

Nazi Aim To Destroy Christianity Voiced By Hess Successor

The Nazi Government's determination to annihilate the influence of Christian ideas as irreconcilable with party principles is expressed in a pronouncement by M. Bormann, successor to Rudolf Hess as National Socialist Party Chairman, a copy of which has become available in New York.

Mexican Parents Rise Against 'Article 3'

MEXICO CITY.—(CNC)—Nothing short of the amendment of Article 3 of the Constitution will guarantee freedom of education and allay the anxiety of Mexican parents, and that is why we are continuing our campaign," the National Union of Parents says in a message addressed to all its members.

It also has issued a manifesto to the Nation on the subject of President Manuel Avila Camacho's appeal, on Dec. 9, for national unity which, the Parents' Union says, is even more necessary now because of the increased gravity of the situation.

"So long as the rights of the family are trampled underfoot by arbitrary laws," the manifesto says, "so long as the State has the upper hand over the home, so long as priests and teachers for the violation of inalienable liberties exist in the depths of our consciences, so long as schools are nurseries for hate and a center of dissolution, it is impossible to expect the desired national union that would make us strong, great and respected."

All Monasteries Now Closed In Germany

LONDON.—Reports reaching here from Germany say that all Catholic monasteries have now been closed by the Nazi government.

It was known that many previously had been invaded and seized, but the present report indicates that the remainder have now suffered the same fate.

At the famous Benedictine monastery of Beuron, Abbot Benedict Bauer, O.S.B., was seized and put in a home ostensibly for aged men. The Abbot is actually in thorough

Bormann's statement, of very recent date, was issued as an official instruction to his subordinates. It came into the possession of Douglas Miller, author of the widely known book, "You Can't Do Business with Hitler," who was for years commercial attaché on the United States Embassy staff in Berlin.

A translation of part of Bormann's pronouncement follows: "National Socialist and Christian ideologies are irreconcilable. The Christian churches are based on the ignorance of mankind and all their efforts tend towards the maintenance of this ignorance among as great a part of the population as possible, for only thus are the Christian churches able to maintain their power. In contrast to them National Socialism is based on scientific foundations. Christianity has unchangeable principles fixed some 2,000 years ago and hardened ever more into dogmas which bear no relation to reality. National Socialism on the other hand, if it is to continue the accomplishment of its task, must always follow the latest results of scientific research.

Christianity of No Avail

"The Christian churches have recognized the danger to their existence brought about by the exact sciences and have therefore tried to quell scientific research or to falsify it by their dogmas with the aid of a pseudo-science, theology. Our National Socialist ideology is by far superior to the conceptions of Christianity which in all essential points are only borrowed from Judaism. This is another reason why Christianity is of avail to us.

"Nobody would know anything about Christianity if he had not been stuffed with it in his youth by the priests. The so-called 'Dear God' does not deign to implant in young people an innate knowledge of His existence, but astonishingly enough, for all His omnipotence, leaves to the efforts of the priests the task of revealing Him. Thus if our youth in the future hear no more of Christianity, whose doctrine is so inferior to ours, Christianity will automatically cease to exist."

Thinking you know is never quite as important as knowing you think.

vigor, as will be known to many in the United States, in which country he visited some years ago.



HEADING AMERICAN JESUIT missionaries, numbering 71, in the Philippines as Superior to the Rev. Joseph L. Lucas, S.J., (shown) of Roxbury, Mass., now on Mindanao. Father Lucas who has visited Rochester diocese was formerly in charge of the report at Malababay. Lack of communications between Mindanao and Luzon necessitated the naming of a separate Superior. Very Rev. John F. Hurley, S.J., remains Superior of the other American Jesuits in the Philippines.

MEXICAN FILM STAR ENTERS FRANCISCAN ORDER

MEXICO CITY.—Jose Mojica, Mexican film star, has abandoned an outstanding career to enter the Franciscan Order. His departure to enter a monastery in Peru has made a deep impression in theatrical and other circles.

Church Alone Stands Out Against Nazism In Germany

LONDON.—(N. C.)—"The only serious resistance to the Nazi regime in Germany today comes from the Roman Catholic Church," an American radio commentator, unnamed, said to David Walker, noted British press correspondent, now in Madrid.

David Walker, in a special message to the Universe, Catholic weekly published here, throws a searching light on the situation within the Reich, and Walker sums up the position by reminding his fellow-countrymen that although Catholics are opposing the Nazis it does not mean that Germany as a nation is about to fall. "Until English Catholics realize this distinction," says Walker, "they will never have a true picture of Germany as she is today." This is what the American radio man said to Walker:

Remember Pearl Harbor Knight of The Altar Killed At Altar As Bombs Fall

Accounts Reveal How Exemplary Catholic Youths Met Death In Heroic Manner.

SAN FRANCISCO—Emerging still from the smoke and debris of the Pearl Harbor debacle are stories of the valor and exemplary religious devotion among the soldiers and sailors who made valiant attempts to defend the Hawaiian Islands from the Japanese attack.

Several of these stories have reached this city in copies of the *Catholic Herald*, weekly newspaper of the Diocese of Honolulu. They are related in the column, "Views from Diamond Head."

Joe Nelles was "a fine Catholic soldier." He died that way. On the fateful morning of Dec. 7 he attended the 6:30 Mass at Hickam Field with several hundred other boys. He received Holy Communion and then without breakfast prepared the altar for the 8:30 Mass. As he was thus engaged three Japanese bombs struck the building, leveling the structure in five minutes.

