September I paid 12 rubles 46 copecks per month for rent. Since then the rent has been increased 50 per cent and I now have to pay 57 rubles 46 copecks. My total income for the month, including Mass stipends, varies from 150 to 160 rubles. You can see what is left me for food, heat, lights, water and medicines. But even at this price, if we could only have peace in the apartment! I have not imagined what rift-raff I have for neighbors."

"A year ago, one neighbor was arrested and sent I know not where. His wife, left alone, has been leading the life of a merry widow. The remaining room is rented by a Jew who makes a business of subletting it. Here sons of the good bourgeoisie pass the greater part of their evenings in debauchery, often with women who, inflamed by wine, cry out in noisy and unseemly fashion. A quarrel ended tragically there on the fourth of this month at five o'clock in the evening. Tania and I were alone when the sub-tenant next to us shot and killed himself. It was I, a bishop of the Holy Catholic Church and knight of the Legion of Honor of France who had to inform the militia."

"For eight days after that we had peace but since last Sunday, the orgies have been resumed and Wednesday evening in the chamber of the suicide (purified no doubt according to the law of Moses) there was such a disturbance that it was impossible to keep from hearing their cries and improper proposals; and these gamins seeing our calm and patience, pretended that they had been charged with keeping an eye on me and annoying me. The counselor of the French Embassy called on me one evening and hearing the uproar next door, said: 'I had heard that you lived in a stable.'"

Lacks Books For Study

The prelate, who has always given much time to scientific study heretofore, has had to forego this pleasure for want of books. He continues, however, to interest himself in the activities of a group of scholars at Nijni-Novgorod, amateur students of physics and astronomy. He transmits to his correspondent the wish of these scholars to receive astronomical works from the Vatican Observatory.

After giving an interesting account of a scientific conference he had attended, Msgr. Neveu adds:

"I do not wish to importune you further. I prefer to shut up in my heart other subjects of the greatest sadness which I might easily tell you. We are in the hands of God—only that will come to us which He decrees; and that which He decrees will always be for our ultimate good."

"The Catholic world is undoubtedly preparing to celebrate the fiftieth Jubilee of the Holy Father's ordination to be priesthood; let us at a distance share in the joy of our brothers since it is impossible for the Catholics of Russia to organize a pilgrimage to Rome. If a jubilee privilege is accorded on this occasion, as I think it will be since Leo XIII. accorded a similar privilege, I shall appreciate your informing me of it and of the conditions."

"I recommend myself to your good prayers, venerable Seigneur and cherished Father. Obtain for me from the Bon Dieu the strength, the perseverance and the patience as well as sufficient generosity to work for the good of those who wish evil to us and to love them in spite of everything."

Several Mexican Bishops And 500 Priests Register

Bishops Returned From Exile in United States—Write To Minister Canales, Denouncing Bombing Portes Gil's Train

Mexico City, March 1.—Three Mexican Bishops, Msgr. Antonio Guizar Valencia, Msgr. Francisco Banegas and Msgr. Nicolas Corona, and at least five hundred priests are known to have complied with the governments order to register prior to March 1. Registration of the clergy began soon after a statement issued by Bishop Miguel de la Mora of San Luis Potosi, who gave it as his opinion that there was nothing in the registration order that would conflict with Church rulings.

At the time, Bishop de la Mora warned the clergy that those who registered did so on their own responsibility and that in doing so they were exposing themselves to possible injustice on the part of "extreme radical elements."

Bishops Write To Minister Canales. The three Bishops who have registered to date also have written to Acting Secretary of the Interior Canales denouncing the recent bombing of the presidential train. According to word received by Execlator, Bishop Guizar Valencia, first of the prelates to register, gave his address as "Liberated numero 810, Chihuahua."

The same day it was stated by the government that the Secretary of Gobernacion had knowledge that Msgr. Corona, Bishop of Papanita, Msgr. de la Mora, Bishop of San Luis Potosi, and Msgr. Maximino Ruiz, Coadjutor of the diocese of Mexico, were known to be living in Mexico and, therefore, under obligation to inform the government of their places of residence.

At the time of the closing of the churches in 1926, there were 33 Bishops in Mexico. Three are known to have died and the majority of the others are refugees.

In El Universal there is published a letter purporting to have been written by Bishop Guizar Valencia, which reads as follows:

"In the press of the 15th, I published denounced the attack on the President of the Republic and his companions. I request that you present to the President of the Republic this ratification of my protest and that you congratulate him for having escaped together with his companions unharmed."

Disbanding Communities of Nuns. The Secretary of Gobernacion has sent a circular to all state governors, according to El Universal, instructing them to "proceed at once with energy in a campaign to discover any religious women who may be living in community contrary to the Constitution."

If any natives are found, the quotation of the circular says, they must be disbanded and forced to live separate from their religious community. If aliens, they must be deported.

Four priests, El Universal also reports, have been transferred from the State penitentiary of Jalisco to the federal prison.

Ten bandits, members of the group which captured and, it is charged, killed two Americans, were slain in a clash with troops in Guanajuato, Thursday.

Marianist Brother 65 Years In Order

Cleveland, Feb. 28.—Brother Philip Kleinhans, S. M., Librarian at Cathedral Latin school since 1926, has just entered upon his sixty-fifth year as a member of the Society of Mary. Brother Philip was born in Rochester. He entered the order when he was sixteen.

SACRED HEART

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INTERDICT ON FRENCH PARISH IS LIFTED

Paris, Feb. 25.—Msgr. Riviere, Archbishop of Provence, has lifted the interdict which had been placed on the parish of Barbentane because inhabitants of that little town near the mouth of the Rhone had brought into the church, in spite of the curate's order to the contrary, the body of a militant member of the Action Francaise who died without retracting, and because they had initiated a religious ceremony.

An important delegation of prominent citizens of Barbentane went to the Archbishop of Aix and asked him to present to Archbishop Riviere a declaration of their adherence to the Catholic Church and their regret that at the instigation of out of 402 heads of families, eleven of them, so they said, such an act had been performed resulting in unavoidable consequences. This supplication carried the signatures of 600 other parishioners.

The archbishop, having first ascertained that these signatures represented beyond possible contradiction the great majority of the Catholic population of Barbentane, decided that the step had been the result of impulse and error and that actual conditions merited pardon.

As a result he signed an ordinance prescribing that the Blessed Sacrament should be returned to its accustomed place in the church and that religious offices should be resumed. As a matter of caution, nevertheless, he delegated one of his vicar generals to act as curate of Barbentane.

Mother Of Bishop Of Dijon Is Dead

Paris, Feb. 25.—Word has been received here of the death at Dijon of Madame Louis Petit de Falloux, mother of the bishop of that diocese. The deceased was in her eightieth year.

Daughter of a distinguished scholar, M. Marie-Louise, the widow of a professor of the Sorbonne University, Madame Petit de Falloux was widely known and beloved. Besides her son, the Bishop of Dijon, she is survived by three daughters, thirty-three grandchildren and thirteen great-grandchildren. A daughter who died a year ago was the wife of M. Guiraud, editor-in-chief of La Croix. A grand-daughter is married to M. Martial Maunier, Paris correspondent of the N. O. W. C. News Service.

2 CHINESE BISHOPS NAMED

Rome, Feb. 31.—The nomination of two new Chinese bishops for a newly formed vicariate and prefecture have been announced. Father Evariste Tchang, professor at the College of the Propaganda, has been named titular bishop and apostolic vicar of the vicariate of Tsinghai, formed by dividing the vicariate of Szechuan into two vicariates of Szechuan and Tsinghai.