

INTERNATIONAL Mexico Rite Reveals Change To Church

By Bishop John Mark Cannon of Erie
(Written for the N.C.W.C. News Service)

MEXICO CITY — I attended the celebration of recent days at the great basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe in this Mexican capital. It was the occasion of the *Dia de la Raza*, on which also were commemorated the crowning of the Virgin of Guadalupe and the anniversary of the discovery of America by Christopher Columbus.

I am still under the spell of that impressive observance.

It was as colorful as beautiful, and partly as devout a ceremony as I have ever seen.

Catholic edifice in any part of the world.

Blessing of Roses, Flags

It was truly Catholic reverential on the part of the laity and clergy, and filled with beautiful meanings. I mention only two of them. There was the blessing of the roses, bushes of them for the Virgin and there was the blessing of the great flags, one for each nation of the Americas. These flags symbolically represented the placing of all these nations under the protection of the Virgin Mother.

I rejoiced to note that in the

procession, the Stars and Stripes were given a prominent place. I observed particularly that even though it was the "day of the race," the generous persons in charge did not omit the flags of their non-Latin brothers of the Western Hemisphere — Canada as well as the United States.

Virtually all of the members of the Hierarchy of Mexico were present.

Particular honors were given Archbishop Cantwell of Los Angeles, who pontificated at the High Mass. There was no lack of appreciation for this outstanding American prelate who has been the ardent friend of the very numerous Mexicans within his Archdiocese and with the beautiful Spanish name, and who led an impressive group of priests and lay people to the celebration from the United States. The Conductor Archbishop of Morelia preached an eloquent sermon.

New Attitude Toward Church

How was such a commanding Catholic ceremony possible in Mexico?

There is a change in the attitude of the Government in this country. While the laws that hamper religion are still in effect, religious groups are comparatively free to carry on their activities. Interpretations have been made Catholicity is quite evident and it is excellent Catholicity here. Of course, secularism is evident too.

Here is an indication: I met about 30 Mexican priests, all in lay clothing. But the California priests, who were numerous, were in clerical garb, including clerical collars. This was a concession of the Government in honor of Archbishop Cantwell's wish.

I visited one church on Friday at the close of the Forty Hours Devotion and found it jammed with the faithful. I visited another parish church in the afternoon and found 800 children under catechetical instruction. I was at five other churches and found them crowded on week days. Of course, all churches are filled as in the United States on Sundays.

Naturally, there are problems one of these is indicated by the following. A chancellor told me that he has charge of a "small parish" which consists of 22,000 souls, and he must attend to it alone. This is in addition to his other duties.

Seminary Real Blessing

The Seminary of Montezuma has been a real blessing to Mexico and will go down in history, perhaps as the turning point in the whole tragedy of the persecution of the Church in Mexico.

The people here know of the friendship of the American Bishops for Mexico. As I went down the aisle in the great procession at Guadalupe, I was recognized and the throng clapped its hands and openly expressed thanks and good wishes to the American Bishops. I was quite surprised and moved.

The presence of Archbishop Cantwell and the pilgrims who accompanied him was particularly appreciated. Seemingly, His Excellency already was widely known for the splendid pastoral care and the sincere and practical measures he has taken in his Archdiocese for the Mexican people who are part of it.

His coming was accepted as a gracious gesture, and I think everyone was impressed most deeply. Almost a hundred priests accompanied the Archbishop, together with many laymen, in a special Pullman train. The Mexico City secular press widely reported and editorialized on the arrival and printed His Excellency's remarks in full text.

In his sermon, the Most Rev. Luis Altamirano y Bulnes, Conductor Archbishop of Morelia, emphasized the great significance of the ceremony, referring especially to the bonds that unite the Catholic Hierarchy of the United States with that of Mexico. As a symbol of this unity, and of the collaboration of the American Bishops, he cited the Seminary of Montezuma where hundreds of Mexicans are educated for the priesthood.

