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INTERNATIONAL

Childless Villages Given As One Cause For Fall Of France

NEW ORLEANS — (NC) — One village in which there was not a birth for three years and another in which there was not a birth in months were given by the Rev. Victor J. Dosogno, S. J., as examples of one of the reasons cited by Marshal Petain for the fall of France. "Too few allies, too few children and too few weapons," Father Dosogno, who spoke at the luncheon meeting of the alumni of Loyola University of the South, recently escaped from occupied France and is now a member of the history faculty of Loyola.

"I have been asked to answer this question: 'Why did France collapse so soon and so completely?' he said. "To answer this important question I could not find a better way than to quote Marshal Petain's own words of the 20th of June, when he announced to the French people the reasons of the defeat."

"Confronted with Germany's 80,000,000 people," Father Dosogno continued, "France had fewer than 40,000,000. Too few children and too few were living in France, a rich and fertile land which could easily feed twice the present population. But, alas! for 30 years France has suffered depopulation. We must not overlook the fact that the loss of soldiers who died during the war means the non-existence of nearly 4,000,000 French homes. There would have been a million more homes under ordinary conditions, at least 1,000,000 French soldiers in 1940. But the worst is that the depopulation is such that France that there are 30,000 fewer potential inhabitants each year. The practice of birth control has proved to be not only a family suicide, but a national suicide as well. It has been rightly said that the present war has been fought around empty cradles."

"I know of two villages. One of 30 inhabitants where there has not been a single birth in three years. In another of 100 inhabitants not a single birth has occurred in 18 months, and in this last village the average age is over 35. About 50 per cent of the population are never replaced. In the course of a few years the deaths will rise to 20 a year, and in 25 years the village will be uninhabited like so many others in France where every house is abandoned."

"The result of this family policy was first an invasion of foreigners—Italians, Belgians, Algerians, German Jews—who were, if not opposed, at least indifferent to the defense of the country. The French people have become accustomed to living without effort and sacrifice. I noticed the collapse of the morale of the French people on the very evening Marshal Petain announced the armistice. It was in a small town at the time, and all around me people drank and chatted indifferently. It might as well have been a day of victory as far as they were concerned. They were not aware of the 'too few allies' and the 'too few weapons.' Father Dosogno concluded: "Before this collapse of the French nation and, we must add, of the best of Latin civilization, the nations witnessing this disaster cannot remain indifferent but must learn the lesson—that in order to survive and to expand, they must keep intact not only their material force but also their spiritual vitality."

NATIVE CLERGY GAINS 6,100 IN HALF CENTURY

VATICAN CITY — In all the Catholic missions 50 years ago there were 870 native priests. Today there are more than 5,000, including 42 native Bishops.

Father Perbal, writing in the bulletin of the Pontifical Society of St. Peter the Apostle, cites these figures.

This society, founded at Caen, France, in 1859 by Stephanus and Joan Bigard, has been instrumental in the rapid growth of the native clergy. The two women who founded it, Father Perbal writes, included many in authority, in their cause, and thus they were able to found and support missions even in the poorest missions. The Most Rev. Genaro Hayasaka, first Bishop of Japan, was one of the seminarians aided by Joan Bigard.

Two More Nuns Die In London Air Raid

LONDON — Two more London nuns have been killed in Nazi bomb drops on this city. One of them was the Mother Superior of the convent. The convent was destroyed and the rest of the nuns have been taken in by various communities.

Another convent in the parish has been destroyed, but it took three separate bombings to induce the community to leave. The Sisters are now living in the rectory.

The school and the parish hall have been almost completely destroyed.

CHURCH IN SCANDINAVIA SUFFERS



Surrounded by countries at war, and almost isolated from the rest of the world, the Catholic Church in Sweden is suffering dire poverty, according to Bishop Johannes Erik Muller, Vicar Apostolic of Sweden, pictured here with the Church of Christ the King, at Gothenburg, Sweden. Similar conditions in the Scandinavian countries are revealed in letters received by St. Ansgar's Scandinavian Catholic League, New York. (N.C.W.C.)

Catholic Church Hit, Anglicans Lend Their

LONDON — Mass is being said each Sunday in the Anglican church of St. Saviour, Coventry, which has been looted by the vicar to the Benedictines who have been bombed out of their church of St. Oburg's, built by the late Archbishop Ullathorne is due to celebrate its centenary in 1943. Today it stands roofless with the sanctuary and Lady Chapel completely destroyed, the steeple damaged and the remaining walls of doubtful future use.

