

Blessed Mother Besought In Capital For Peace As Nation Suffers War Blow

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—“This morning we may well implore her powerful intercession to obtain for our land and for all who dwell therein the blessings of peace.”

These words were uttered today in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here when the nation recoiled under Japan's attack upon the United States.

Official Prayers
Speaking at a Solemn Pontifical Mass in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here this morning, the Very Rev. Charles J. Coselle, O.M.I., Superior of the Shrine, ended his sermon with the prayer:

“May she place us all within the folds of her maternal mantle and bring us safe to the feet of her Divine Son. It is thus that the Church prays today in the Mass. God, who by the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin did not make her a worthy habitation for thy Son and didst by His foreseen merits preserve her from all stain of sin, grant we beseech thee that through her intercession we may be cleared from sin, and come with pure hearts to thee.”

The Mass, celebrated by the Most Rev. Joseph M. Corrigan, Rector of the Catholic University of America on whose campus the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is located, was attended by the faculty, students and representatives of religious houses affiliated with the university.

Making the Patronal Feast of the American Holy Sacrifice was offered to beg for divine blessings upon the United States through the intercession of America's Patroness. Outside and a few blocks away official Washington but yesterday striving desperately to avert hostilities in the Pacific, and thus avert or postpone America's armed involvement in the present world strife, gradually prepared for the war which had struck swiftly and shockingly in the early hours of yesterday afternoon. Congress was assembling to hear the President of the United States as for the action the nation for weeks had hoped would not be necessary.

Words of Hope
Through all this the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception rang with words of hope, hope in the power and intercession of the Blessed Mother. Father Coselle, in the sanctuary dedicated to the Patroness of this country, reminded that Mary's singular privilege of being conceived immaculate may well be summed up as one of the great things done for her which manifests the mercy, power, and fidelity of God.

Papal Delegate To Officiate At Denver Rite

DENVER His Excellency the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, will officiate at ceremonies marking the formal erection of the new Archdiocese of Denver and the installation of the Most Rev. Urban J. Vehr as its first Archbishop.

The ceremonies will be held in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception on the Feast of the Epiphany, Jan. 6. The sermon will be delivered by the Most Rev. John T. McNicholas, O. P., Archbishop of Cincinnati, under whom the Archbishop-designate served as a priest prior to his appointment as Bishop of Denver in 1931.

Many members of the Hierarchy are expected to attend.

FLORIDA NOW HAS CHAPTER OF SCIENCE ROUND TABLE

MIAMI Fla.—(N. C.)—The St. Augustine Chapter of the Catholic Round Table of Science was organized by the Rev. Francis P. LaBalle, S. J., at a meeting held at Barry College here. Representatives of all the religious communities teaching in Florida and two lay professors, Dr. Henry Clause of Miami University, and Dr. Edward Weinberg, of Rollins College, were present.

Meetings it was announced, will be held annually in conjunction with the Florida Academy of Science. Sister Mary Jane, O. P., is secretary.

O death how bitter is the remembrance of thee to a man that hath power in his possessions.

“By preserving His mother from all stain of sin God in a striking way makes it evident that sin in His eyes is the one essential evil in the world.” Father Coselle said. “Sin is so hateful to Him that He could not tolerate it for a single brief instant in His mother. God did not preserve His mother from the evil of suffering. No, He allowed her hot heart to be pierced by the sword of sorrow as had been foretold by the aged Simeon. But God did preserve her from the evil of sin, the essential evil in the world.”

The Immaculate Conception of Mary was the first of the great things done by God for Mary. Father Coselle declared, “and this singular privilege was given to her in view of the fact that she of all women was chosen to be the Mother of the Son of God. Her Immaculate Conception prepared her for divine motherhood and the very position of the East of the Immaculate Conception in the period which prepares us for the coming of Christ at Christmas, is calculated to impress on us the intimate connection between Mary's Immaculate Conception and her divine Motherhood. Even when her arms do not hold her Son she is expected only because they should.”

Example of God's Fidelity
The Blessed Mother's Immaculate Conception is “likewise an example of God's fidelity to His promises,” the priest continued. “At the dawn of human history on the sad day when our first parents fell from God's grace and brought sin and death upon all their descendants, God gave mankind the promise of a Redeemer.” He stressed “God placed His curse on the serpent for causing our first parents to fall and promised that a woman and her Son would be victorious over Satan. I will put enmities between thee and the woman and thy seed and her seed. She shall crush thy head and thou shalt lie in wait for her heel.”

“The enmity announced by God is an enemy which is to result in victory, a victory which was achieved by Christ and His Immaculate Mother. Indeed, she herself has triumphed through her Son. Whose divine power was able to crush the head of the serpent. As mother of the Redeemer and associated with Him in His work she could not begin by being subject to Satan and sin.”

Mail Religious Course For Service Men Opened By D. I.

ST. LOUIS—(N. C.)—More than 125 Army and Navy chaplains have availed themselves of the services of a vast program of religious instruction by mail for men in the armed forces of the United States which has been inaugurated with headquarters here and with branches throughout the country. It is revealed by the Rev. L. J. Fallon, O.M.I., Director of the program. Originating last August when the annual convention of the Daughters of Isabella voted a national project of financing the instruction of men in military services, the program is conducted by a special Army and Navy Department of the Confraternity Home Study Service established for the purpose at Kenrick Seminary here.

From this center applications for instruction, received from Army and Navy posts throughout the United States and its possessions, are relayed to 15 seminaries, which conduct the instruction as members of the national network of “Associated Catholic Chaplains.”

