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PLEA FOR UNITY STIRS WIDE COMMENT AMONG PROTESTANT LEADERS

'Return To Rome' Appeal Declaring Protestantism In U. S. 'Bankrupt Ethically, Culturally, Morally, and Religiously' Gets Varied Reaction

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

In the wave of comment which followed disclosure of the fact that a group of 29 Protestant Episcopalians, 20 of them clergymen, had addressed to all their bishops in this country and to more than 1,000 of their ministers an urgent appeal for reunion with the Roman Catholic Church, some Protestant Episcopal churchmen flatly rejected the appeal while others said they saw something of merit in it. Members of other religious groups also commented.

CHURCH UNITY OCTAVE GROUP ISSUES STATEMENT

The appeal disseminated by members of the American Committee on the Church Unity Octave Council charged that Protestantism in this country is "bankrupt ethically, culturally, morally and religiously," asserted "the salient fact that Rome has been the heart and center of Christendom ever since the days of the Holy Apostles" and urged that "it is time for all Christians to see what the enemy so clearly sees and be prepared to rally around Rome as the center of resistance against the anti-Christian attack."

Meanwhile, in the midst of the discussion, the Church Unity Octave Council has issued a statement in which "the Council" takes issue with the criticism of one Protestant clergyman that the appeal for reunion "was neither interesting nor important" and that those who issued it "will get over it."

The Council, in its statement, points out that "the appeal has but one basis—the will of the Divine Founder of Christianity and but one object, the fulfillment of that divine will. It would be equally difficult from a Christian standpoint," the statement adds, "to dis[illegible] anything more interesting or more important than the mind of Jesus Christ. If any there will get over it, the author intends to imply the Catholic-minded Episcopalians will get over the burning desire for reunion and will cease to pray and work for it, he is sadly lacking in knowledge of the subject and in understanding of the men who compose the so-called Anglo-Catholic party."

The new statement says the appeal "does not seek to further a split" in the Episcopal Church and that "a perusal of the literature issued by the Council will reveal that its whole plea may be summed up in the words quoted from the age-old liturgy of the Western Church 'Orate Fratres.'"

Bishop James E. Freeman of the Episcopal Church in Washington declared it to be a "wild and exaggerated" statement to say that Protestantism is bankrupt, but also said that "competitions and rivalries that too often distinguish the many bodies that constitute the Protestant churches render them impotent in any concerted attack on the existing evils of our day."

"I have the profoundest regard and affection for the great Roman Church, and I have had close relations with many of its leading exponents," Bishop Freeman continued. "But I do not believe that unity will come through flattering one body, however estimable in [illegible]

20 of 29 SIGNERS OF PLEA ARE EPISCOPAL CLERGYMEN

Those in the group making the appeal are members of the American Committee of the Church Unity Octave Council, the secretary of which has offices in New York. Twenty of the group are Protestant Episcopal clergymen, two are members of Protestant religious orders and seven are laymen. The declaration was contained in a leaflet headed "Ut Omnes Unum Sint" (That All May Be One) and was accompanied by a covering letter signed by the Rev. Dr. Franklin Joiner, rector of St. Clement's church, Philadelphia, and chairman of the committee.

Theodore C. Vermilye, secretary of the American Committee, said the appeal was sent to 1,000 Episcopal clergymen and to 143 American Episcopal bishops. About 100 replies have been received so far.

TEXT OF APPEAL

The text of the appeal follows:

"To those who have been in close touch with the current of the Catholic movement in England and in this country it seems strange that there still exists not only an opposition based on Protestant prejudice against the observance of Church Unity Octave but even among many who otherwise accept the Catholic position, a definite and sincere conviction that there is something disloyal to Anglican principles in praying for the fulfillment of the Divine Will as regards the unity of God's church.

When the mind is clouded by prejudice, reason is of no avail but to the open-minded it should be sufficient to call attention to some simple facts.

