

# 'Leave The Church? Thrice No!' German Prelate Answers

WASHINGTON—(N. C.)—A consistent effort on the part of Nazi authorities, by misleading slogans, by outrageous oppression of the Church and by the threat of discharging individuals from their positions, to force German Christians, Catholic and Protestant, to renounce their faith, is revealed in a document which has become available in this country.

The document is the text of a sermon delivered at New Year's Eve services in the Munich Cathedral by His Eminence Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich and Freising, on Dec. 31, 1941. In that sermon, entitled "Leave the Church? Thrice No!" Cardinal Faulhaber gave his people a threefold answer to the question: "Will you leave the Church?" reviewed the persistent oppressive measures of the preceding year and predicted an even more intense campaign of pressure for apostasy during 1942.

### New Demands Foreseen

"In the past year the war against the Church has culminated in the demand to leave the Church," he declared. "Clear indications give promise that in the new year this demand will be made with renewed emphasis and that the question, 'Will you leave the Church or will you resign your position?' will be raised again, louder than before."

Drawing a sharp contrast between the peaceful relations reigning among the various Christian confessions in Germany and the "saddest of all wars, the war against the Church," His Eminence said, with echoes of last summer's Fulda pastoral of all the German Bishops, that the Christian confessions "know that it is a question now of the very existence or annihilation" of Catholicism and Protestantism alike.

While Catholic soldiers at the front "stand shoulder to shoulder with other German men" and Catholics at home share in every war sacrifice, "still the Church at home is treated with constant distrust, is spied upon, and oppressed by exceptional restrictions, and buildings belonging to the Church and to religious are confiscated on a far larger scale than private ones," His Eminence declared.

After scoring some of the insidious and "satanic" slogans and catch phrases tossed about by Nazi officialdom to induce Catholics to apostatize, Cardinal Faulhaber went on to review the oppressive measures that have been brought to bear against the Church.

### Barred From Schools

Stating that the first of these measures were directed against religious instruction in the schools, he told how priests in some sections had been assured officially that religious instruction would be allowed, but had then been prevented from giving it by being personally barred from teaching through special interdicts. "It seems like a reversion to the times of Nero or Diocletian," he said, "when we hear that there are places where teachers are spied upon to see if they still make the Sign of the Cross or use the old school prayers."

A recent "outrage that cries to heaven," he said, is the ban on the use of paper for new editions of the catechism and religious books.

"The Central Office of the German book trade has declared that the conservation of paper is an urgent war need," Cardinal Faulhaber said. "But controversial pamphlets against the Church are still permitted to appear in gigantic editions. The fundamental point of one such booklet, he declared, is the demand that 'our 2,000-year-old Christian tradition be torn out to the very roots.' "It has been circulated to the extent of half a million copies," the Cardinal added.

Other measures of oppression were cited in the sermon. His Eminence declared that in upper secondary school grades no religious instruction at all is any longer allowed; a blackout regulation against youthful "lettering" is being used to prevent Catholic attendance at evening religious study hours, while other young people are allowed to go to shows until 9 P. M. under one pretext the Church is forbidden to acquire land or real estate of any kind; church bells are to be celebrated only the money taken United States Defense Savings Bonds and Stamps about "Victory."

smallest one in the possession of each church being left. This latter, however, said Cardinal Faulhaber, Catholics "will consider a patriotic sacrifice, not an arbitrary measure against the Church." The measures applying to youth and religious training, he said, "can have but one purpose to alienate the young systematically from the Church and thus prepare the way for apostasy."

### Age-Old Struggle

"I will not leave the Church, because I will not let my light be darkened," was the third answer the Cardinal offered his people to meet the official demands of apostasy. Reviewing the doctrines of the Church that in a special way have been "a light" to the world, he said the "Christ Whom they want to take away from the German people" is "the Judge Who will try even the great of this earth." The spectacle that passes before our eyes on the stage of history today is like a chapter of the Apocalypse, he added. "It is a part of the age-old struggle between Light and Darkness."

