

Vatican Radio Blasts Evil Literature Reaching Children

Sees, Missionaries Up, New 'Anuario' Reports

VATICAN CITY—(N. C.)—The number of residential Sees of the Church increased from 1,218 to 1,223 during 1941, according to statistics in the *Anuario Pontificio* for 1942, which was released last week. Two of the five new Sees are in American Ecclesiastical Provinces: Pueblo in the newly created Province of Denver, and Honolulu in the Province of San Francisco. A third is the Diocese of Tagbilaran, Philippine Islands, formerly a portion of the Archdiocese of Cebu.

Idea of True Freedom Bound With Man's Duty To God, Says Prelate

LONDON.—(NC) —The idea of true freedom is bound up with the idea of man's duty to God, the Most Rev. Thomas Williams, Archbishop of Birmingham, declares in a notable Lenten Pastoral.

"The Germans," His Excellency remarks, "claim that they are fighting for the liberty of their own people, so do the Japanese. And if we do not believe that Germans and Japanese are responsible to God for their treatment of other peoples, why should they not strike with all their might at the nations which hold lands coveted by them?"

Know What to Expect

After saying that "it would be difficult to find in history anything more brutal than the Nazi treatment of the Poles and if the Nazis should succeed in over-running England we know what to expect," Archbishop Williams goes on:

"The contention that men ought to be free depends ultimately on the belief that man as man has a great dignity and value of his own; not because he has accomplished great things, nor because he holds an important position, nor because he has great talents or wealth or influence, but simply because he is man."

"No matter how poor or weak a man may be, he has a dignity as a human being which everyone ought to respect; and it is this dignity which gives him the right to liberty. Human dignity arises from the fact that man is a being with an immortal soul made to the image and likeness of God."

"When men come to recognize their responsibility to God they very soon forget or ignore the rights of man. Successful revolutionaries quickly turn into tyrants. For the idea of true freedom is bound up with the idea of man's duty to God."

"We demand freedom of conscience because our first duty in life is duty to God, and no human authority has the right to interfere with our duty to God. If the ruler of a nation does not believe in God, his subjects can have very little hope of being treated as free men; for the ruler is strong enough to defy men, and he does not acknowledge his responsibility to God."

"Liberty apart from duty to God is simply self-assertiveness, a determination to have room and comfort in life no matter who may suffer."

CHRISTIAN COUNCIL FORMED BY CLERGYMEN OF BRITAIN

LONDON.—A Christian council representing Catholics, Anglicans and Free Churchmen has been set up for Derbyshire, following a meeting at Derby arranged by Sword of the Spirit and attended by the Bishop of Nottingham, the Most Rev. John F. McNulty, and the Anglican Bishops of Bradford and Derby.

The Bishop of Nottingham said it is Christianity which is at stake, not Christianism, which is not and never can be at stake.

New Prelate Greeted From Havana Prison

HAVANA.—One of the many messages received by the Most Rev. Manuel Arteaga y Benavente, on the day of his consecration as Archbishop of Havana, came from the Castillo del Principe, Havana's prison. The telegram was signed by 754 prisoners who congratulated the new Archbishop on his elevation and on his work, and asked his blessing.

LONDON.—(N. C.)—An exposure of the poisonous character of the "penny dreadful" was made over Vatican Radio in a broadcast which gave an analysis of the contents of a typical selection of current periodicals (country of origin not named) and reminded parents of the duty of keeping such publications out of the reach of impressionable adolescents.

A movement was once made to stem the tide, the announcer said, but new parents are swimming with the "yellow stream," by allowing the children to read the offending papers because they "keep the children quiet in the home."

Vatican Radio quoted a recent writer as saying that "the bombs of print" are as dangerous as the bombs of war—the only difference being that one tears up the body while the other tears up the mind.

"You may feel that you know all about this children's literature: that you read it as a child and it did you no harm," the speaker says. "But your conscience is not completely at ease. In these days the ideas of the authors have broadened."

"Governments have become interested in the yellow press."

Declaring that it has been proved beyond doubt that the "penny dreadful" is a bad tutor for growing children, the speaker gave the result of his writer's analysis of one week's publications for children, with the result. There were: 18 kidnappings and armed hold-ups; 13 people wounded; ten rapes; eight assaults on life and limb; six gas attacks; two bomb explosions; two wounded policemen; eight armed skirmishes with brigands.