By none of the official formularies of the Anglican communion are we committed to a position of ecclesiastical isolation. The only reference to the Roman See appears in a document which is not canonically or dogmatically binding upon us. In one of the Articles it is stated that 'The Church of Rome hath erred.'

APPEAL FOR REUNION

"It is to the point to note that even this statement is qualified by the preceding phrase, but it would require too much space to expound this Article and get at its true meaning. It must suffice here to point out that not only prayer but actual negotiation have been made and are being made looking toward reunion with the Church of Jerusalem, Alexandria and Antioch without a protesting voice being heard.

"If we may look forward to reunion with these ancient Patriarchal Sees with whom we [illegible] communion more than [illegible] years [illegible]

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RELIGIOUS UNITY

An address on Religious Unity by the Most Rev. James H. Ryan, Bishop of Omaha, and delivered by the Bishop when rector of the Catholic University of America prior to the issuance of the "Return-to-Rome" plea of Episcopalian Church dignitaries will be found on page 6, editorial page, of this issue. The article giving the Catholic view on church unity is enlightening at this time when there is so much comment following the release of the unity plea of the 29 Episcopalian leaders.

Word of Unity Plea Recalls Pope's Christmas Message

Vatican City (NC) The appeal for reunion with the Roman Catholic Church which twenty-nine Protestant Episcopalians in the United States made in a communication to all their bishops and to more than a thousand of their clergymen has drawn no special comment here, but it has been recalled that word of the appeal followed closely upon the Christmas discourse in which His Holiness Pope Pius XI once more declared that real Christianity is found only in Catholicism.

Catholic Pictorial Review of 1935

(1) His Holiness Pope Pius XI creates 20 new Cardinals, including one South American; and canonizes the English martyrs (2) St. John Fisher and (3) St. Thomas More; the cause of Father Damien (4) Apostle of the lepers of Molokai is begun; (5) Archbishop Pascual Diaz, of Mexico City is arrested and fined as Mexico continues her anti-religious laws; (6) Bishop Peter Legge of Meissen is imprisoned for alleged violation of Germany's currency laws; (7) Archbishop Arthur Hinsley succeeds the late Cardinal Bourne as Archbishop of Westminster; (8) Bishop Ralph L. Hayes of Helena is appointed rector of the North American College in Rome; (9) 150,000 attend the 7th National Eucharistic Congress in Cleveland; (10) Catholic Church property in the Diocese of Helena suffers severely from earthquake shocks; (11) Lou Tseng Tsiang, former Minister of Foreign Affairs in China, becomes a Benedictine monk; (12) President Roosevelt receives the degree of Doctor of Laws from Notre Dame University in recognition of Filipino independence; (13) Most Rev. Edward J. Hanna, Archbishop of San Francisco, resigns his See because of ill health; (14) Archbishop Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the U. S., gives his first national broadcast, speaking on "The Confraternity of Christian Doctrine"; (15) Rev. Edward A. Duff, becomes the first Catholic to head the U. S. Navy chaplains; (16) Rev. Merrill Sulzman, of Troy, N. Y., is assigned to the government colony at Matanuska, Alaska; (17) Marian Higgins, of St. Rose's school, Chelsea, Mass., wins the National Housing Essay Contest; (18-23) six U. S. bishops were consecrated and two others appointed: left to right, Bishops Raymond A. Kearney, Auxiliary, Brooklyn; George L. Leech, Harrisburg; Thomas H. McLaughlin, Auxiliary, Newark; Aloysius J. Muench, Fargo; William R. Griffin, Auxiliary, LaCrosse; Peter L. Ireton, Coadjutor, Richmond. (Very Rev. Joseph M. Gilmore has been named to the See of Helena and Monsignor Hugh Lamb named Auxiliary Bishop of Philadelphia.)

