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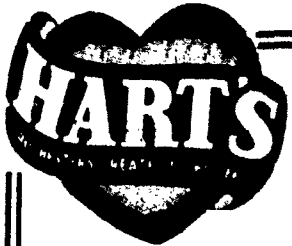
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NATIONAL NEWS

Home From War Area, Priest Talks of Nazis Taking Over in France

HIGHGATE CENTER, Vt.—(INC)—"Back from the war" is a literally true designation for the return to this country of the Rev. Aime J. Trahan, 30-year priest of the Society of St. Edmund, from the western front in Europe.

Father Trahan, Superior and Pastor at the original motherhouse of the Society of St. Edmund in Pontigny, France, is visiting his aged father here after escaping from German detention in France. He leaves behind him a saga of adventure that in many respects is unique even amid the many unusual events that war brings.

Father Trahan, a Vermonter by birth and a graduate of St. Michael's College at Winooski, was laboring in pastoral work in the town of St. Florentin, France, where he was replacing a pastor called to the colors when the Battle of France began. In St. Florentin Father Trahan witnessed the devastations both spiritual and material which followed the collapse of French arms. There he was created into service by the Nazis as Mayor of the city, saw to the reorganization of services essential to life, directing the police and fire departments, and the hospitals, regulating food and medical supplies, besides burying the dead, conducting the exercises of religion, and attending to the thousand and one details needed to maintain the hope and courage of a broken people.

Nazi Occupied Motherhouse
Since September, 1940 Father Trahan has been Superior and Pastor at his society motherhouse in Pontigny, where the remains of St. Edmund, twelfth century Archbishop of Canterbury, have been enshrined in the Clisterian Abbey and which nearly 100 years ago became the cradle of the Society of St. Edmund. When he returned from St. Florentin to Pontigny he found the German troops occupying his motherhouse a sentry posted always at his door, a swastika flying from a pole in his yard and another in the window of his bedroom.

Warned repeatedly by the officials of the American Embassy that he should quit France, he preferred to stay on as long as there was any hope that he could perform his ministry freely. When it became increasingly clear that his usefulness was nearly at an end, he sought from the Germans a safe conduct. This was repeatedly refused. He was convinced that if he was to return to America at all he must resort to stratagem.

Last June 25 he left Pontigny without a cent and with only the clothes on his back. He worked his way south, always fearing detection. Finally he came to the border of occupied France. Dressed as a shabby civilian, he walked east across the lines. He had barely crossed when the German guards appeared.

He found many willing hands to help him as he made his way to Vichy, then to Spain, and finally to Lisbon, where friends found passage for him on the "Excalibur" on which he returned to the United States.

Father Trahan told today of his belief in the resurrection of France. Has Sound Economy
"France, unlike the other conquered nations of Europe" he said, "has a comparatively sound economy. It is the decay of faith in France which brought her downfall. France with her predominantly peasant population has a nice balance between agriculture and industry and her people are accustomed to self-reliance and frugality and her traditions and customs are a product of centuries of Catholicism. She needs only the faith to make her once splendid civilization throb again with life and vitality."

"No one who witnessed the scenes I saw in France can believe that the French people have failed to see the emptiness and misery inherent in the materialism which ruled in France prior to the downfall. The devastation of their homes, their wasted fields, the empty chairs around the hearth, the thousands upon thousands of refugees who poured out of Belgium and northern France and who still are wanderers the rumbling German tanks and trucks, the continual subjection they must suffer under the heel of the German—all this has brought home to the French people the necessity of faith in God and morality in public and private life."

"There is no doubt about it," Father Trahan said, "the France of today has severed completely its ties with the capitalistic order such as prevailed in the so-called democratic nations before the war. But it would be a great mistake to think that this means Fascism or some attenuated form of Nazism. The Petain Government in Free France and to a remarkable degree the Frenchmen in occupied France are endeavoring not only to revive the patriotism of the French but especially to bring back the faith of the people in those Catholic values upon which their civilization is based. The marvelous youth movement, the activities of the newly appointed Minister of Youth, and the methods employed all bear evidence to the desire of the French people to develop a free people, an independent people, a Christian people."

Priest Finds Center To Aid Poor Churches

MERIDIAN, Miss.—The Rev. Nelson Downes, Pastor of St. Patrick's Church here, has established a center to receive gifts of used vestments, altar cloths and other articles for distribution among poor churches throughout the South.

TRAFFIC TIP
Do not speed, the higher the speed the greater the danger.

