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WRITERS ADMIT 'GODLESS' TASK IS PROBLEM

Soviet Authors Reveal Up-Rooting of Religion from Masses Herculean Job

By REV. ANTHONY COPPENS, (Belgium Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service). Brussels.—Recently published writings approaching the subject of anti-religious activities in Russia from different points of view seem agreed there are few grounds for optimism on the part of Soviet atheists in their efforts to uproot religion from the hearts of the masses.

Three such writings, which have been brought to the attention of persons here interested in the so-called Godless campaign in Russia, describe in detail the Herculean character of the task which atheists in that country have undertaken with regard to the abolition of belief in God and of religious conviction and practice.

These statements all seem to indicate that while the number of persons described as "godless" in Russia is impressive, yet, when compared with the groups still identified with some religious denomination or belief, the figure is relatively small. It is rendered even smaller when related to the confident expectations of the Soviet atheists concerning the growth of their movement.

Soviet Press Cool A Belgian Catholic paper declares that the Soviet press is somewhat cool toward the recently concluded recognition accord with the United States, because of the conviction that the Kremlin, in according to the inclusion of religious sections in the recognition stipulation, has made a concession of such a nature as to

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N.C.C.M. HEAD SCORES STORY IN MAGAZINE

Washington.—(N.C.W.C.)—A story closely paralleling that of the Nativity even to the birth of a child in a stable in Bethlehem (Penn.), and entitled "The Three Wise Guys," was censured severely in a letter directed to the editor of Collier's Weekly by Dr. Thomas E. Purcell, K. S. G., president of the National Council of Catholic Men. Its objectionableness, he pointed out, lay in the underworld argot in which it was phrased and in the fact that the primary characters, representing the Three Wise Men, were gangsters and racketeers.

"On behalf of the 522 laymen's societies affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Men, representing several millions of Catholic laymen," Dr. Purcell wrote, "I want to protest the vulgar and revolting 'Christmas Tale' by Damon Runyon, 'The Three Wise Guys,' in your issue of December 23. No one who retains any respect whatever for any part of the Christian tradition, whether he be Catholic or non-Catholic, would help being disgusted by this cheap, sordid, and execrable parody of the Nativity. To draw any human parallel whatever to this most beautiful of stories in the literature of man would alone be execrable enough; but to choose the characters therefrom from the lowest, basest elements of our criminal classes is ghastly beyond belief.

"One is so violently incensed by this horrible and beastly burlesque, that it is difficult to focus attention on another element of the story which, though insignificant in comparison, yet deserves the opprobrium of every decent citizen. I speak of Mr. Runyon's customary light and familiar references to the crimes of his vicious characters. Theft, robbery, murder—all are made as common and familiar as eating and working and sleeping. The effect of this rot on the intellectually immature can hardly be exaggerated."

HEADS NATIONAL PRESS CLUB Washington.—(NCWC)—William G. Murphy, Jr., Washington correspondent of the Philadelphia Public Ledger and formerly a member of the headquarters staff of the N.C.W.C. News Service, has been elected president of the National Press Club.

Year of Progress as Recorded By Church in United States

Industrial Recovery Closely Linked To Catholic Principles of Social Justice—Clerical and Lay Leaders Assist NRA—New Papal Delegate—Important Pronouncements By Bishops—Recognition of Russia—Schools Combat Depression—Charities Set Enenviable Record

(N. C. W. C. NEWS SERVICE) The Year 1933—one of the most dramatic in the history of the United States—saw the Catholic Church in this country dealing with new and serious problems, confronting old ones that had become greatly intensified, and all the while pressing courageously forward to impressive achievements.

The deepening of the fearful economic depression, the spread of uneasiness and distress, the national bank moratorium, the advent of a new national Administration, the re-inauguration of public confidence, the inauguration of an economic revolution—all these things, and many others, had their effect, direct or indirect, upon the work of the Catholic Church for the salvation of souls, the education of youth and the relief of misery and suffering.

The year saw the departure from the United States of the beloved Archbishop Fumasoni-Biondi, for a decade the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, called to Rome for elevation to the Sacred College of Cardinals. In May, the United States greeted a new Apostolic Delegate in the person of Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani.