1935 Catholic News of World In Review

Economic Depression, War Fail To Dim Record of Achievement By Church in Various Nations

(BY N. C. W. C. NEWS SERVICE)
(Copyright 1935)

Economic depression and unemployment still kept nations beneath their oppressive heel; war and threats of war darkened the world's horizon; statesmen conferred frantically and apprehensively conferred once, met and dissolved with little of no effect, but the Catholic Church went serenely about its divine mission in 1935 harvesting souls and spreading the Gospel of Christ in the face of cruel and unrelenting persecution. At the same time the Church exerted itself powerfully for peace [illegible] among the nations and for a greater measure of justice in the world.

A solemn Triduum at Lourdes April 26, 27 and 28, marked the close of the Holy Year of Jubilee extended to the whole world and the [illegible] anniversary of the miraculous appearance of the Blessed Virgin [illegible] world famous shrine. At the invitation of His Holiness Pope Pius XI the universal family of the faithful joined in these three days of prayer [illegible] greater diffusion of [illegible] idea, and intensified prayers for the Missions. Rapid development of indigenous clergy and encouraging harvests of souls were reported from mission countries.

Growth of Church

Encouraging growth of the Church was demonstrated in the Annuario Pontificio for 1935, which showed the erection of thirteen new dioceses and two new prefectures nullius and the elevation of seven Sees to Archiepiscopal rank. All but one of the new dioceses and six of the seven new archdioceses are in the Western Hemisphere.

Increased activity in behalf of the Missions drew warm praise from the Holy Father last May. World-wide contributions to the work of the propagation of the Faith reported at that time amounted to about 45,000,000 lire (approximately $3,600,000), which was an increase of about 100,000 lire over the year before. Not a single country contributed less than the year before and 30 countries increased their donations over the previous year. His Holiness said the increased donations in these sad times invited one to consider other beneficial aspects, namely,

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Progress of Church in U. S. Marked by Variety of Problems Valiantly Met in Past Year

(By N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)
(Copyright, 1935)

Passage of the Year 1935 sees the work of the Catholic Church in the United States more widely extended [illegible] deeply appreciated.

Bringing still further evidence of progress [illegible] of the economic doldrums, 1935 was not as spectacular [illegible] as its immediate predecessor. However, it brought [illegible] of problems especially to the Church. These problems, of a greater variety than before, the Church met promptly.

The Seventy-fourth Congress, which President Roosevelt opened on January 4 with public acknowledgment of the dependence of nations upon the guidance and care of Divine Providence brought the enactment of the Work Relief Act providing for the expenditure of $4,880,000,000, the Social Security Act, labor disputes legislation, new tax legislation and a number of other measures whose ramifications touch upon almost every phase of human endeavor, thereby bringing to the Church new and vital problems in great abundance.

Continued economic demands [illegible] works of charity, the position of Catholic schools, increased interest in the deepening persecution of the Church in Mexico, the continuation of the work of the Legion of Decency, the growth of the religious vacation schools, the advancement of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and catastrophes bringing loss of life and property and numerous other concerns engaged the interest of the Catholic Church in this country during the last twelve months.

Cleveland Congress

The Seventh National Eucharistic Congress held at Cleveland from September 23 to 26 was the most impressive Catholic event in the United States during the year.

With His Eminence Patrick Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York occupying the office of Legate of His Holiness Pope Pius XI, and with more than 100 Archbishops and Bishops and well over a half million members of the laity taking part, the Congress enjoyed four glorious days, which were climaxed by the participants hearing the voice of the Holy Father him-

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UP GOES BUSINESS BAROMETER

Cheering signs of business gains with the business of the nation reported to have hit its highest peak in four years were in evidence as the old year drew to a close.

Bank clearings for 22 leading cities reported by Dun and Bradstreet, Inc., the United Press said in a copyright article, were 15 per cent over a year ago, with each city showing a gain over the corresponding 1934 period.

Equally encouraging reports came from the merchants on Christmas trade, from the increased postal receipts, from larger advertising lineage used and from building and railroad reports.