Participating seminaries are in eleven States widely scattered through the country. With the full approval of the Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, CSC,

FORMER PAULIST CHORISTER LEADS ARMY CHOIR



Members of the Mitchell Field, L. I., Choir, with Mrs. Mary McGrath at the organ, rehearse a Gregorian High Mass in the Catholic Chapel. Composed of recruits, non-commissioned officers, wives and officers, nurses and military employees, the choir is directed by Private James Welch (left), of the 81st Air Base Group, former member of the Paulist Choristers and an assistant to Father Finn. (N. C. S. C.)

U. S. Missioners To Remain At Posts In War Zones

NEW YORK, N. Y., (N. C.)—Head of the largest group among the 1,200 Catholic American missioners in the Pacific, Bishop James E. Walsh, Superior General of Maryknoll,

God's Help Invoked By President As War Is Declared

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—The help of God was invoked for the United States Monday as President Roosevelt asked a joint session of Congress to “declare that once the unprovoked and steadily attack by Japan on Sunday December 7, 1941 a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.”

“With confidence in our armed forces,” the President said, “with the unshakable determination of our people we will gain the inevitable triumph. Help us God.”

Librarian Honored

ATCHISON Kans.—The Rev. Boniface Moll, OSB, head of the 90,000-volume library of St. Benedict's College here, has been elected chairman of the junior members of the Kansas Library Association.

Walsh takes a certain view as regards any danger to the amazing American missionaries in the Far East. His reply was made Monday at his national headquarters at Maryknoll, N. Y. as follows:
“Catholic missioners from the United States in Hawaii and the Western Pacific number 1150 priests, Brothers and Sisters of whom 50 are members of the two American societies for which I speak, the Maryknoll Fathers and Brothers, and the Maryknoll Society. Our country has never before had in Japan a larger part of this year in Japan along Hong Kong and the Philippines, and while the present situation is grave I believe no serious danger to life faces these representatives of the Church unless they find themselves in an actual fighting zone.”

Indeed the Maryknoll priests and Sisters in the missions of China who number 185 have already faced more critical moments in the past few years than anything we anticipate from the present unfortunate development.

Remain At Their Posts
“We have 135 Maryknollers in the Japanese Empire who are following the Catholic missionary tradition of staying at their posts. We have reason to believe that the authorities in every region will accord them every humane treatment that is compatible with their presence in a country with which our nation is at war.”

In a situation wherein our young soldiers and sailors are called upon to risk their lives in the performance of their duty to the Nation, it goes without saying that our missioners are prepared to face the lesser dangers incident to civilians in the disturbed areas in order to labor for the love of God and the people.

SUPERIOR GENERAL OF SISTERS OF CHARITY DIES

NEW YORK—(N. C.)—Mother Marie Vincenta McKenna, Superior General of the Sisters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul died Dec. 6 at the motherhouse of the community at the College of Mount St. Vincent on the Hudson at the age of 68.

A native of this city, Mother

Canonization Move For Card. Newman Wins Wide Support

NEW YORK Prominent members of the clergy and laymen joined in an enthusiastic response to the suggestion that the cause for canonization of John Henry Cardinal Newman be revived. It is announced in the current issue of America, Joint national weekly published here.

The suggestion was made in an Open Letter to the Editor by the Rev. Charles J. Callan, O. P. of Hawthorne, N. Y., published in America. Leading Catholic authors, editors, educators and pastors are among those whose letters of approval are published in part in the current America.

A movement for Canonization Newman's Canonization wrote the letter. Mrs. Edward Roberts Moore, pastor of St. Peter's Church here, would serve to reawaken the apostleship and to rekindle in the world the fire that was his both of mind and heart.

Newman's life was a constant compliance to orders from his lawful Superiors who only too often did not see with his prophetic vision and feared to let his dreams be realized. Steffen Cunningham, Editorial Secretary of the Catholic Book Club, New York, wrote of his keen insight must have told him that he was right and his critics shortsighted. Yet each time he was ordered to hand over a brilliantly begun task to less capable hands, he did not seek easy solace in complaints and self-pity, but bowed quietly to what must often have seemed the inscrutable will of his Master.

The suggestion of canonization of Cardinal Newman is one of those ideas to which one's immediate response is “Of course.” Why did I not think of that before?” said a letter from Thomas F. Woodlock, chief editorial writer of the Wall Street Journal, New York.

“We ordinary laymen can find it very easy to accept the presence of heroism in the great Cardinals' personal life and to have every hope of its final recognition by the Church.”

Editorial, playwright and author of “Second Spring,” a drama on Cardinal Newman, wrote: “I believe that John Henry Newman is truly a Saint.”

Marie held many important posts in her religious community. She was elected Superior General in 1936 and re-elected in 1939.

Emigrant-Aid Agency 'Extinguished'

WASHINGTON (N. C.)—Evident that the Spolek sv. Ralocis, agency in former Czechoslovakia for assisting Catholic emigrants has been dissolved has been received by the Bureau of Immigration of the National Catholic Welfare Conference here.

Letters addressed to the Spolek sv. Ralocis which has been a corresponding agency of the N. C. W. C. Immigration Bureau for the past 17 years have been returned

to the Bureau here covered with stamps and bearing the notation that the organization has been “extinguished.”

This indicates that the Czechoslovakian agency has shared the fate of the German St. Raphael's Verein, internationally known Catholic emigrant-aid organization conducted by the Pallotine Fathers, which was dissolved in Germany a few months ago.