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## Msgr. Ligutti Cites Church's Aims For Rural Life

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, LL. D., executive secretary of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, spoke at St. Joseph's House of Hospitality, 402 South Avenue, Rochester, on Tuesday evening. He spoke on the topic, "Farming Cooperatives as an Aid to Christian Living." He was introduced by the Rev. George E. Vogt, M.A., diocesan director of the Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Monsignor Ligutti stated and explained the "four working aims" of the Catholic Rural Life Conference. He said that the first aim is "to care for the underprivileged Catholics living on the land." These rural Catholics represent only 20 per cent of American Catholics. Many of them are religiously underprivileged... lacking Church facilities and the possibility of regular Mass attendance and living in a non-Catholic environment.

"These rural Catholics," he declared, "because they have a much higher birth rate than urban Catholics (Rochester's birth rate is 7.6 children per family) are important and necessary for a future vigorous Catholicity in America, but unfortunately they are often lost to the Faith by remaining neglected where they are, or by moving into the cities unprepared for urban life." The second aim of the Conference is to "keep on the land Catholics who are now on the land."

The Conference contends that for the full development of the human personality and the greater good of the family, rural living is the most desirable mode of life. The Conference contends that the welfare of the Church and the maintenance of a democracy depend on a balance between people in cities and people on the land—a 50-50 ratio rather than the 20-80 ratio of today. The third aim is a logical consequence, "to settle more Catholics on the land. The purpose behind this aim is to improve the economic, social and religious situation of many maladjusted families of rural origin as well as those of urban origin who have become the victims of industrialism and commercialism, of under-employment or unemployment. No worker is economically independent unless he owns the means of production. The basic means are a home, some land, and tools to work the land. Political democracy is empty without economic democracy. The only way to solve the economic problem of many unemployed or underpaid is to settle them on the land. They can work the land and live from its produce."

He deplored the un-Christian attitude that some people have towards settling poor people on the land. These would say that the poor are no good and cannot help themselves. In answer to this he

showed slides of his cooperative farming community at Granger, Iowa. He also showed slides of the homes and conditions of these same people before they came to the community. The contrast between their present and former state is so pronounced that his hearers had no difficulty believing his statement that the success at Granger can be repeated elsewhere if there is an interested group and a competent leader.

"Much training and preparation is needed for such enterprises and they should not be attempted without selected personnel, good land, favorable location, credit facilities (the group at Granger organized their own credit union), and leadership."

The fourth aim of the Conference is to convert the non-Catholics on the land. "It is more than evident that tomorrow's America is being born not in the cities or in the predominantly Catholic districts but in the most non-church portion of the United States, the South. Most of these rural people of the South (one-third to two-fifths are not members of any church) are poor and need the guidance, aid and consolation which the Catholic Church has extended to the poor throughout its history. If the city churches cast their bread upon these waters, it may come back to them manifold in future years. To convert the biological source of the nation's population, especially since that group is being almost abandoned by non-Catholics, seems to the Conference to be both a duty and an opportunity."

In the discussion period that followed, Monsignor Ligutti encouraged the establishment of farming cooperatives as the best security for economic well-being after the present war. Persons interested may write to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Luigi G. Ligutti, 525 Sixth Ave., Des Moines, Iowa.

Father Vogt thanked Monsignor Ligutti for his very interesting and instructive talk. He announced that the local cooperative stores, the Genesee and the North End, will present a movie on the cooperative movement, entitled, "Here Is Tomorrow" on Wednesday evening, Feb. 25, at St. Joseph's Church Hall, on Franklin St., Rochester, at 8 o'clock.

## French Industrial Town Vote Favors Religious Education

VICHY, (NC)—At Villeurbanne, a town of 30,000 inhabitants near Lyon, 8,000 parents received questionnaires regarding religious instruction in the schools. They were asked:

"Do you wish your child to receive religious instruction? If so, do you choose Catholic, Protestant or Jewish religious instruction?"

The returns show that 80 per cent wish religious instruction for their children, and that 97 per cent of this number have chosen Catholic instruction.

Villeurbanne is not considered a

very religious section of France. Although in a farming district, it is actually a suburb of a large city and most of its population belongs to a labor class whose political tendencies, heretofore, were not always favorably disposed towards religion; yet, these parents seem to realize the importance of religion in the lives of their children.

Of the 8,000 questionnaires distributed, actually 7,178 were returned and only 1,400 rejected religious instruction. The other choices were: Catholic, 6,000; Protestant, 157; Jewish, 43.

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## Theater Owner Fined; Showed Lewd Films

MIAMI, Fla.—Conviction of Gus Copeland, owner and operator of the Flagler Theater here, on a charge of violating the local ordinance prohibiting lewd and obscene motion pictures is the fruit of efforts made by the Greater Miami Committee of the National Organization for Decent Literature. Copeland was fined \$250 in Municipal Court following charges brought against him for the showing of two objectionable films. Both films were condemned by the National Legion of Decency.

The charges were preferred by former City Attorney Abe Aronovitz, a member of the local N.O.D.L. Committee, and Dr. Glenn C. James, pastor of the White Temple Church.

## CATHOLIC SCOUT PARADE CANCELLED AS WAR MEASURE

SAN FRANCISCO.—Catholic Scout Sunday was celebrated here without the colorful parade that had been an important part of the observance in past years.

The parade was cancelled in keeping with wartime precautionary restrictions, but a large gathering of Catholic Boy Scouts, representing Troops and Packs from all parts of the Archdiocese, assembled for the annual ceremony in the Cathedral of St. Mary.

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