The year saw two priests—well known in the United States created Apostolic Delegates. Monsignor Filippo Bernardini of the Catholic University of America was named Apostolic Delegate to Australasia, and Monsignor Paul Marcella, Auditor of the Apostolic Delegation at Washington, was named Apostolic Delegate to Japan. Also an American prelate who had served as Apostolic Delegate to India, and later to Japan, the Most Rev. Archbishop Edward Mooney, was named Bishop of Rochester.

Catholic Population Gains Catholics in the United States totaled 20,258,403 according to the 1933 Official Catholic Directory, and this figure represented an increase of 32,012 over the total Catholic population in 1932. The directory also listed 29,782 members of the clergy, an increase of 1,485 over the year before, and a total of 18,260 churches or an increase of 108 in a year's time.

The vigorous interest of American Catholics in the missionary work of the Church manifested itself in the substantial contributions made to missionary undertakings despite the economic plight of this country and the world. A report made public in the United States contributed for foreign missions a total of \$769,913 to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith in 1932. In October the American Board of Catholic Missions, disbursing dues of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for home missions announced contributions totalling \$391,336.50, while in November the annual meeting of the Catholic Church Extension Society revealed that the receipts of the Society, amounting to \$1,010,698.56 held up well to the average of the last ten years.

Six American Bishops died during the year 1933. These were Bishop Francis Gillilan, of St. Joseph; Bishop John Francis O'Hern, of Rochester; Bishop John J. Dunn, Auxiliary of New York; Bishop William A. Hickey, of Providence; Bishop Thomas W. Drumm, of Des Moines, and Bishop Joseph Chartrand, of Indianapolis. The year also saw an Archbishopric, an American Archbishop in the diplomatic service of the Holy See named Ordinary of an American diocese, and 12 American priests named Bishops. The Most Rev. Rudolph Aloysius Gerken, Bishop of Amarillo, was named Archbishop of Santa Fe, the Most Rev. Archbishop Edward Mooney, Apostolic Delegate to Japan, was named Bishop of Rochester. The American priests named Bishops include: the Most Rev. Charles Hubert LeBlond, Bishop of St. Joseph; the Most Rev. Ralph L. Hayes, Bishop of Helena; the Most Rev. Gerald Shaughnessy, S.M., Bishop of Seattle;

CARDINAL LAUDS 'CRUCIFIXION' FIGURE BY YOUNG U. S. SCULPTOR

New York.—(NCWC)—His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York, accompanied by his secretary, visited the Michaelian Galleries, here on Monday and spent an hour viewing a life-size figure of the Crucifixion by Harry Everfield Donohue, young American sculptor. The Cardinal's first remark was, "It is alive." He stated that the figure impressed itself spiritually upon him more and more as he looked at it. He also expressed a desire to remain alone with it, that he might absorb more fully the deep spiritual significance of the work, and added:

that it should have a strong appeal for all who may have the privilege of viewing it. Mr. Donohue was commissioned to execute the Crucifixion for the Passionist Monastery at Jamaica, Long Island. It is to be of stone, and represents the Fourth Word of Christ on the Cross. "My God, My God, Why hast Thou forsaken Me." The commission was awarded to the sculptor by James S. McHugh, designer of the interior of the Monastery, after he had seen a "St. Anthony of Padua" by Mr. Donohue at the Liturgical Arts Exhibition last May.

SOCIALIST LOSS IN SPAIN SEEN DECISIVE ONE

Cortes Situation Confused, With Parties Unalied and Without Majority

By REV. MANUEL GIBANA (Madrid Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service). Madrid.—The defeat of Socialism in Spain was even greater than was predicted. The Socialists are left with 58 deputies whereas formerly they had 110. The parties of the extreme Left, allied with them and precisely because of this alliance, perished completely. Only the Catalan Left showed any strength, coming out of the election with 22 deputies as against 40 in the former Cortes. All of the Left groups combined have 98 deputies. Nevertheless, the Socialists with their 58 deputies constitute a minority which, if other groups combined with them, could overthrow the Cortes.

Except in the city of Madrid, where the Socialists control a strong organization of trained workers, their defeat was decisive. In the province of Madrid, they elected only two candidates; the Liberals elected six. It is worth noting that Lázaro Cárter, who threatened the country hundreds of times with revolution, stood last in the final election although he had been third in the previous voting. Besteiro, who represents moderate Socialism, won first place. The voters were weary of extremism, as is witnessed by the fact that they even rejected the Monarchists of the ultra-right; not one was elected, and among those defeated was Luca de Tena, owner and director of ABC, the Monarchist paper of Madrid.