City Council Greet's Bishop

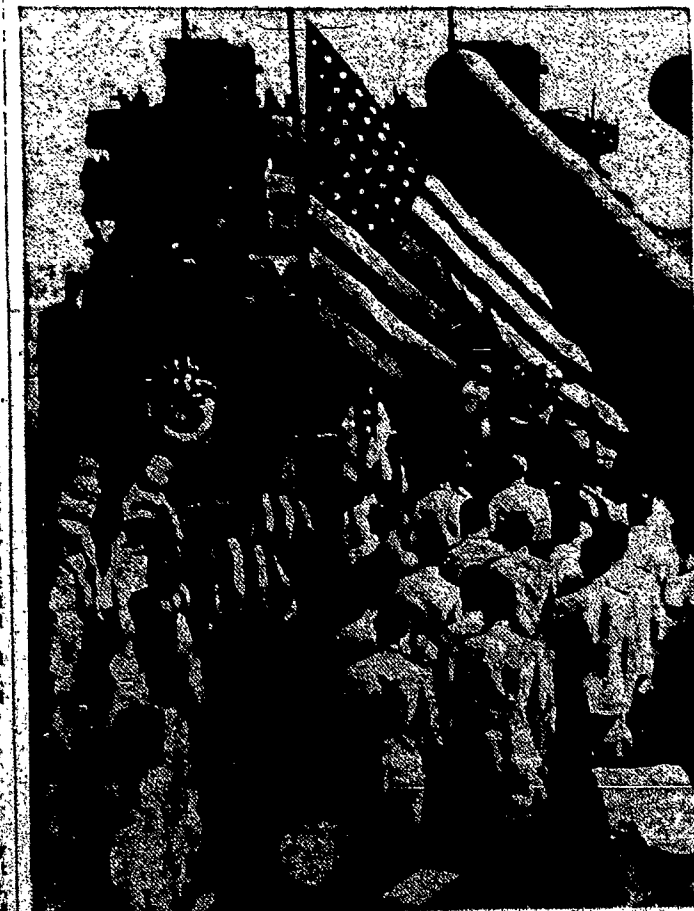
BOGOTA.—Upon announcement of the appointment of the Rev. Antonio J. Jaramillo to the vacant See of Jerico, the City Council in special session resolved to send greetings to the new Bishop. The Council said they were expressing the sincere pleasure of the people of Jerico at his choice, and their best wishes for many years as Bishop "for the good of the Church and of this Catholic city"

LITURGICAL WEEK

Newark, N. J. — Publication of "National Liturgical Week, 1941," proceedings of the annual gathering has been announced by the Benedictine Liturgical Conference.

Price Increased

LONDON.—The Catholic Truth Society has increased the standard price of its pamphlets from two pence (4 cents) to three pence, owing to increased printing costs and the paper shortage. Penny pamphlets will remain at this price until present stocks are exhausted.

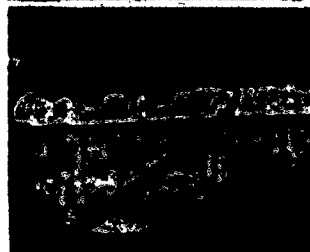


LAST RITES FOR HEROES killed during raids on eight Japanese bases in the Marshall and Gilbert Islands on held on quarterdeck of a United States Navy cruiser which was under heavy air bombardment. A Navy chaplain reads the last rites for several of the crew slain. Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, Commander in Chief of the Pacific Fleet, attended services held at Post Harbor. (N.C.W.C.)

His See Invaded by Foe



Concern is felt for the lives of the American missionaries with the news that the Japanese have bombed, invaded and burned Zamboanga City in the Philippines. Pictured are the Catholic Church there and the Jesuit Bishop, Most Rev. Luis Del Rosario, of the Diocese of Zamboanga. (N.C.W.C.)



Missionaries Endangered In Bombing and Invasion

NEW YORK.—(N. C.)—Current new dispatches on the bombing, invasion and burning of Zamboanga City have caused grave concern in missionary circles in the United States.

