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CAPACITY CONGREGATION HEARS EXPLANATION OF CONCORDAT WITH ITALY

Continued from page 1

Benediction—
Congregational Singing
Te Deum—Gregorian
Students of St. Andrew's Preparatory Seminary
Holy God—Traditional
Congregational Singing
Bishop O'Hern

The sermon of the evening, preached by Bishop O'Hern, was heard with close attention and great appreciation by the capacity congregation. He spoke in part as follows:

"We are assembled tonight to offer a solemn Te Deum in thanks to Almighty God, the Ruler of all things, for the peaceful adjustment of the Roman question, thus marking the completion of one of the most important acts in the history of the Church and of Italy.

"For more than 13 centuries, up to 1870, the Pope held the city of Rome in his charge and care, and for over five centuries they have occupied without interruption the Vatican as the Apostolic Palace. The Government and care of the Eternal City had been forced upon the Papacy from the days of the barbaric invasion, and throughout the centuries the Papacy has been the protector, the guide and governor of the City of Seven Hills. History has never been able to give an adequate picture of the importance of Rome and the part the Papacy has played in the course of the world since Christ, for the obvious reason that Divine Providence, in a manner not grasped by the human mind, has played its role in the history of the position between the Church and the nations.

"On that momentous occasion of a few days ago, the signing of the agreement between the Holy See and the Italian Government, a stroke of the pen sacrificed Rome with all its memories, with its possessions, and the temporal government of Rome, which was set up to a few days ago a right of the Papacy, became a matter of history. Only a very small part of Rome, the equivalent of a few city blocks, remains under the control of the Papacy. But Rome, the great Eternal City governed and protected by the long line of Popes for centuries has been given up.

Independence of the Papacy

"This act is, no doubt, one of the outstanding elements of this historic event, and it will be a long time before the realization of this important feature will dawn in all its fullness upon Catholics and the non-Catholic world. Rome was sacred ground, the Pope might hold the Vatican City as a basis for sovereignty and independence. The small plot of ground that the Pope still calls his own, is now no longer considered a territoriality by the Italian Government, but is now absolute territorial independence. It is, in an insignificant quantity of earth over which the Pope reigns supreme, from the temporal standpoint. It was the great underlying principle of independence of the Papacy, that was sought after and defended, not the territoriality of the power, indicated by the present small possessions.

"It is hard to picture the Papacy taking this step. Students of his story will find this event an outstanding one. The followers of the True Faith will see in this act of sacrifice, on the part of the Papacy, a far-reaching proclamation of the Vicar of Christ. The thought of the loss of the temporalities of the Eternal City is offset by the knowledge that the recognition of the Pope's independence has been finally obtained.

The Treaty and Concordat

"The agreement consists of two distinct, but inseparable, documents: a Treaty and a Concordat. They are distinct only in name. (Treaty is a generic term, and Concordat a specific one applied to a certain class of agreements between the Holy See and other Sovereign Powers), but even more distinct in their juridical importance. The Treaty has an international value, and is directed to the entire Catholic World while the Concordat has merely a national character, and is concerned only with the relation between the Papacy and Italy, in matters common to both.

"The urgency of a solution of the Roman question, and the importance of the question itself guaranteed the good will of the parties, once the discussions had started; and this explains, not only the number of concessions in the document, but also the brevity of the negotiations. Therefore, the first part of the document, signed February 11, 1929, concerns the Pope's power over the so-called 'City of the Vatican'; (2) the right of extra-territoriality is granted to some churches and other buildings; (3) the 'Law of Guarantees' and every provision against the Treaty was abolished.

The Most Important Part

"The first paragraph, recognizing the exclusive and absolute power and the sovereign jurisdiction of the Holy See over the Vatican, from the international and Catholic point of view, is the most important of the whole document. In fact, the Italian State does not grant to the Holy See the 'use of such territory', as was contemplated in the 'Law of Guarantees', but confines itself to the recognition of the fact and the rights of the Pope's power over this specified territory; and declares that neither Italy nor any other Power can interfere with the same.