On Clydeside Masses are being said in picture theaters. One church was destroyed and four are so badly damaged that they can not be used.

Bishop's House Portsmouth, has been pulled down following bomb damage some time ago. While workers cleared up the debris, the priests stood by to watch for the tabernacle which, it was known contained consecrated Hosts. The tabernacle stood in the late Bishop's private chapel. The Sea is so close that the Blessed Sacrament was reserved there for sick calls.

After several weeks the tabernacle has been found—not in the debris but on the roof of the sanctuary many yards away. The key was found, too, and when the tabernacle was opened the ciborium was found intact, with the Hosts tightly closed.

Masses is being said again in the Cathedral at Portsmouth. It suffered damage at the east end and sparrow's come through the window frames and twitter during the ceremony.

In raids on Plymouth a church has been damaged and a Catholic junior school burned.

Five nuns were injured when a bomb damaged a convent in the south of England recently.

Nuns successfully fought fire bombs in a north-eastern town. Both ends of their convent were hit, but they tackled the fire and restricted the damage and then went to fight fires which had broken out on adjoining property.

The Universe states that it has been authorized to inform that when a bombed church is reopened after reconstruction no service of reconciliation is needed even if someone has been killed in the church.

Peace Association Meeting Draws Delegates From Nazareth College

Taking its theme from the Christmas message of Pope Pius XII, the Catholic Association for International Peace with the Student Peace Federation, met at Trinity College in Washington, D. C. on April 14, 15 and 16. Mary Bertha Pallace, Snider, and Jane Bertha, Junior, represented Nazareth College.

Meetings on Monday and Tuesday discussed the draft of a proposed report of committees of the Catholic Association for International Peace entitled "America's Peace Aims."

Rev. R. A. McGowan of the National Catholic Welfare Conference led the discussion on the "Obligations of the United States."

The discussion on the "Functions of a United Europe" was led by Robert Pollock, Ph.D. of Fordham University.

In the considering of a possible United Europe, a proposal for an "International Bill of Rights" was offered by the Rev. Wilfrid Parson, S. J. (See Catholic Courier, April 17, 1944, Page 1.)

The Federation discussed numerous other current problems and possibilities and the speakers, leaders from various parts of the country conducting the meetings.

Miss Rosemary A. White, B. Litt., of the Nazareth College Faculty, was elected vice-president of the Catholic Association for International Peace.

King Confers Medal On 2 Nuns In India

MADRAS, INDIA — The Kaiser-i-Hind Medal has been conferred by George VI, King and Emperor, on two nuns engaged in works of charity in the province.

They are Mother Mary Aloysia, Superior of the Little Flower Convent here, and Sister Mary Cecilia of St. Theresa's Hospital at Kurnool.

There is a higher law than the Constitution.—W. H. Seward.

CHILDLESS VILLAGES VIRTUES EXTOLLED

Pope Extolls Virtues Of Humility, Charity

VATICAN CITY (NC) — Extolling the virtues of humility and charity in a discourse to a thousand Catholic university students and graduates whom he received in audience yesterday, His Holiness Pope Pius XII condemned that excessive anger which vent itself against innocent persons and metes out punishment far in excess of justice.

The Holy Father addressed the students and graduates for 40 minutes, saying they are as the brain in the social body and urging them to take the fullest advantage of the opportunities which they are privileged to have.

Science and Faith are sisters, the Sovereign Pontiff said. He told the university graduates that because of the high cultural advantages they have had they must have a higher knowledge of Christian truths, so that they can defend them and support them in scientific circles, which alas in our days are largely extraneous to Christian influence.

Pope Pius traced the cultural tradition of the Church and her influence when she gave life to great universities and other institutions of learning. His Holiness recommended to the students and graduates that they combine with the firm profession of their Faith the highest possible standing in study and in their respective professions. Only in this way, he said, will they be able to render due glory to God and to acquire the prestige necessary to the exercise of efficacious influence for religion and morality in their respective spheres.

The Holy Father also made it plain that such a course of action corresponds entirely to the necessities of life and to the exigencies of society, for, he pointed out, the truth is that all men are brothers, all are redeemed by the same Saviour, all are walking towards the same happiness in the house of the Heavenly Father.

