

# CATHOLIC EVENTS IN NATION DURING 1934 IN REVIEW

## VARIED PROBLEMS FACED BY CHURCH IN UNITED STATES DURING YEAR JUST CLOSING

### Great Charitable Works Extended—Deep Interest In Missions Shown—Clean Film Drive Launched By Bishops—Sympathy For Mexico Victims Voiced

BY N. C. W. C. NEWS SERVICE  
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The year 1934 in the United States—only slightly less dramatic than the preceding twelve months and presenting tangible evidences of an upward swing out of the depression—confronted the Catholic Church in this country with an amazing variety of intricate problems, all of which it met courageously and efficiently while going forward to even greater glories.

Enormous demands for works of charity, the plight of Catholic schools, the impressive increase in the number of public questions having an important bearing on the life of the Church and its members, continued evidence of unrest in some quarters and even the easing of the financial stringency itself brought developments that touched directly and indirectly the Church's work for the salvation of souls. Yet, notwithstanding these many and varied problems, the Bishops of the United States inaugurated with most heartening success the crusade of the Legion of Decency, and at every opportunity extended their sympathy and encouragement to their suffering brothers in persecuted Mexico.

The Catholic population of the United States was put at 20,322,594 by the Official Catholic Directory for 1934. This was a gain of 54,191 over the figure reported in 1933. The number of Archbishops (including the four American Cardinals) was 18, or two more than in 1933, while the number of Bishops (including Titular and Auxiliary Bishops) was 107, or five more than in 1933. The number of priests listed in 1934, a total of 29,619, represented a decrease of 162 from the number reported in 1933, due, authorities said, to an extremely heavy necrology.

Archbishop John W. Shaw of New Orleans, Bishop John Joseph Nilan of Hartford, Bishop Daniel F. Feehan of Fall River, and Bishop John J. Collins, retired Vicar Apostolic of Jamaica who resided at Fordham University, New York, and Bishop James O'Reilly of Fargo, N. Dakota, died during 1934.

### JUBILEES DURING YEAR

Among the notable jubilees of the year 1934 were the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston; the twenty-fifth anniversary of the episcopal consecration of His Eminence George Cardinal Mundelein, Archbishop of Chicago, and the fiftieth anniversary of the ordination of the Most Rev. John J. Glennon, Archbishop of St. Louis.

In addresses delivered during 1934, His Excellency the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, urged Catholics to give the example of unity and sanctity to those "searching for the Light"; declared that Catholic Action "has always one aim to bring the truth of the Catholic Faith in practical service and practical living into our fellowmen"; emphasized the duty of hearing testimony to Christ crucified by daily proofs of Faith; urged devotion "to the care and progress of the Christian home," and lauded the program of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Noting "the ever increasing activity" of the National Catholic Welfare Conference as revealed in reports of its work submitted to the Sacred Consistorial Congregation in Rome, His Eminence Raphael Charles Cardinal Rossi, O. C. D., Secretary of that Congregation, expressed the hope that "the admirable zeal" of the Bishops will produce "ever more abundant good fruit." His Eminence Julius Cardinal Serafini, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Council, said the report of the activities of the Hierarchy of the United States gave new reason for the extension of "heartfelt congratulations."

### LEGION OF DECENCY

Following the General Meeting of the Bishops of the United States, held in Washington in November, statements were issued declaring that the campaign launched by the Episcopal Committee on Motion Pictures to bring film productions up to right moral standards will go on and that the utmost vigilance will be exerted to see that producers do not return to "their old ways." There were two statements—one on the Motion Picture Question and the other on the Legion of Decency. The latter announced that the Legion "will be maintained as a permanent protest against everything in the moving picture which is subversive of morality." A third statement solemnly deplored the "anti-Christian tyranny" in Mexico and called for a crusade of prayer for the ending of the sad conditions in that country.

The right of workmen of form labor unions and to bargain collectively was called an inherent right and solemnly defended in a statement which the N. C. W. C. Administrative Committee with the United States Senate Committee on Education and Labor last April, when that group was holding hearings on the Wagner Bill.

