

Prelate's Approval Of Jap Program Is Sheer Propaganda

Epidemic Halted As Novena Begins To 'Lily of The Mohawks'

HALIFAX, N. S.—How an epidemic of streptococcal throat infections, which had become prevalent among the children of the Indian School at Shubenacadie, N.S., and did not respond to medical treatment, suddenly ceased after a novena had been begun to Kateri Tekakwitha, the 'Lily of the Mohawks,' has been disclosed by a nun and a doctor, a Presbyterian associated with the school.

Msgr. Maura, head of the English Department of Mount St. Vincent College here and member of the Sisters of Charity, who also direct the Indian residential school at Shubenacadie, gave the following statement:

"At the Indian residential school, Shubenacadie (Acadie, land of plenty; shuben, of ground nuts or potatoes) in Nova Scotia, streptococcal throats became prevalent among the children early in the summer of 1939. The infection did not respond to medical treatment but continued throughout the summer and began to assume epidemic proportions in the fall. By October 25, when ten of the pupils were ill, running high temperatures, Sister Mary Charles, the Superior, became thoroughly alarmed.

"The evening of Benediction time, Sister had the whole school, boys and girls, begin a novena to Kateri Tekakwitha, begging her to intercede with God for the children of her own race. In the morning all temperatures were normal, and the pupils who had been so sick, went to class. Since October 25, 1939, no case of streptococcal throat has developed in the school.

"The Rev. John J. Wynne, S.J., postulator of Kateri's cause, welcomed an account of the apparent miracle, which he forwarded to Rome, together with a statement by D. F. MacInnis, M.D., the school director.

Doctor's Statement

Dr. MacInnis has issued the following statement:

"During the winter of 1939 we were having an epidemic of streptococcal sore throats at the school. Sister Mary Charles asked me if I had any treatment to prevent the recurrence of those cases and I replied no.

"She then began the novena. Our cases all cleared up and we haven't had any since.

"I have been the medical attendant at the school since it was opened, and I have been in practice 23 years. I am a Scotch Presbyterian.

"I am not offering any explanation of the sudden cessation of the epidemic. I am simply stating the facts of the case."

Ask Masses, Communions For Pope's Intention On Ascension Thursday

VATICAN CITY.—The Central Committee which is preparing for the observance of the Silver Episcopal Jubilee of His Holiness Pope Pius XII has announced that the Mass to be celebrated by the Holy Father in St. Peter's in commemoration of the jubilee will be offered on Ascension Thursday, May 14.

The Committee has requested that all priests remember the Pope's intention in their Masses and that the faithful receive Holy Communion and pray for the Holy Father's intention on that day. The Holy Father will broadcast a message to the world on the occasion of his jubilee.

Canadian Priest At 86 Is Active Pastor

QUEBEC.—Probably the oldest active parish priest in Canada is the Rt. Rev. Msgr. J. E. Fournier, P. O. V. R., D.C.L., who is still going about his duties at the age of 86. He was ordained in 1860 and has since that time served in various capacities in the diocese of Quebec.

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—Returning to a field in which several previous thrusts have been decisively proven false, Japanese short-wave propagandists have broadcast a story of supposed laudation of their country's program and aims which once more they claim was made by a member of the Catholic clergy.

The broadcast, in English and directed to China and the Pacific Islands, was picked up by a short-wave monitoring post in this country and this time purported to present a summarized translation of a talk in French by a Catholic Bishop in an occupied territory of China, whose name was given as Jean Buisant.

The friends of the name is listed in the latest "Annuario Pontificio" (Papal Yearbook) available, which lists all Bishops, Vicars and Proctors Apostolic throughout the world. In addition latest copies of a China directory which list all priests working in the China missions in 1935, 1936 and 1937 contain no name resembling the one given in the Japanese broadcast.

The broadcast referred to "Jean Buisant" as Vicar Apostolic of Tientsin. Latest records here, however, show the Most Rev. F. de Visser, C.M., as Vicar Apostolic of Tientsin, and persons familiar with activities in the Vincentian missions in China said no change has been reported.

It was also stated by those familiar with mission procedure that if a new appointment had become necessary the person chosen for the post, particularly in a time of crisis such as the present, could only be someone of long experience in the area, whereas no member of the clergy by the name of Jean Buisant was in China at all, even as recently as 1938.

Australian Hails Militant Catholics

BRISBANE, Australia.—(NC)—Although he is a busy man, he is not too busy to associate himself with them. "In worshipping God and in honoring the Holy Name of Jesus Christ," Australia's Minister for War, F. M. Forde, a Catholic, declared at a rally of the Middle Park (Victoria) branch of the Holy Name Society.

Mr. Forde stated that he had found, wherever he went throughout Australia, that the Catholic people were being given a lead and an inspiration to better and higher things by their priests. "Here in Australia," he added, "we had freedom of worship, but if we were to keep that and other fundamen-

tal rights, we would have to fight for them. Australia had no quarrel to pick with any nation, but she had no choice and no desire to act differently than she had done. The members of Australia have taken up arms because the safety of this fair land is threatened by aggressor nations.