The second elections were more exciting and marked by more turmoil than the first, especially in Madrid. The Socialists made use of every malicious art in their attempts to intimidate the women voters. Nuns who were voting were subjected to insults from groups of boys who had been paid to annoy them. Boys of six and eight years were brought up for this purpose. Some nuns were even struck by these groups of hoodlums, others had their hoods torn off.

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Holy Name Men Plan To Offer Communion As Bouquet For Pope

New York.—(NCWC)—By virtue of a Rescript issued by the Sacred Congregation of Rites on October 23, 1933, the Feast of the Holy Name of Jesus may be celebrated on the second Sunday of January. It is announced at the national headquarters here of the Holy Name Society. This privilege is restricted to canonically instituted branches of the Holy Name Society. Accordingly, the National Director of the Society, the Very Rev. Thomas F. Conlon, O.P., has requested all members to receive Holy Communion Sunday, January 14. The spiritual bouquet will be offered to His Holiness Pope Pius XI as the contribution of the Holy Name Society in America on the occasion of the observance of the Extraordinary Holy Year of Jubilee.

Loures Women Wear Bernadette Headdress At Vatican Ceremony

By M. Massiani, (Paris Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service). Paris.—The women and girls for Lourdes and that vicinity who took part in the pilgrimage to Rome, on the occasion of the canonization of St. Bernadette-Soubirous, donned for the ceremony not the conventional lace mantilla worn by women for Pontifical audiences, but the black coiffe of the peasants of their province—the same sort of headdress as that worn by Bernadette in 1858 as she listened to the words of the Blessed Virgin before the rocks of Massabieille.

When His Holiness Pope Pius XI was informed of the plan, he gave it his approval "with the greatest pleasure." As a result St. Peter's and the halls of the Vatican seemed to be filled with "Bernadettes" so conspicuous was the headdress of the new Saint among the mantillas.

BEST OF ARCHBISHOP HANNA San Francisco.—(NCWC)—A life-size portrait bust of the Most Rev. Edward J. Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco, is soon to be presented to the prelate by the sculptor, V. Michael Cunningham, recent convert to the Catholic Faith.

BARE CONGRESS HEARING PLAN OF BIRTH CONTROL SPONSORS

Rhode Island Catholics Rally To Oppose Birth Control Propaganda

Providence, R. I.—(NCWC)—A huge rally, attended by over 500 persons, was held here last week as a Catholic counter challenge to the activities of the Rhode Island Birth Control League and as a means of forging the Catholics of this State into a united group to combat the efforts of the contraceptive movement in Rhode Island designated at the meeting as a menace to the sanctity of the home and the morals of youth.

Although the meeting was sponsored by the Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, members of other Catholic lay organizations, men and women, attended. Leaders, clerical and lay, addressed the assembly and re-emphasized the teachings of the Catholic Church on marriage and the family. The Holy Father's pronouncements on Christian marriage were read and quoted as keys to Catholic thought with regard to marriage and the family. The principal speakers at the meeting were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter E. Blessing, Vicar General of the Diocese of Providence, Miss Agnes G. Ryan, Executive Secretary of the National Council of Catholic Women, and Dr. William K. McGuirk, of this city.

Monsignor Blessing, in his address, characterized the current birth control movement in this State as absolutely vicious and as violating the fundamental feelings of right and wrong of any normal man or woman. Monsignor Blessing, explaining the Church's view on the use of the marital privilege, declaring that while she does not lay

SCRANTON SEE FIRST SYNOD SET FOR 1934

Scranton, Pa.—(N.C.W.C.)—The Most Rev. Thomas C. O'Reilly, Bishop of Scranton, at a meeting of the Diocesan Consultors prior to a conference of the priests of the diocese here, announced that the See's first synod would be held some time in the course of the next year.

Bishop O'Reilly appointed the Synod Organization Committee, which will draw up plans for the synod and prepare the decrees to be acted upon and established as the legislation governing the activities of the See. So far, the diocese has functioned according to the statutes it received at the time of its erection in 1858.