The Pledge of the Legion of Decency, carrying its protest made in a spirit of self-defense, was approved by Father L. G. Ligutti of Granger, Iowa, and the allotment of \$100,000 for the undertaking. Father Ligutti's plan calls for the settling of families of miners working in the coal fields of Dallas and Polk Counties, Iowa, on small plots out from the mining camps where many of the 1,600 miners live. This project was but one manifestation of the widespread Catholic interest in the Sub-sistence Homesteads project displayed during 1934. A strong impetus was also given to the aims of the National Housing Act, Bishops urging the priests to explain the opportunities of this project to their people, priests indorsing the undertaking, and prominent Catholic laymen and laywomen giving encouragement to the plan, some of them speaking over national radio hook-ups.

At the request of the American Bar Association, Attorney General Cummings instituted a broad investigation into the so-called Mexican divorce "racket" with a view to determining whether lawyers who engaged in it can be prosecuted and, possibly, the enactment of legislation to suppress the evil.

### BIRTH CONTROL MEASURES

Two birth control measures were before Congress in 1934—the Pierce Bill in House of Representatives and the so-called Hastings Birth Control Bill in the Senate. The Hastings Bill reached the floor of the Senate and, after being put aside several times on objection of members, was passed by the Senate without a record vote following its third reading. Immediately, on the motion of Senator McCarran of Nevada, the measure was reconsidered, was set aside, and failed of passage. At hearings on the Hastings Bill before the Senate Committee on the Judiciary, birth control advocates sought to twist existing economic difficulties into an argument for their tenets, and suggested a linking of birth control propaganda and the Federal relief program which was tantamount to putting the United States Government into the business of birth control.

The American Medical Association, meeting in Cleveland in June, turned down birth control action for the fifth consecutive year. Two resolutions dealing with birth control were summarily tabled.

Compulsory sterilization of criminals was prominently before the country in 1934, largely because of the fight of prisoners in the Oklahoma State Prison at McAlester to void the validity of the Oklahoma Sterilization Law. The question was widely discussed, and some organizations went so far as to suggest this practice as a means of reducing the number of underprivileged and dependent children. The case of those favoring sterilization was thoroughly blasted by a series of authoritative articles appearing in the Catholic Press of the United States during the year.

The proposal to tax property owned by religious, charitable and educational institutions was also given some prominence in 1934, but a brilliant and comprehensive study made in the State of New York, and held to be fairly applicable to all sections of the country, showed clearly that the public gets back more than it gives in exempting from taxation real estate owned by the institutions in question.

The dogged determination and extraordinary sacrifices so evident in 1933 were present again in 1934 to make it possible for the Catholic schools of the United States to provide Christian education for some 2,600,000 pupils. Despite the many hardships imposed by the financial stringency, the Catholic schools again had honest reason for pride in the victories their pupils won in nationwide competitions with the pupils of other schools. At the same time, Catholic schools conducted pioneer work in the instruction of handicapped and delinquent children that elicited national attention.

### ENCYCLICAL QUOTED

With one estimate placing the number of persons on relief rolls at 18,000,000 in December, Secretary of Agriculture Wallace told the World Alliance for International Friendship that "the situation which has gradually come to pass in the twentieth century has probably never been more strikingly described by a conservative, thoughtful and religious man than by Pope Pius XI" in his Encyclical Quadragesimo Anno, which he quoted to the assemblage. When Attorney General Cummings, Crime Prevention Conference met in Washington shortly before Christmas, Representative Mary T. Norton of New Jersey urged the proper training of conscience as a crime preventive.

Catholic chaplains performed invaluable service in the more than 1,400 Civilian Conservation Camps throughout the country, numerous reports indicated. There were some 86,000 Catholic youths in these camps, according to figures for the month of June. The Apostolic Delegate informed the Very Rev. Dr. John J. Burke, C. S. P., General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, that Pope Pius XI was "very pleased" with the work of spiritual assistance carried on in these camps, and warmly thanks all who have helped to make it possible.