On CBS Program



Rev. Aloysius F. Coogan, National Secretary of the Missionary Union of the Clergy and editor of "Catholic Mission," who will be heard over the Columbia Broadcasting System's "Church of the Air" program, coast-to-coast, Sunday, August 10, at 1 P. M. E. D. S. T. He will speak on "The Missionary Church in a Changing World." (N.C.W.C.)

TRAFFIC TIP
Remember that brakes will not stop you as quickly on poor roads.

Washington Letter

Appeals To Church-Goers To Speed Work For Peace

By ELMER MURPHY

WASHINGTON—(INC)—An interesting example of the drift of opinion on the part of the public officials and some members of Congress is afforded by a resolution introduced in the House by Representative Ludlow of Indiana. He proposes that the United States take the initiative in inviting to Washington delegates of the republics of the Western Hemisphere to offer their services to mediate the difference between the countries now at war.

It is not the resolution itself that is particularly significant. Peace suggestions are not likely to be given much consideration either by Congress or the Administration at the present moment. It is rather Mr. Ludlow's explanation of his reasons for making the proposal.

He expresses the hope that a militant Christianity, applying to the present world situation the moral principles to which it is committed, will overcome the hate and the brutality out of which the war has been generated and bring about a return of peace. Quoting the President's observation that "no greater thing could come to our land today than a revival of the spirit of religion," he says:

"There are 64,501,984 church members in the United States who, humbly trusting in the sacred scriptures, have professed their loyalty to the living Christ. Now is the time to show that loyalty let us here in America, bring into the world's attention a Leader Who has been sadly neglected in the storm of world hatreds and strife, a leader infinitely greater than all of the dictators combined, Christ, the Saviour of Men."

Representative Ludlow goes on to say:
"It seems to me, and I say it with sorrow, that Christianity in America is not rising to the occasion. It is not standing up for the principle of a restoration of its responsibilities. It is not backing its leader, the Saviour of Mankind as it should."

"It is the duty of the Church that represents the Living Christ to be doing something about ending this horrible war."
"Such a movement, if given the strength and direction that is possible through capable leadership, will be supported magnificently by the masses of the people. As Cardinal O'Connell so well says in a telegram to me:

"There is no doubt in my mind that the American people desire a cessation of this stupid and brutal war."
To the substance of what Mr. Ludlow has to say probably no exception would be taken by his colleagues. The timing of his proposal would sharply differ. It is doubtful, even that the President himself whose deep religious feeling cannot be questioned would approve a peace proposal at this time.

The question upon which attention centers in Washington is not whether war is to be abhorred but how it is to be avoided. "On this point opinion splits and in the heat of the moment those who discountenance the entry of the United States into the war are liable to be called "appeasers" and those who advocate peacemaking military preparations to the limit are liable to find themselves classified as war mongers."

To go back then Mr. Ludlow's assertion that Christianity is at fault, needs qualification. It is Christianity that has failed or is it people who have failed to accept and be guided by the principles of Christianity? Is it that Christianity has failed to lead or that people have failed to follow? The answer to this question is rather obvious. The Holy Father has stated the essentials of a just and lasting peace, but how this program is to be carried out is the overwhelming problem of the hour.

Bishop Gorman Heard By NCCW

(Continued from Page 1)

and enunciated in the social encyclicals of Pope Leo XIII and Pius XI needs qualification. It is a definite, complete program for a good social order and peace in the principles laid down in the encyclicals and reiterated by the American Bishops. The Catholic worker, he added, must learn the philosophy of the Social Gospel program. To promote that program women can take an ever active and active interest in their social and domestic conditions. "We can cooperate with bad housing, low wages, child labor, working mothers and do something about them," she asserted. "We can learn the causes of poverty in our midst. We can foster good legislative measures and oppose the bad. Women must be intelligent voters and consumers she said and should cooperate with other groups for the support of effective social movements and to make known Catholic teaching."

BISHOPS AID RELIEF PEACE WORK URGED

Bishops Allot \$245,000 For Relief Of Refugees

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—Allocations of funds totalling nearly a quarter of a million dollars are announced here by the Bishops' Relief Committee.

By designating a large portion of these funds for aid abroad, the Bishops are upholding the hands of the Holy Father, Pius XII, who personally directs the relief work in the stricken countries of Europe.

Set up by the annual meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States last November, the Bishops' Relief Committee administers the American Hierarchy's plan for a single fund-raising to finance the various relief projects committed to its care. The allocations announced today are the result of a survey of the work made by this committee. They must be added to the more than \$1,300,000 in disbursements announced last Fall by the several relief committees whose work is now coordinated.