A CHINESE SOLDIER'S ROSARY



A Chinese soldier fingers his Rosary, in this view from war-torn China. The soldier wears his hat in Church, and women go bareheaded. Customs seem to be different in the Orient. There are no chaplains for the 20,000 Catholic soldiers in the Chinese armies, but their faith is an inspiration to their comrades, and many conversions are reported. (N.C.W.C.)

Faithful Urged To Be More Devout In Assisting At Mass

VATICAN CITY. — (NC) — The Sacred Congregation of the Council has issued an instruction to the Hierarchy and clergy and to all who have care of souls, on the subject of the proper assistance of the faithful at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass.

"Many of the faithful," the instruction says, "falling in faith and in piety, oblivious of divine things, no longer esteem the Sacrifice of the Mass as they should." The Congregation, through special mandate of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, recommends that the Ordinaries and clergy of the whole world instruct the faithful on the importance of the Holy Sacrifice.

Matters especially recommended for this instruction are: (1) the nature and excellence of the Sacrifice; (2) the serious obligation of assisting at Mass on Sundays and on feast days of precept; (3) the imperatary and propitiatory value of the Mass; (4) partaking of Holy Communion not merely spiritually but sacramentally as often as possible; and (5) the dogma of the Communion of Saints, according to which the Sacrifice of the Mass may be applied not only for the souls in purgatory but for the living who, "stricken, especially in our times, by such anguish and misfortune have need of the mercy and help of God."

Ordinaries and priests are urged often to recall the faithful to a life in conformity with the precepts of Christ, and to have recourse to the assistance of Confraternities and Associations of his Blessed Sacrament, which are instituted in every parish in accordance with Canon Law "specifically to be an example and aid in practicing and encouraging Eucharistic worship."

If with the help of God the Christian people will fervently follow these exhortations of their pastors, the instruction concludes, the Eucharistic Sacrifice, than which nothing can be more acceptable to Our Lord, will really be a source of life and sanctity to the advantage of the whole world.

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Nazis Loot Lithuania, Carry On Red Outrages, U. S. Group Charges

WASHINGTON. — (NC) — The plunder, devastation and dehumanization of Lithuania began in 1940 by Russia, is being continued, continued and extended by the Nazis, despite the fact that Lithuania had established her independence from Russia shortly before the present Russo-German war. The American Lithuanian Roman Catholic Federation charges in a statement sent to Secretary of State Cordell Hull.

The statement which was adopted by the Federation at a meeting in Hartford, Conn. in September, declares that on the heels of the outrages perpetrated by the Russian conquerors, prior to the attack of the German armies on Russia, has come German oppression which has vitiated the successful Lithuanian uprising against Soviet tyranny last June, and the independent government which was set up as a result. Against this and the "brutal German treatment" of other Baltic countries which until now were neutral in the war, the Federation in its letter expresses indignation, stating that it desires the United States Government "should hear of and know of the wrongs inflicted upon Lithuania and its liberty by the warring dictators."

Loot of War

The letter recalls the establishment of a new independent Lithuanian Government after its successful revolt last June and how the Germans following their march into Lithuania in the Russo-German war, smothered the new Government and abolished its independence.

For twelve months the Russians plundered the Baltic states, preparing the field for the Germans, says the statement. "They hastened to confiscate all farms larger than 70 acres in area, all of the better buildings, printing presses, bank deposits, and home furnishings, to burn patriotic books, and to liquidate the intelligentsia." The invading Germans confirmed the Russian confiscations and are not returning to the Lithuanians most of their farms, their homes and some of their factories. The Germans are seizing these properties as loot of war which will aid them in colonizing the Baltic countries.

ASKS SICK OFFER SUFFERING FOR CLERGY'S INTENTION

VICHY. — (NC) — Asking the sick of his Diocese to offer their sufferings one day a week for the intentions of the clergy, the Most Rev. Pierre Theas Bishop of Montauban reminds them of the words of St. Paul. "For when I am weak, then I am strong (II Cor. 12: 10)."