The project of Tennessee Valley Authority, affecting a vast region, presents ample reason for United States Catholics to understand and support home mission enterprises. Bishop Richard O. Gerow of Natchez said in February, pointing to the needs of Catholic schools and the total absence of Catholic schools and other institutions in the great areas affected by the undertaking.

September saw the approval by Secretary of the Interior Ickes of the Sub-sistence Homesteads project sponsored by Father L. G. Ligutti of Granger, Iowa, and the allotment of \$100,000 for the undertaking. Father Ligutti's plan calls for the settling of families of miners working in the coal fields of Dallas and Polk Counties, Iowa, on small plots out from the mining camps where many of the 1,600 miners live. This project was but one manifestation of the widespread Catholic interest in the Sub-sistence Homesteads project displayed during 1934. A strong impetus was also given to the aims of the National Housing Act, Bishops urging the priests to explain the opportunities of this project to their people, priests indorsing the undertaking, and prominent Catholic laymen and laywomen giving encouragement to the plan, some of them speaking over national radio hook-ups.

## Interest in Missions in U. S. During Year 1934 Shown Deep, Practical

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There was further striking testimony to the deep and practical interest of United States Catholics in missionary work. A survey made public in October showed upwards of 1,500 United States priests and religious in foreign mission fields, and a study of the last decade's contributions to Propagation of the Faith, prepared by the Secretariat of the General Superior Council in Rome, showed that Catholics of this country contributed \$9,767,323.18 to the work in ten years, or 42 per cent of the total amount gathered. The seventh annual report of the American Board of Catholic Missions showed that it had a total of \$395,657 available for disbursement in 1934.

The Diocese of Altoona and the Diocese of Wheeling; the Junior Catholic Light, a special edition of the Catholic Light of Scranton; the Junior Catholic Messenger, a companion paper to the Young Catholic Messenger; the rotogravure magazine, Catholic Missions, of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, which ran 2,500,000 copies on its first edition; The Catholic Circle, a monthly magazine established in Houston in the interest of Catholic education among colored people.

### HOSPITALS SUCCESSFUL

Catholic hospitals have been successful even through the five years of depression which have constituted "the most trying period of their history," the Rev. Alphonse M. Schwitals, S. J., President of the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, said in April. The number of Catholic hospitals increased from 641 in 1929 to 649 at the end of 1933. They represented 18.6 per cent of all non-governmental hospitals at the end of 1933, and were 60.8 per cent of all the church-controlled hospitals.

His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, presided at a solemn Pontifical Mass, held by the Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia in the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul in January to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the ratification of the Treaty of Paris terminating the War of Independence. The Tercentenary of the Founding of Maryland and the Centenary of the Birth of Cardinal Gibbons were observed jointly by a number of brilliant ceremonies which culminated in a magnificent demonstration in the Baltimore Stadium on May 30. The 300th anniversary of the coming of the first white man, Jean Nicolet, to the great Northwest Territory was commemorated by a series of observances. The 150th anniversary of the death of Fra Junipero Serra was marked in California, elaborate ceremonies commemorated in the 100th anniversary of the Diocese of Indianapolis, originally the Diocese of Vincennes. The rich Catholic associations about old Fort Niagara in New York were recalled on Labor Day by exercises rededicating the fort after years of restoration work. August 12 saw observance of the 50th anniversary of the Shrine of the North American Martyrs at Auriesville, N. Y.

The Society of Jesus in the United States observed quietly the 400th anniversary of the practical initiation of the "Company of Jesus" by St. Ignatius and his companions, while the real celebration is planned for 1940, which will mark the 400th anniversary of the approval of the Society of Jesus by the Holy See, America, the Jesuit weekly review, observed its silver jubilee.