"In this explicit declaration is affirmed the necessity of an absolute and sovereign independence of the Pope over a territory, although it be very small, in order to give to the faithful of the world an evidence and a guaranty, concrete and manifest, of an absolute independence and freedom of the Church in the exercise of its spiritual ministry. That means that the temporal power of a few buildings is not intended for its sake, but as a means to assure the Church the freedom she needs in the exercise of her sovereign spiritual mission.

Spiritual Liberty

"For this reason the Holy See asked only for a territory sufficient to demonstrate her spiritual liberty, and refused other territorial concessions which could be regarded as a desire of an unnecessary conquest, or an attempt against the national integrity of Italy. So the existence of a tiny State is for that very reason better guaranteed and protected from possible aggression.

"With this understood, the Holy See retains today that which sufficiently assures her the means to provide for the due liberty and independence of the pastoral government of the Diocese of Rome, and of the Catholic Church in Italy and in the whole world. She declares that the Roman Question is definitely and irrevocably settled, and she recognizes the Kingdom of Italy under the Dynasty of Savoy, with Rome as the Capital. Therefore, the Pope declares himself to be free in the exercise of his spiritual power, and all Catholics should rejoice in this happy event.

"The relations of Catholics living outside the Vatican, with the supreme ecclesiastical authority are not in any way changed; they were of a spiritual nature, and such they remain.

Unity and Universality

"Christ established His Church and stamped with the indelible character of unity and universality, that is, there was to be one faith held by all in all times and all nations; in other words, a universal, that is a Catholic Church.

"In this world-wide organization there was to be a head and members, which is normal to every organization or society. The head was Christ Himself, the cornerstone and foundation, while He was on earth. After His death, His successor, appointed by Himself, was St. Peter, the prince of the Apostles, and after his death his successor as visible Head of the Church was the Bishop of Rome, the See of Peter.

"If this church is to be universal that is, to minister to all the faithful of all lands, of all times, of all races and of all Nations, the head of that universal church must obviously be and naturally be the universal, that is, of no one Nation, no one race, neither should he be, in the perfect fulfillment of his universal office, the subject of emperors, kings or potentates.

Independence Important

"His office was universal, and by the very nature of things had to be independent of civil or political control. Just as the independence of independence might take was secondary, so long as the fact of independent headship was clear to all the world, so that no one could say that the Pope favored Italy or France or any other country or nation or kingdom in his decisions and declarations governing the spiritual conduct of his church throughout the world.

"In a word, the Catholic Church can never be a national church in any sense, except that all Nations are entitled to impartiality and to equal love and care. To depart from this line would be to depart from the concept of Christianity in its very foundation. It is the very nature of things that there should be a continual effort on the part of all kings, emperors, nations and races to attempt to influence and even to control the Church, the spiritual Shepherd, who was the guarantee of unity as well as of universality.

Conflict No New Thing

"And this conflict we see all down the ages, from the time when the pagan emperors drove the church into the catacombs for their worship down into the horrible crimes of the Governments of Russia and Mexico. So that this conflict is no new thing and it has gone on from the very beginning of the public ministry of Christ Himself. It is no dot, with continue to go on, in its attempt to wreck the sublime and divine idea of Christ in the establishment of a church which is at once one and universal; one in its perfect simplicity of doctrine, universal in its extent in time and place.

"Again all lovers of peace, no matter what their religion, have reason to rejoice in the peace proclaimed between the Holy See and Italy. No one can deny that in these conflicts, it is the Nation, more than the Church, that suffers. That is true, but the Church is the true victor, even truer of Italy. That fact that by Divine dispensation, the See of Peter and his successor in Rome is not only the greatest glory and honor of all Italy, but one may add, its highest asset.

A Wonderful Blessing

"The sealing of the concordat between the Holy See and Italy will bring in its train immeasurable blessings from Almighty God, among which, when properly used, is even material prosperity of the people.

"No one can deny who knows history that while the church has forever held her highest principle aloof on purely spiritual grounds, she has undoubtedly been the bountiful mother to every Nation which has come under her gentle sway.