The largest federal debt in history, according to financial experts, is a cause of concern for the continued uprise in business. Students of social justice point out that the stability of later business depends upon acceptance of the principles of Pope Leo XIII and Pope Pius IX.

The New Year from a business viewpoint starts exceptionally hopeful for a continued rise in the trade barometers.

COUNSEL AND WARNING ARE GIVEN BY CARDINAL TO HISTORY GROUP

Boston (NC) His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell, Archbishop of Boston gave encouraging advice and a sound warning at the sixteenth annual meeting of the American Catholic Historical Association in session here.

His Eminence said that America not only needs, but is ready for a scientific Catholic interpretation of history and that the work now being carried forward so actively by Catholic historians will lend new strength to the hearts and minds of our people and better aid them in facing the serious problems which lie ahead. He warned that Americans should not be too sure that inroads will not be made against religion and faith in this country as they have in other parts of the world.

Cardinal O'Connell issued his warning while speaking informally at an imposing reception arranged in his honor in connection with the meeting of the Historical Association. He spoke of nations which had been strongly Catholic and which had fallen away from the Faith or had become weak and indifferent. He spoke of the dreary hopeless unbelief so prevalent in some countries.

Then saying that "other nations had the Faith and lost it," Cardinal O'Connell added that here in America our leaders in political life are, as a rule, fine, good men but the masses of the people need new encouragement."

OPEN KULTURKAMPF SEEN AS MENACING CHURCH IN GERMANY

Action Would Mean Complete Disavowal of Concordat; Three Vicars General Arrested; Catholic Youth Groups, Newspapers Oppressed

Amsterdam—(NC)—With three of her Vicars General and dozens of members of her clergy and religious Orders spending Christmas in jail, the Catholic Church in Germany approaches the new year with the most serious apprehensions felt since the advent to political power of the Hitler regime. The last reserve, still maintained so far for the purpose of concealing the seriousness of the fundamental issues involved in the life and death struggle between Church and State, has now been openly abandoned by the Hitlerites, who no longer seem to see any need of restraining their frank hostility to the Christian religion.

Kulturkampf in the open seems certain to become the connotation of the new phase of Nazi paganism in this coming year. Both the Hierarchy and the faithful are prepared for it.

The recent arrest of the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George Bannasch, of the Berlin Cathedral Chapter, one of the best known priests in the German capital, is indicative of the trend now pursued by the Nazis. Monsignor Bannasch's arrest was prompted by his activities in collecting all available data from the various dioceses about Nazi violences and injustices perpetrated against the Church and individual Catholics. He had undertaken this task at the specific request of His Eminence Adolf Cardinal Bertram, Archbishop of Breslau, and with the knowledge of the Most Rev. Cesare Orsenigo, Apostolic Nuncio to Germany.

'High Treason' Charged

The Nazi police asserted that these activities constitute "high treason" because the information collected was also brought to the knowledge of the Apostolic Nuncio and thereby to the Holy See, which the Nazis say, is "a foreign power." The Vicars General of the dioceses of Bamberg and Regensburg are also reported to be under arrest in connection with this investigation which the Nazis carry on in strictest secrecy. For over a fortnight the German public was not informed of the arrst of the three prelates.

If the accused should actually be brought to trial before the so-called "People's Court" in Berlin, which is known for the violent prejudices of its majority of Nazi members, their conviction seems certain, information received here states. The Church in Germany would then face a new situation, probably in many respects more satisfactory than the one now prevailing, as it would then be officially established that the Nazi regime openly disavows the obligations entered into under the Concordat with the Holy See. All the liberties accorded the Church under the Concordat would then be challenged, and the Church would remain exposed to wanton violence.

The new "catacombs period" might then actually begin. But it would appear preferable to the present state of uncertainty, and to the confusion created in the minds of so many of the faithful who are constantly and helplessly exposed to Nazi paganism, with their Church unable to take a public stand in defense of its basic principles, observers here declared.