The Catholic Youth Movement received considerable impetus in 1934, and the close of the year heard an ardent plea for a deeper and more widespread interest in the spiritual and moral welfare of Catholic youth in America sounded by a large number of distinguished figures at a dinner sponsored by the Catholic Boy Scouts in New York. In August, the Rev. Dr. Edward Roberts Moore, Director of the Catholic Committee on Scouting of the Boy Scouts of America reported that there were then 1,859 Boy Scout troops organized under Catholic leadership in the United States and its insular possessions.

Lay organizations of Catholic adults also enjoyed an encouraging year, among the most significant developments in this field being the message of warm encouragement which Pope Pius XI dispatched to the National Council of Catholic Women on the occasion of its fourteenth annual convention held in Washington last October, and the announcement by the National Council of Catholic Women that it expects to enjoy a nearly 200 per cent increase in affiliation in 1934. Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt addressed the annual convention of the N. C. W.

### CATHOLIC PRESS GROWTH

Receiving renewed indications during the year of the deep and practical interest taken in its welfare by Pope Pius XI, the Catholic Press in the United States made even richer gains in 1934. Among new Catholic publications established during 1934 are: The Catholic Chronicle, official newspaper of the Diocese of Toledo; The Catholic Week, of the Diocese of Mobile; diocesan organs instituted through the Register organization of Duquesne in the Archdiocese of Boston.

made in three separate cities showed that a large number of persons signing these petitions had no clear understanding of the petition they signed, that many had never heard "Judge" Rutherford broadcasts; that the names of some appeared on the list without their knowledge; that in a number of cases one person signed for a number of persons, and that many who signed were horrified to learn later the nature of the Rutherford broadcasts.

So-called "axxon" lecturers continued to make their appearance in 1934, and at least one of these was considerably embarrassed when a Catholic convert from Judaism answered her statements at the meeting. An anti-Catholic play was forbidden a stage in Cleveland, and obscene theatrical productions were barred several cities following Catholic protests.

The Catholic Educational Association of Pennsylvania entered formal protest last April against the State's requirement of a statement of religious affiliation by applicants for positions in the public schools. Both Governor Pinchot and Superintendent of Public Instruction Dr. James A. Rule condemned the principle of the religious test for applicants for teaching positions in the public schools; in letters of reply sent to the Association.

### FALSE STORIES CORRECTED

The Catholic News of New York republished a secular newspaper story circulating the old claim that the Jews taught that the end justified the means, and drew apologetic from the paper and the author of the statement. The Brooklyn Tablet took to task a Broadway columnist, and drew from the latter the statement that he was "deeply sorry" for the pain caused by a reference to St. Joan of Arc appearing in its column. America exploded again the ancient myth about "buried treasure" of the Jesuits in South America, a tale which a magazine had revived. The Baltimore Catholic Review called public attention to the stupid insult done at the Catholic priests and people" by an article in a secular paper comparing Hitler and St. Ignatius. The paper admitted its error in the article. Dr. John J. Gorrell, associate editor of the Pittsburgh Catholic and Mary Immaculate, pointed out to a secular newspaper some "glaring" errors which were corrected in an article on Martin Luther. The public assertion, attributed to Bernard S. Deutsch, head of the New York Board of Aldermen and President of the American Jewish Congress, that he saw no persecution of religion on a recent visit to Mexico drew a telling answer from the Brooklyn Tablet. The Tablet's protest was reprinted by a writer in the Canadian Jewish Review. The

### CATHOLICS IN OFFICE

Prominent Catholics were called upon in 1934 to occupy important offices of distinction in governmental agencies vitally affecting the welfare of the nation. Some of these were: Catholicism, secretary of the Industrial Advisory Council, Federal Advisory Council, Employment Service, American Council on Economic Security, National Labor-Workshop Commission, NRA, General Code Authority, NRA, District Regional Labor Board of NRA, Adjustment Board under NRA, Petroleum Labor Policy Board, Stock Market Commission, and the 1934 Mobilization for Human Health. The Very Rev. W. Coleman North, S. J., President of Georgetown University, was named by President Roosevelt as a member of Board of

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## THINGS TO CROW ABOUT



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