Later Father Edward Sliney, the post chaplain, went to the razed building. There he found Joe Nelles—lying in front of the spot where the high altar had been. A Knight of the Altar had made the supreme sacrifice.

Another Joe—Joe Silva—lived through it, became a live hero. Only God knows why he isn't dead. At the height of the Japanese attack on Hickam Field, he saw three gasoline trucks in the midst of falling bombs, probably targets already well within the sights of the enemy bombers. Joe and two other soldiers rushed to the trucks

and amid the rain of bombs drove the loaded fuel vehicles to safety. Had they been struck, the whole flying field would have become an inferno. But Joe wasn't through. Against machine-gun strafing from the alt, he kept the hospital supplied with water from the swimming pool after the mains had broken.

Another incident of the Pearl Harbor tragedy might be entitled "The Sermon." For it involved a sermon that recalled an event of the first World War told while the projectiles of the second fell from the skies all over and about the chapel where it was preached. The preacher was Father John Connelly, chaplain at another Hawaiian post. The bombs began to fall just as he started Mass attended by 400 soldiers and some of their officers. But none realized that so suddenly, so swiftly, their country was at war.

After the First Gospel, Father Connelly spoke. His topic was "The Right Way to Die." He did not know, of course, that many of his boys would die that very day—the right way. He told them of a group of doughboys in the last war going into a dangerous sector and passing a wayside shrine in France. It was a Pieta, a statue of the Blessed Mother with the dead Saviour in her arms.

The boys whispered a prayer as they passed. For some it was their last prayer. The survivors returned the same route. The Pieta was still standing—but not all of it was there. The image of the Saviour had been shot away.

The arms of the Blessed Lady, however, were not empty. For they held the body of a young American soldier—blown into the embrace of the Mother of God. One of the doughboys said, "That's the right way to die—right in the arms of the Blessed Mother." The other lads nodded.

"That's the way to die," said Father Connelly the morning of Dec. 7, 1941.

And the later soldiers who heard that soon went out on the line. "They had served their God. Now their country," comments the Diamond Head column's author.

There was another kind of heroism—that of patience.

An ardent member of the Holy Name Society didn't seem so badly off when they brought him into the army hospital at the same post, wounded, they said, from shrapnel. He was a little pale when Father Connelly came across him. But he smiled. "Father, hear my confession," he said. "I received Holy Communion this morning at Mass. But I want to go to Confession and Communion again for the last time. I haven't long to live."

Father Connelly said: "I'll be right back. There are other boys worse than you, George."

"Okay, Father," George said smiling.

Fifteen minutes later Father Connelly came back. "Now I'll take care of you, George," he said. He heard the boy's Confession, then prepared to administer Extreme Unction. He lifted down the blanket half covering George to anoint the soldier's feet. He paused.

There wasn't much of George left from the hips down.

Soon Father Connelly went with the boy to the operating room. Shortly afterwards that hero died quietly.

Chaplain To Anglican Nuns, Wife Become Converts

LONDON.—The Rev. Charles Vandenberg, chaplain to a community of Anglican nuns at Bovey Tracey, Devon, has been received into the Church. Together with his wife he made his profession of Faith to the local pastor, the Rev. James Weekes.

Mr. Vandenberg was ordained in the Anglican ministry in 1913. He worked in India till 1930 and later served in London and Middleborough.

Nazi Reverence (?) for Religion



Here are portrayed only a few of the sneering caricatures of religion and clergy with which the pages of the Nazi "Das Schwarze Korps" teem. The paper is the official organ of the S. S., the elite military corps of the Nazi regime. The file from which the cartoons were taken contains at least half a dozen of such caricatures in each issue. The captions are not given here because invariably they were of such revolting vulgarity as to be unprintable. (N.C.W.C.)

"The only serious resistance to the Nazi regime in Germany today comes from the Roman Catholic Church," an American radio commentator, unnamed, said to David Walker, noted British press correspondent, now in Madrid.

David Walker, in a special message to the Universe, Catholic weekly published here, throws a searching light on the situation within the Reich, and Walker sums up the position by reminding his fellow-countrymen that although Catholics are opposing the Nazis it does not mean that Germany as a nation is about to fall. "Until English Catholics realize this distinction," says Walker, "they will never have a true picture of Germany as she is today." This is what the American radio man said to Walker:

"There are only two possible explanations. The first is that the Party is too pre-occupied with the problem of squaring the Reichswehr, and the second is that it realizes the strength of Catholic disgust with the methods of the Gestapo and the un-Christianity of Nazi principles. Of the two explanations I prefer the second.

"There is a desperate need in Germany today to do nothing that might disturb the unity of the people in their determination to win the war. For the first time for many years the Church has been given an opportunity to voice its contempt for the 'German Faith.'

"To their very great credit the Roman Catholic clergy of Berlin are proving themselves worthy of the opportunity."

David Walker's informant stressed the point that whereas the courageous sermon of the Bishop of Munster, the Most Rev. Clement August Count von Galen, achieved great publicity on account of the position he holds, there are many unknown, virtually powerless, priests who are saying the same things throughout Germany this winter at the known and ever imminent risk of being flung into a concentration camp.

"Bishop von Galen's popularity is known to the Party and gives him a degree of immunity," the American proceeded.

"The men I take off my hats to are the parish priests of the Berlin suburbs. Even today there is usually a Gestapo reporter in the congregation. Yet these priests, some young, some old, are not hesitating any longer to denounce what they know to be anti-Christ."

"It is absolute folly," he said, "to deduce from this that Germany is cracking. Germany has received a nasty jolt on the eastern front but that does not mean that she is beaten. It only means that she is more determined than ever before to fight to the bitter end."