

# MARCH OF EVENTS IN THE NATION

January through December, 1940

## JANUARY, 1940

The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, issued a pastoral letter on the occasion of the 50th anniversary of the Catholic Interracial Council.

The Most Rev. J. Henry Flohen, who in 20 years in the episcopate first governed the Diocese of Lincoln and then the Diocese of Denver, died at the age of 78.

It was said in Washington that a Joint Pastoral Letter treating of the subject of "The Church and Social Justice," soon to be issued by the Archbishops and Bishops of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference would be of great importance.

The Rt. Rev. Magr. Fulton J. Sheen in a "Catholic Hour" address, called upon men to re-establish human unity, "not on the basis of class or race which divides us, but on the basis of religion." He urged Jews, Protestants and Catholics to join in a "common front against a common enemy."

## FEBRUARY, 1940

These imperative requirements were laid down in a statement on "The Church and Social Order," made by the Archbishops and Bishops of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference:

"We must bring God into education."

"We must bring God back into economic life."

"We must bring God back into all life, private and public, individual and social."

The extended statement covered with comprehensive clarity the whole range of social problems.

Doubts regarding whether the American Youth Congress was Communist were generally removed as that organization convened in Washington and adopted a resolution denouncing "war hysteria" that had brought attacks upon such political minorities as Communists.

The President, addressing the youth, called their opposition of aid to Finland "unadulterated treachery."

The Very Rev. Paul James Francis S.A., of Graymoor, N. Y., founder and Father General of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement and Founder of the Little Sisters, died at 77.

The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, issued the Apostolic Benediction of the Holy Father Pius XII, in the presence of the Holy Father, which was the first such benediction issued by the Holy Father since the death of Pope Pius XI.

General Hugh A. Drum, who served in the Army and was the first Catholic to be promoted to the rank of Major General, died at 77.

## MARCH, 1940

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Constitutionality of the Connecticut law prohibiting the use of contraceptives without qualification was upheld by the State Supreme Court of Errors of that state.

The Most Rev. Michael J. Curley was installed as the first Archbishop of Washington, and for the first time in the history of the United States two Archbishops were centered in the same person. Archbishop Curley remained Ordinary of the Archdiocese of Baltimore while becoming Archbishop of Washington.

Chief Justice Charles Evans Hughes of the United States Supreme Court rebuked counsel for Jehovah's Witnesses, defending the rights of individuals to worship as they please and enjoy the privacy of their homes.

"I suppose these Catholics had some right of freedom, themselves, did they not?" Chief Justice Hughes inquired as the attorney for the Witnesses argued his clients were within Constitutional rights in invading homes of Catholics with propaganda against their church.

Distinguished churchmen and government officials, as well as foreign diplomats, witnessed the solemn ceremony in Washington in which the Most Rev. Joseph M. Corrigan, Rector of Catholic University of America, became Titular Bishop of Billa.

Governor Lehman signed the Coudert-McLaughlin bill to permit children to leave school for religious observances and to receive religious instruction.

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## APRIL, 1940

His Eminence William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston issued a vigorous warning against propaganda functioning in this country, in an address before the Fourth Diocesan Congress of Catholic Women. "Beware of those who put on a false face to excite our emotions," he said.

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## MAY, 1940

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The Very Rev. J. Hugh O'Donnell, C.S.C., was confirmed as president of the University of Notre Dame; the Rev. Charles C. Millner, C.S.C., became president of Portland University, Portland, Ore., and the Rev. Stanislaw F. Lisewski, C.S.C., was made president of St. Edward's University, Austin, Texas.

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By a vote of 60 to 10, the United States Senate amended the Burke-Wadsworth compulsory military training service bill exempting clergymen from training and service.

## JUNE, 1940

Publication of an article in Life magazine favorable to birth control brought a sharp rebuke from Henry P. Lefebvre, assistant executive secretary of the National Council of Catholic Men, as "obviously propaganda for a movement which definitely involves unethical principles."

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The Perpetual Novena in honor of Our Sorrowful Mother announced a national crusade for America and world peace with faith and prayer as the only weapons in a nationwide campaign against war.

In a resolution adopted by the Catholic Hospital Association of the United States and Canada, at its jubilee celebration in St. Louis, it asked that the Federal Government, in public health programs, emphasize help to the individual rather than to institutions.

Provision was made for taking care of Catholic children among the child refugees from Europe at a special meeting of the full Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in Chicago. Plans were also made to present before Congressional committees the Catholic position regarding proposals for compulsory military training.

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Exemption of priests, ministers of religion, students preparing for the priesthood and Brothers, from selective military service in the Burke-Wadsworth bill, was asked by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Michael J. Ready, General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

With activities stepped up to the swift tempo of the times, the American Hierarchy made ready to care for Catholic child refugees, no matter what European country turned them out. Simultaneously a plea to help take care of the children came from the Bishops of England to the Bishops of the United States.

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