Mr. Forde urged Catholics to take their part in all the various public activities. "Let Catholic workers take an interest, also, in their unions," he declared, adding that "it was not right that Catholics should be mere passive members."

They are fighting, he said, to uphold the freedom of the democratic nations, to uphold the right recognized in democracy—the right of organized trade unions to uphold the claims and the fundamental right of the working class to fight for better conditions, he said, pointing out that "in Nazi Germany such trade unionism has been destroyed, and if it is to survive in Australia, if life is going to be worth living, we must win this war. But we must not only win the war, but the victory also.

"We must have as representative men in public life men of Christian principles, men imbued with the ideals of the Holy Name Society, men who will help build a new order which will be based on the order laid down by Jesus Christ."

Nuns In Japan Reported Safe

BRISBANE, Australia.—The last word received concerning various countries at war with Japan, resident in that country on the outbreak of hostilities in the Pacific, was that received at the end of January. It was then stated that they have been allowed to continue their conventual life and schools unmolested, according to a broadcast by the Japanese Information Department from Tokyo Radio.

War Forgotten As Spain Holds Her Traditional Holy Week Observances

By Rev. Manuel Gracia

(Written for N.C.W.C. Easter Supplement)

While most of the Christian nations of the world, especially those in Europe, are engaged in warfare or suffering the consequences of war, Spain still is privileged to

her attention upon celebrating the mysteries of Holy Week in the traditional manner, drawing upon the ample resources of her religious feeling and art. Again this year the streets of her cities and villages will be filled with thousands of persons participating proudly and spiritually in slow and stately processions, by day and by night, and images depicting the Passion of Christ—the scenes of various kinds and artistic degree—will convert both streets and plazas into temples.

Neither blockade nor the war itself, neither the tragedies and depredations that grew out of Spain's civil war nor possible involvement in the present conflict, have distracted the minds of the people from the significance of the Lenten season. And when Holy Week arrives, like the people of Jerusalem, 20 centuries ago, the people of modern Spain will follow the Via Crucis and, mentally, will share the sufferings of the Redeemer.

Characteristics of Spanish

It is difficult for foreigners to comprehend, much less experience, this depth of feeling peculiar to the Spanish race in normal times, and accentuated at a time like this. The ability of the Spaniard to put aside all thought of the terrible tragedy in the midst of which we live, and to lose his material identity in a sincere and profoundly spiritual participation in the Passion of Christ, is almost inexplicable and certainly incredible to those unfamiliar with the Spanish temperament.

To the 47 traditional confraternities and processions of Seville have been added hundreds of similar organizations and ceremonies in other cities of Spain. Even the smallest hamlet, although it cannot afford the wealthy display of more urban communities, and may not even possess one, let alone a whole series of passes, will improvise an image or use the crucifix from the parish church. In the most remote sections, wherever there is a hermitage or a chapel, there is a procession accompanying a life-size crucifix.

All ranks of Seville, Valladolid and Zamora have passes of great artistic worth and lifelike appearance, which are carried through the street and accompanied by the "Mazorca" and "Penitents" who wear robes and cowls and, at night, carry blazing torches. And the crowds that wa-

term the processions or follow them through the streets are merely the lower classes. All ranks share in the Holy Week observance. Last year General Franco, his family and military and other officials witnessed processions from the balconies of the National Palace and all joined Communion on Holy Thursday in the palace chapel had accompanying the Blessed Sacrament to the depository, or Mesnada.

Each church has its Mesnada decorated with thousands of lit candles, spring flowers, paintings, silken draperies and tapestries. The people go in groups to the Mesnadas, the women wearing the high combs and silk mantillas characteristic of Old Spain adorned with plumes, the men in public life lay aside in this occasion but are cognized and frequently followed the crowd. But rich or poor, make the Eucharistic pilgrim with visible devotion and with coram proper to the occasion.

Observances in Churches

Meanwhile, within the church liturgical ceremonies are carried out with the same devotion.

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Norway Vicar Protests Quisling's Oppressive

WASHINGTON.—The Most Rev. James Mangers, S. M., Vicar Apostolic of Oslo, has joined in the protest of Norwegian church leaders against oppressive measures of Nazi Quisling Government, according to information received here by the Norwegian Legation.

The Legation says it is informed that Bishop Mangers, in a letter to the Minister of Churches in Quisling Government, expressed himself as in agreement with letter of protest signed by six Bishops of the Norwegian Church (Lutheran). The six Bishops subsequently resigned.

The Legation added that various organizations, social, labor and civic, have also sent protests to the Government following the resignation of the Lutheran Bishops.

JERUSALEM—THE HOLY CITY



This view of Jerusalem is from the Damascus Gate, and shows in the distance the Mount of Evil Counsel. It was on the Mount of Evil Counsel, according to tradition, that Jesus met with the high priests and Pharisees on Holy Thursday evening to arrange delivering Our Lord up to them. The upper platform in the center of the city is the Dome of the Rock. It is built over the rock which was the base of the altar in the Temple of Solomon. (Fides)