"And we who love Italy with all our hearts because of her matchless beauty, of her unique history, of her insuperable art; because, too, of the noble character of those who truly represent her, because finally of the fact that Christian civilization has found her home there always, and because out of that cradle have gone the apostles of Christ and the principles of Christian law and Christian life, we rejoice with all our being that the cloud of misunderstanding has at last passed and that the peace of Christ has come to the Kingdom of Italy.

"And this peace of Christ will sanctify again Italy's mountains and valleys, her hills and her wonderful plains, and under the kindly rays of this new sun her fruits and her flocks will multiply, and the children of her soil will grow finer and stronger because the peace of God has entered into the heart of the Nation.

Divine Dispensation

"By what would appear a divine dispensation, this great gift of peace and liberty to the Holy See comes at the time of the seventh anniversary of the coronation of Pius XI, now we may well repeat the ancient form, 'Gloria et Gratia.' Out of a life of constant turmoil and diligence, a life trained in longanimity and patience, has come the noble character

PARISH ACTIVITIES

Pittsburgh Choir Delighted Crowd

Fully 1,500 people attended the concert given by the Pittsburgh Polyphonic Choir in the Columbus Auditorium last Sunday evening, held under the auspices of the St. Andrew's Church Choir. The concert was a great success, one of the most delightful and satisfying musical events held in Rochester this season. This is real praise, and Rev. George Eckl, rector of St. Andrew's Church, is to be complimented for his part in bringing such a splendid body of musicians to the city. There are many who hope the Choir will return to Rochester next season.

Illustrated Talk on Lourdes Sunday

The Rev. Joseph F. Gaffel, pastor of Holy Family Church, will give an illustrated lecture on "Lourdes," Sunday night, April 28, before the Catholic Men's Federation in St. Joseph's Hall, Franklin Street.

Change the date from the third Sunday of the month to the fourth Sunday was made so that Father Gaffel could attend. Families and friends of members are invited to attend. Election of delegates to the annual state convention to be held in May, will precede the lecture.

St. Monica's Mission Was Most Successful

The two weeks' mission conducted in St. Monica's Church by Rev. W. B. Pipp and Rev. M. J. Egan of the Detroit-Wheeling Apostolate was brought to a close last Sunday evening, with a congregation of men that filled the Church to capacity. The mission was most successful, and it accomplished a great deal of good in the parish. The pastor of the church, Rev. J. P. Murphy, was most pleased with the attendance and with the results obtained.

The fruits of the mission were announced as follows:

For Catholics:—That they might correct their faults and persevere in grace; for the unknown Catholics—that they might become faithful; for the sinners—that they might see the evil of their ways, and become reconciled with God.

For Non-Catholics:—That they might have an opportunity to hear the teachings of the Catholic Church explained by competent speakers.

who now sits upon the Chair of Peter.

"Modestly and humbly he has worked with untiring toil on the great problems of the church that have agitated the minds of all those interested in the welfare of humanity. Out of that patient toil and modest laboring have come wonderful fruits now ripening on the stem; but we need not hesitate to say that among all the wonderful successes that have met his labors, blessed by God, this final solution of a most vexatious and tedious problem, the peace of the understanding between the Holy See and Italy is the foremost and the greatest.

"In our Te Deum, our thoughts shall be lifted up to Heaven and our prayer elevated before the Throne of Grace, thanking Almighty God for His added favor in His Church and blessing His blessing. His power and His strength upon the great Pontiff, Pius XI, by whose wisdom and fortitude has come to pass one of the greatest acts in the whole history of the church's drama.

"God bless our Holy Father. God bless Italy and her rulers, who, under God, have been the instruments of peace to the church and by that have brought happiness to all the children of the church throughout the world.

God Bless America

"And for this prayer for the Pope and for Italy, we add another, very dear and close to our hearts, God bless America whose history, thus far, has been that of respect for religion and profound reverence for the things that are highest and best in the spiritual life."