Allocations made public by the Bishops' Relief Committee today actually total \$245,000.

Of this sum \$200,000 is being sent abroad for relief, and \$202,000 is being expended in this country on refugees and war relief.

Relief in Europe, Asia and Africa is being given in direct relief in several different parts of Europe and also in Asia. There are generous gifts in aid of Poland and Lithuania sufferers, the Bishops' committee is also sending the kindness of Camp de Gurs in Unoccupied France, and student relief administered in Fribourg, Switzerland.

Another allocation which is to be expended in the United States represents the contribution made by the Hierarchy of the United States at its share in the annual upkeep of the Holy See's general Refugee Office in New York.

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Among the foreign allotments there is a disbursement of \$100,000 for China Relief, Inc. This is independent of a donation of \$2,000 made by the Bishops' Relief Committee to the American Red Cross for relief work in China.

Funds allocated for refugee relief in the United States include as their largest item an allotment of \$72,000 which is to cover the expenses of the general Refugee Office in New York.

Another allocation which is to be expended in the United States represents the contribution made by the Hierarchy of the United States at its share in the annual upkeep of the Holy See's general Refugee Office in New York.

Allocations of funds to be used in direct relief abroad undoubtedly would have been considerably larger, if the Bishops' Relief Committee could have found a suitable way of dispatching funds to Scandinavian countries. The Committee's earnest consideration of this problem, and decided that in view of the extreme difficulty of communication, the allotment of funds for relief in Scandinavia should be deferred.

Previous Relief Work
At the time the Bishops' Relief Committee was brought into being last Fall, and all the relief activities of the American Hierarchy were brought together under it, a survey of Catholic relief measures up to that time showed that more than \$1,300,000 had been provided for this relief work. This did not include the sums, undoubtedly considerable, which Catholics contributed to the American Red Cross and to general relief funds. Neither did it include contributions which American Catholics made to the work of the Propagation of the Faith, some part of which seems early go in the relief of physical suffering in Mission lands.

It was estimated at the time that Catholic funds made available for relief of suffering Catholics had more than a half-million dollars had been expended on welfare and educational work among Mexicans, including the establishment of the Holy Family Home for the wards of \$100,000 had been given in aid of the stricken people of China; that more than \$100,000 had been sent to Chile for the relief of suffering Catholics; that \$50,000 had been sent to Portugal, Cuba and other places for the relief of refugees.

The Bishops' Relief Committee is made up of members of the Administration Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

HANDBOOK OF JUVENILE LITERATURE PUBLISHED

NEW YORK—The Pro Parvulis Book Club announces that a new handbook of children's literature entitled "Traffic Lights" will shortly issue from the press.

The handbook, entitled "Safe Crossings: A Modern Children's Literature from the Catholic Point of View" it covers 20 important fields in the choosing and purchase of juvenile literature. It is a Catholic professional handbook upon which the nuns have previously had to depend and seeks to give critical aid to Catholic educators in their selection of reading material. The handbook is a digest of biography, history, biblical material, poetry and controversial matter. Each chapter has a booklet appended. A selective professional bibliography is also given.

The handbook has been written by the Rev. Harold C. Gardner, R.J. Literary Editor of America.

St. Francis De Sales

HONOR VETERAN EMPLOYES

By RATHERYN MORAN

Fellow workers and friends of two veteran city employees, who are both active members in all social and spiritual affairs of St. Francis De Sales Church, were honored at dinner parties, last week, at the Elks Club, Geneva.

Approximately 40 city and county officials and City Hall workers attended Thursday night's affair in honor of Mrs. Mary Bolvers, 84 years police matron and City Hall janitress Common Council President John E. Houters, the town master, introduced as speakers, Mayor F. W. Warner, City Clerk Edwin R. Dobbin, Police Justice A. J. Byrne, of Seneca Falls; City Judge Thomas A. Kane, former City Judge George F. Ditzner and Michael O'Toole, retiring Nestor Hosiery Company driver; former City Sanitary Inspector James Madison; Mrs. Nellie O'Malley Woods; John E. Bolbin, of the Board of Public Works.

Michael O'Toole for 52 years a member of the city Fire Department and for 21 years a driver for the Nestor Hosiery Company, was honored at a party on Wednesday evening at the Geneva Elks Club. Approximately seventy members of the Fire Department attended the affair.

Raymond Rogan, president of the Nestor Hosiery Company was town master. Speakers were Mayor Warner, Assistant Chief Walter Forman, and Frank Rahn, chairman of the Fire Commission. Both Mrs. Bolvers and Mr. O'Toole were presented purses.

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