Cardinal Bertram came to Berlin as soon as he heard of Monsignor Bannasch's arrest and consulted both with the Apostolic Nuncio and the Most Rev. Conrad Count Preysing, Bishop of Berlin. It is now obvious here that the Nazi chieftains have grown more nervous all the time in recent months over the

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Deny Press Reports—Bishop Was Arrested By Italian Police

Vatican City—(NC-Cable)—Secular press reports that Bishop John Geisler of Brixen had been arrested by the Italian police in the South Tyrol region because, those reports stated, he had asked Catholics of his See to contribute money for relief of the needy rather than for war purposes, are denied here as entirely false.

Report of the arrest was carried in dispatches from Europe early in the week, but a communication from Bishop Geisler to the Vatican, dispatched on Christmas Eve, made no reference to any difficulty.

FR. COUGHLIN PLANS WEEKLY NEWSPAPER

Detroit—(NC)—If he receives within three weeks a total of 1,000,000 votes of confidence in the monetary reform program, sponsored of the National Union for Social Justice aims, he will launch a national weekly newspaper "to interpret the news," a "newspaper which shall dare to print the unprinted truths which have been withheld from the people," the Rev. Charles E. Coughlin, founder of the National Union, said in his regular nation-wide radio broadcast Sunday afternoon.

Father Coughlin indicated that the votes of confidence should be in the form of telegrams or letters, and added that he would begin the inauguration of his newspaper only when the required number of votes were received.

Father Coughlin said the contention today that "this nation will recover from the depression if government will only keep its hands off business" is the philosophy of the ancient Bourbons of France. There can be no recovery, he said, "until at least 5,000,000 of the 10,000,000 unemployed are back at work at an annual wage at least as high as the wage paid in 1926."

Recalling the economic crisis of 1929, 1930 and 1931, Father Coughlin said "You had your chance and succeedd in digging America deeper into the mire of suffering, as the government did keep out of business and permitted confiscation of homes and actual starvation."

Clergy Participation In Elections Upheld To Defend Church Rights

Quebec—(NC)—When there is a question of faith, morals or the right of the Catholic Church at stake, priests may enter election campaigns, it is stated in Semaine Religieuse, official organ of the Archdiocese of Quebec. It added, however, that priests so doing, must leave to their Superiors' decision as to when these questions arise.

The matter is discussed as a result of the entry into the recent Quebec provincial election of some priests, who spoke at political meetings. On the instruction of His Eminence Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec, Semaine Religieuse publishes sections of a decree made here [illegible] years ago by a Plenary Council of Bishops.

Relic of St. Therese Is Brought to Quebec

Quebec (NC) Msgr. Eugene C. Laflame, pastor of the Basilica of Notre Dame, has announced that, through the intervention of His Eminence Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve whom he accompanied on his recent voyage to Europe, has secured from the Lisieux Carmel a bone relic of St. Therese of the Child Jesus.

TRANSFER OF FR. DAMIEN REMAINS TO BELGIAN SHIP SET AT CANAL

Washington (NC)—A change in the plans for the transporting of the remains of Father Damien, Apostle to the lepers of Molokai, from Hawaii to Belgium has been announced here by the State Department and the Belgian Embassy. Under the new arrangements, the remains will be placed aboard the U. S. Army Transport Republic, the ship previously designated for the mission, at Honolulu, February 3, and will be transferred to the Belgian School Ship Mercator at Cristobal, Canal Zone, February 25.

Originally, it was announced that the transport would sail from Honolulu January 18 and would arrive in New York on February 17. Under the new arrangement the remains of Father Damien will not be brought to New York. Information received by the Belgian Embassy was that the transport would stop at San Francisco, arriving there about February [illegible].

Hawaiian authorities [illegible] nounced at the [illegible] have approved [illegible] the Rev. [illegible] of St. [illegible] Hawaii, to [illegible]