Rev. A. L. Gabbant, assistant rector of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church, preached a masterly sermon in Italian at the close of Bishop O'Hern's talk. He reviewed the history of the Church from the time of its founding by Christ, and all its relations with the Italian government, and expressed sincere thanks that all differences with Italy were settled now, and settled in a way that added to the peace and the glory of Christendom.

The service was concluded with benediction. Chaplains to the bishop were Rev. Orestes Canali and Rev. Walter Foery. Rev. Benedict Maselli was celebrant of solemn benediction. Rev. Joseph Salvi was deacon, Rev. Joseph Di Elio sub-deacon and Rev. William Bergan master of ceremonies.

Open House At Nazareth This Sunday

College Faculty Invites Friends to Visit Institution on Augustine Street

Faculty and students of Nazareth College, 401 Augustine Street, will hold open house this Sunday afternoon, April 28. The public is invited to inspect the buildings of the college, which have recently been completely renovated. The visiting hours are from 3 to 5 P. M., and all friends of the college are cordially invited to attend.

Members of the newly formed "Friends of Nazareth College," will be in the receiving line. The organization was formed last week to promote interest in the work which the college is doing. It collects no dues or subscriptions but is seeking only to enroll some 10,000 members, friendly to the institution.

Rehearsals of the musical comedy "Little Nelly Kelly" are now being conducted under the direction of Mrs. Mary Louise Taggart. The production is being put in final readiness for its presentation in the Columbus Auditorium on May 8th. William T. Nolan heads the committee of a special group of laymen who are assisting in the sale of tickets. Maurice F. Sammons, Thomas H. O'Connor and Evelyn Fritchard, Margaret Frawley and Grace Keenan are members of the publicity committee.

Church and Home Given Bequests

The will of John Webber, 84 Joseph Avenue, who died on March 23, offered for probate Monday, disposed of approximately \$75,000 in personal property. St. Joseph's Church, 11 Franklin Street, was bequeathed \$5,000; St. Ann's, 1000 Ave. of the Ages, Lake Avenue, \$300; the Catholic Church Extension, Chicago, \$200; and the Apostleship of Prayer, New York, \$200.

Two brothers, Frederick Webber, 96 Prince Street, and Theodore Webber, 20 Radio Street, are left \$3,000 each, and \$300 is willed to a niece, Miss Flora McCormick, 447 Pullman Avenue. Frank W. Hahn is named executor.

Aquinas Seniors Fine Banquet

The Aquinas Seniors held a fine banquet in the Columbus Building on Thursday evening this week. The attendance was large, the enthusiasm was high, and there was a jolly good spirit that was inspiring to feel and know.

Henry Zimmerman acted as toastmaster, and made a fine job of it. The Rt. Rev. John Francis O'Hern, D.D., Bishop of Rochester, was among the invited guests, and was on the program for a talk. Others on the program included Rev. Joseph Grady, Rev. John Keefe, William Lahey and Herbert Metzger, president of the class. The banquet was an excellent one, and the event in every way was a credit to the class.

San Antonio To See Return Of Franciscans

San Antonio, April 25.—Absent for more than a century, the Order of St. Francis soon will return and resume its work here. Arrangements have been in progress for more than two years for the Franciscans to establish a monastery here. Members of the Order first began their labors in the San Antonio region in 1716.

San Antonio will welcome the return of the Franciscans both in gratitude for their share in the founding of the city and for what they shall contribute to its spiritual and cultural life of today.

The decision to return the Franciscans to San Antonio will be formally approved at the annual convocation of the Franciscan Missionaries at Cincinnati, July 2 and 3. It has been announced by the Very Rev. Urban Freund, provincial of the Cincinnati Province, which includes the Archdiocese of San Antonio.



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Curtains of marquisette with fasteners, small figures; valance and tiebacks, of same design. \$2.25 to \$5.75 pair.

Curtains of plain or figured marquisette, with cream or ecru; wide ruffle and tiebacks, 4 or 6 inches wide. Special \$1.95 pair.

NEW STYLES—Lace curtains with modern designs; long fringe at bottom. \$4.50 to \$12.50. Tailored lace curtains with plain or figured hem and border. \$3.50 to \$4 pair.

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