"Humility and charity are not enemies, nor are they out of keeping with human dignity," Pope Pius said. "They don't lessen one's love of country. They don't diminish courage or impede a citizen who, in a truly just war, struggles for the defense, honor and salvation of his country, fights with full fortitude against an adversary armed to overcome him. But beneficent charity finds no pleasure in iniquity, not even on the battlefield nor in the most difficult vicissitudes, but forbids those who fight to rage against innocent persons or to punish the guilty beyond the limits of justice."

First Aid Nuns
Montreal: Certificates of the St. John Ambulance Association for proficiency in First Aid were given to 57 nuns and 103 nurses of St. Heart Hospital, Cartierville. The course comprised instruction in given to 37 nuns and 103 nurses of Sacred Heart Hospital, Cartierville. The course comprised instruction in giving aid for any emergency of peace or war.

Elmirans Rally To Fill Chest

(Continued on Page 2)

retary of Elmira Catholic Charities was cited by the Campaign's opening.

In the interests of all 14 participating agencies, speakers at the rally Sunday outlined the campaign's goal.

Mr. McElwain emphasized the advantages of the Community Chest from the viewpoint of a business man: an employer, an employee and as a member of agency boards.

"I see the Chest as an economical, efficient method of raising funds to combat for 14 agencies," he stated. "The amount of time and effort required of the community to operate the campaign is reduced to a minimum and the cost of the Chest plan has been reduced by at least 15 cents on the dollar."

General Chairman Isard said: "Social work such as done by Child and Family Service, Catholic Charities, Jewish Relief Society is of a preventive nature—it aims to help families out of trouble—to save homes from being broken—to prevent unhappiness and disaster—to rebuild self-support and self-respect—to keep families off relief."

He stressed the work done by other agencies such as the Red Cross, the Salvation Army, Soldiers of America, the Visiting Nurse and Tuberculosis Association.

Women's part in the campaign was cited by Mrs. Whitney.

"How a mother of our grandmother's generation might have rejoiced to see her sick baby given the healing care of a visiting nurse. The Community Chest should receive the support of every Elmira woman so that each may claim a part in women's time-honored heritage—the healing of the sick, the protection of the weak, and the building of character."

Through the Ladies of Charity Catholic Charities, with the cooperation of a hundred ninety members of that organization, locates prospective foster children, visits the sick and the aged, gives individual attention to adolescents, provides investigation, approved rooms for newcomers, supplies layettes and clothing for special occasions.

Through the Catholic Youth Organization they supply a supervised program of recreation under Catholic auspices and plan to sponsor the first Catholic Camp in Chemung County.

Their record in 1940 shows that from the Catholic Charities, 280 families received long time service and 77 families or individuals were given incidental or temporary care. These families included 2389 boys, girls women and men. To and in the interest of these families Catholic Charities visitors made 5333 home and collateral visits, held 3,176 office consultations, executed 8,319 telephone calls and 903 letters as a part of treatment plans.

This report was released by Miss Mary E. Fitzgerald, executive secretary.

According To The Doctor

The old-fashioned concoctions that grandmother used to feed her children come spring had absolutely no value as "spring tonics." Mixtures of sulphur and molasses, sassafras, dandelion tea, or other unpleasant tasting spring medicines need no longer be forced down the throat of protesting youngsters, for better means are more effective.

Fresh air, rest, sleep, a certain amount of recreation, exercise, freedom from worry and a physical examination will give one a healthy "spring-in-the-air" feeling.

Today it is essential to keep physically fit because of keen competition in all trades. We have more time today to care for ourselves and to learn many fundamentals in regard to our health, especially the prevention of poor health.

Day-by-day more people realize that fresh air and sleep are most beneficial in preserving good health, and the fresh, clean food and fruit are needed. No longer is the administration of "tonics" a procedure to be recommended with blanket rate bills. The call of the outdoors has been recognized by the use of a mother as the one which should not be denied.

RETURNING MISSIONARIES ENTERTAINED IN HAWAII

HONOLULU (NC) — Members of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal and the Chinese Catholic Club entertained three returning missionaries to China on the "President Coolidge" at a Chinese dinner. The returning missionaries are the Rev. Lawrence B. Curtis, C.M., Superior, and Fathers Joseph A. Gately, C.M., and Francis J. Fisherty, C.M.

They have just completed a year's furlough in the motherhouse of the American Province in Germantown, Philadelphia. They are returning to their post in Kanchow Vicariate in Kiangsi, China, where they labored for 11 years.

One of the purposes of the Central Association of the Miraculous Medal is to provide financial aid to these Vincentian priests.

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