In this connection it is interesting to learn that notwithstanding the German occupation the Apostleship of the Sick, begun in 1925 by a Dutch priest, the Rev. L. J. Willemberg of Bloemendaal, near Haarlem, is growing in Holland, Belgium and occupied France. The idea originating with this Dutch pastor was quickly adopted elsewhere.

Go "Along the Way" with Father Lord. See Editorial Page.

Bandits Slay Capuchin Missioner In Ethiopia

VATICAN CITY. — The Curia of the Roman Province of Capuchins has been informed through the Papal Secretariat of State, that the Rev. Pauline Margagnoli, Capuchin missionary attached to the Roman Province, has been killed by brigands at Dire-dawa, Ethiopia.

Archbishop Protests Ad As Insulting To Papal Delegate

TORONTO. — (NC) — Protest against an advertisement which appeared in the *Globe and Mail* and *Toronto Telegram*, local daily newspapers, as insulting to His Excellency the Most Rev. Ildebrando Antonutti, Apostolic Delegate to Canada, is made in a letter from the Most Rev. James C. McGuigan, Archbishop of Toronto, published by the former publication.

The Archbishop's protest is directed against an advertisement sponsored by a Dr. T. T. Shields, described as a non-Catholic clergyman identified with bigoted efforts and assertions for some time past.

The advertisement read: "Why the Italian Apostolic Delegate to Canada, Archbishop Antonutti, Should Be Expelled for Subversive Activities."

Archbishop McGuigan asserts that "no country in the world during this war has contemplated such an insult to the historic center of Christendom" as the advertisement. Stressing that President Roosevelt has sent a special personal en-

voy to the Vatican, His Excellency declares that "Great Britain, we may be sure, would be horrified at the suggestion of such an offensive given by any British group to the highest and most potent moral force in the world." "Only our enemies could and would rejoice at a disagreement between a British country and the Holy See at this crucial time," the Archbishop's letter adds. "Only Nazi propagandists will delight in the religious feelings and disunity caused by such an insult to the representative of Pope Pius XII."

The *Toronto Star* did not publish the advertisement, while the *Toronto Telegram* published only the first part, omitting the phrase "for subversive activities."

The *Catholic Register* here points out that Dr. Shields has devoted himself to inflaming bigotry and that the Canadian Censor has reminded Canadian editors that in publishing his speeches they should "keep in mind the Defense of Canada regulations."

HONORED BY POPE



Cardinal Canali

Cardinal Canali Named Grand Penitentiary

VATICAN CITY. — (NC) — His Eminence Nicola Cardinal Canali, President of the Pontifical Commission for the government of Vatican City, has been appointed Grand Penitentiary of the Holy Roman Church by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, to succeed His Eminence Lorenzo Cardinal Lauri, who died October 8.

The Grand Penitentiary is the Cardinal who presides over the Sacred Penitentiary, the tribunal which decides matters of conscience and grants absolutions, dispensations and indulgences.

No appointment has yet been made to fill Cardinal Lauri's principal post of Camerlengo of the Holy Roman Church, the incumbent of which administers the affairs of the Holy See on the death of a Pontiff.

Parish Thanks Duce For Church Gift

VATICAN CITY. — The Most Rev. Pasquale Righetti, Bishop of Savona and Noli, and the Very Rev. Msgr. Tommaso Fonticelli, pastor of St. Francis of Pauls Church, Savona, have sent their thanks to Premier Mussolini for his gift toward the building of a new church for St. Francis parish.

The gift resulted from the interest of state officials of the Province of Savona, who recognized the need of the project. Monsignor Fonticelli was seeking to finance.

Chair of Medicine

Milwaukee. — An endowed Chair of Medicine at Marquette University to be filled by Dr. Francis D. Murphy, Clinical Professor of Medicine and Director of the Department of Medicine at the university, has been announced.

Royalty's Chaplain



Rev. Dr. Joseph B. Code, priest of the Diocese of Davenport, and for the past five years a member of the faculty of Catholic University of America, who has been appointed Chaplain of the Imperial House of Austria, the first American priest to hold such a position. The Imperial Family now resides in the United States and Canada. Bachrach photo. (N.C.W.C.)