The contributions of the diocese to the relief of unemployment and depression suffering in the past five years were discussed by Bishop O'Reilly at the consultors' meeting. His Excellency stated that the total amount spent for real estate for parishes and institutions was \$500,000, for new buildings \$5,600,000, and for remodeling \$1,000,000, making a total outlay in the diocese for the past five years of \$7,000,000. The Bishop further stated that more than two-thirds of the total cost of these operations has already been paid and that every parish and institution in the diocese is in a position to meet its additional obligations at maturity.

Tuition-Warrant Plan For School Aid Urged

New Orleans.—(NCWC)—Delegates to the thirtieth annual convention of the Federation of Catholic Societies of Louisiana endorsed the tuition-warrant plan proposed by Catholic Action of the South, official organ of this Archdiocese, whereby equitable distribution of educational taxes would be made. Paul J. Soudier was elected president of the federation.

Under the plan the state would issue tuition-warrants to parents for the education of children of school age and parents would be free to exercise their constitutional right of selecting the school the children would attend. At present all funds are assigned to public schools.

SALES SLIPS PROVE PULLING VALUE OF CATHOLIC NEWSPAPER ADVERTISING

Seattle.—(NCWC)—More than a million dollars in sales slips, representing purchases made by readers of the Catholic Northwest Progress from the last six months, have already been accumulated in the Cooperation Contest sponsored by the publication. The Cooperation Contest, a local

Texas Activities Reveal Effort To Force Legislation

DALLAS WOMEN ISSUE PROTEST

Conference Called In Washington To Spread Propaganda

Dallas, Tex.—(NCWC)—Plans which have been announced are looking to the passage of a bill before the Texas Legislature which would force the Judiciary to determine if 19 have come to the age of majority.

A grave responsibility for scuttling the modern attack upon family life and upon marriage has been placed upon Catholics here, according to the statement that the bill was the property of the state, the theory now in force in Texas, she asserted that "in this country, due to the efforts of the Catholic Church, the Supreme Court has written into the organic laws that the child is the child of its parents and is not the child of the state."

LOWELL NOT FOR AUTHORITY ON FILM CODE

Boston.—(N.C.W.C.)—In declining to accept presidential appointment to serve on the motion picture code authority, President Emeritus A. Lawrence Lowell of Harvard University said Thursday that he had been asked to serve only in an advisory capacity and would have no vote in any effort to demand that films be of proper moral standard.

Dr. Lowell made public correspondence between himself and General Hugh Johnson, National Recovery Administrator. In his final letter Dr. Lowell said: "You say, 'what is the use of a vote against a certain majority?' This assumes that a member of the code authority whose only interest is in the matter of clean films will find himself necessarily in opposition to the producers. I fear this is only too true, judging by the history of the great producing companies; but it is certainly impressive that such an attitude on their part should be taken for granted by the Government, and that they are given absolute control in carrying out the code.

"Your letter confirms my impression that the position on the motion picture code authority which you offer me would give no opportunity for exercising any useful restraint upon the production of films demoralizing to the youth and especially the children of our people; and that any report of existing evils would encounter as insuperable obstacles as did our petition against black-bucking and blind buying."

"The five large producing companies have, by their business methods, obtained a controlling grip upon the business, and are able to put forth upon the community any films that they please. This monopolistic practice, based on black-bucking and blind buying, many of us asked to have checked by the motion picture code; but instead of that, it has been given a certain legal sanction; and hence the position on the code authority, which I feel constrained to decline, is virtually that of a powerless on-looker at conduct which he can neither change nor improve. Moreover, it is expressly provided that he has a voice but not vote."

Christmas Greetings Presented President Washington.—The Very Rev. Dr. John J. Burke, C.S.P., General Secretary of the National Council of Catholic Men, presented Christmas greetings to President Franklin D. Roosevelt. President Roosevelt received Father Burke and Father Kelly in the executive offices.

J. L. Darrouzet Named Counsel For N. C. C. M. WASHINGTON.—(NCWC)—J. L. Darrouzet, of Dallas, Texas, has been chosen general counsel of the National Council of Catholic Men, an announcement was made here today. Mr. Darrouzet has been a member of the Board of Directors of the N.C.C.M. for two years.

Bishop Ryan Given Spiritual Blessing Washington.—(NCWC)—More than ten million prayers and other good works of the people of the United States have been presented to His Holiness Pope Pius XI, by the Most Rev. Bishop Ryan, Bishop of Seattle, in the name of the people of America, in view of his elevation to the episcopate.