Trappist Monk's Dash For Freedom Saves Ambulances On Desert

LONDON.—(NC)—A 30-year-old Trappist monk, of Mount St Bernard's Abbey, Charnwood Forest, is the hero of a desert dash to free dom in the Middle East through which several ambulances were rescued from Nazi forces.

The Rev. Celsus Flynn, O.C.S.O., left the silence of his contemplative life to become a chaplain with the British army, was captured in the desert by the Nazis, and by courage and quick-wittedness made a successful bolt amid a hail of bullets.

Of Irish extraction, Father Flynn was ordained four years ago. For twelve years he was a member of the Trappist community, and for some time he passed his quiet days as infirmarian, tending the sick members of the community of silent men.

When the call came for priests for the fighting forces, he volunteered, and his Abbot released him. Father Flynn had spent a couple of years in the desert before his capture.

Father Flynn has told his story in a letter to his community.

"You would hardly know me if you saw me now. I have not had a bath for a month, and I possess a very ugly red beard about an inch long. The real reason for this is that I lost my kit some weeks ago when I found myself a German prisoner.

"One evening at dusk a German tank column overran our field ambulance. Before we knew what had happened we were captives. We spent a horrible night huddled together for warmth in the open desert.

"At dawn I managed to draw a short distance from the crowd, and seeing that I was unobserved by the guard, a wild idea came into my head to dash for my truck which was lying by.

"I did so and got to the field and started her up. Bullets from the guards sent up spurts of dust all round me. Thank God I knew the desert well, for I safely reached headquarters and reported what had happened.

"The next day our gunners went in and smashed up the Germans and released the ambulances.

"The day before the battle began I got the post of chaplain to the General Hospital in Palestine, but I had it postponed. However, if by grace of God I come safely through this I think I shall take a rest for a while from front line work and have a spell in the Holy Land."

CHAPLAIN PRISONER

London.—The Rev. Patrick M. Nolan, O.S.M., Irish-born chaplain with the South African troops in Libya, is held prisoner by General Rommel's forces, it is reported here.

Besides the Jesuit Bishop, the Most Rev. Luis Del Rosario, and his 32 Jesuit missionaries, the lives of nine diocesan priests, 38 Sisters, Religious of the Virgin Mary and 4 Missionary Canonesses of St Augustine are endangered. Two hundred miles east of Zamboanga City but in the Diocese of Zamboanga there are 20 Fathers of the Foreign Missions and 13 Fathers of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate. Fear is also felt for the preservation of the Ateneo de Zamboanga, Jesuit high school with 375 students.

Zamboanga City is the seat of the Diocese of Zamboanga, one of the older Sees of the Philippines. Until 1833 the Zamboanga Diocese which then included the entire Island of Mindanao and the Sulu Archipelago, was in the charge of Jesuit missionaries. That year the present Diocese of Cagayan was formed and the Most Rev. James T. G. Hayes, S.J., of New York was named Bishop. In 1940, the Diocese of Surigao was created and the Most Rev. John C. Vrakking, of the Missionary Fathers of the Sacred Heart from Holland was consecrated Bishop.

Just a few miles from Zamboanga City is one of the several Commonwealth Penal Rehabilitation Colonies. This Institute of Rehabilitation and its several thousand inmates is cared for by the Rev. F. X. Rello, S.J., master of the 50 Filipino dialects and several foreign languages.

One of the unusual sights in Zamboanga is the shrine of Our Lady of the Pillar on the wall of the United States Army barracks. In Spanish times Our Lady is said to have appeared there to a Spanish soldier. The old fort was built 300 years ago by Jesuit missionaries to protect themselves and their flock from fanatical Moros.

Concern Felt For Nuns In 9 Burma Convents

PROVIDENCE, R. I.—While no recent news has been received of the welfare of Franciscan Missionaries of Mary in the Far East considerable concern is felt by the Sisters here for the safety of their nine convents in Burma and particularly for their leper home and hospital for incurables at Rangoon.

The latest word from the Sisters in the Philippines was a cable dated Dec. 28 informing Mother Mary Hildegard of Jesus, United States Provincial here, that all were well.

Mark Centenary

Chicago.—The Congregation of the Resurrection will celebrate the first centenary of its founding April 9. First restricted to missionary work in various countries of Continental Europe, the Congregation for over 75 years has also labored in various missions in the United States and Canada.

FOR VICTORY BUY BONDS