# Nazis Test Persecution of Church In Poland For Other Held Areas

## Polish Leader

WARSAW—The Polish Government is testing the persecution of the Church in Poland annexed to the German Reich—is serving as an "experimental camp" for Nazi territories and, it is reported, eventually for the Altreich, or Germany proper. According to a report on conditions in the territory received here from a reliable source, Reich's Governor Greiser, former president of the Danzig Senate, has full powers and is responsible to Adolf Hitler for the conduct of affairs in what was Western Poland—a section in which for centuries the population has been, in the majority, Polish. The Archbishop of Gnesno (Gnesen) is the Primate of Poland. The Archbishops of Gnesno were Polish even under the Prussian domination which ended in 1918.

Present Status of Church Since Nazi rule in the Warthegau to provide the norm for Nazi rule elsewhere, it is interesting to note the status of the Church in this section, which may be summed up as follows:

1. Any intervention on the part of the Holy See has been rendered impossible.  
2. The Episcopate has been almost completely eliminated.  
3. The clergy both diocesan and regular—has been reduced to the very minimum.  
4. The training of the clergy and religious novices has been prohibited.  
5. The religious have been dispersed.  
6. The education of youth is hampered.  
7. Insurmountable difficulties hamper religious assistance.  
8. Catholic Action has been annihilated and all Catholic intellectual and charitable institutions destroyed.  
9. Ecclesiastical property has been seized and the clergy is on the verge of starvation.  
10. The most sacred rights and the fundamental prerogatives of the Catholic Church are ignored. De-Christianization Program In addition to these deplorable conditions, a program for the complete de-Christianization of a district where Catholicism once flourished, is underway. Early in 1940 a 13-point program was announced which, devoid of verbiage, has the following effects:

1. The Church loses its juridical personality.  
2. No more ecclesiastical authority.  
3. Church taxes or subsidies replaced by membership fees.  
4. No more inter-parish cooperation, since each separate parish church is under the local authority.  
5. No one under 21 can become a member of the Church.  
6. No more Catholic societies.

NEW YORK.—The Jesuit Philippines Bureau here has just received the following cablegram from the Rev. Edward Haggerty, S.J., Rector of the Jesuit college and high school in Cagayan, Philippine Island: "Well, safe, these parts. Others well but interned together at Ateneo."

The cablegram, evidently filed just before the Japanese attack on the Island of Cebu, although the office of origin is not given, does not necessarily mean that the Novitiate Jesuit Fathers and scholastics are at the Ateneo, the Jesuit Philippines Bureau points out, adding that they are probably still at Novaleses.

"One of the saddest things is to see a limestone hole down a driver that the cops could not," Southwest Courier.



Those letters from the boys "Down Under" were probably censored by him—Chaplain Charles N. Quest, U. S. A. Besides his spiritual duties as one of the Chaplains at an American Army camp in Australia, he has the task of censoring letters the doughboys write home. Father Quest was pastor of St. Ann's Church, Nashville, Tenn., before entering the Army Chaplain Corps as a first lieutenant, in June, 1941. (N.C.W.C.)

# Holy See Rules On Divination

VATICAN CITY (N.C. Radio)—The Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office has published a decree instructing Bishops and religious superiors to forbid their clergy and Religious to practice radio-esthetics with reference to personal circumstances or for purposes of divination.

Practices including the use of the divining rod to detect the presence of water or metals under ground and of similar means for ascertaining personal circumstances such as health or guilt are reported to have been the subject of much experimentation particularly in France and northern Africa under the name "Radiesthese" (Such practices are listed in the "Catholic Encyclopedia" as doubtful cases possibly on the borderline of diabolical influence. Ed.)

Penal actions are authorized by the decree where necessary or opportune and Bishops and Superiors are instructed to report to the Congregation cases of repeated transgression or grave scandal. The decree declares that in its provisions there is no intention of interfering in the scientific question of radioesthetics.

# Maryknollers Leave To Open New South American Mission

MARYKNOLL, N. Y.—Marking the extension of Maryknoll missionary work to the South American region, a three-man vanguard of missionary priests has left for the newly-opened Maryknoll mission in tropical northern Bolivia following a departure ceremony held at the national headquarters of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America here.

The missionaries were accompanied by the Most Rev. James F. Walsh, Superior General of Maryknoll, who preached the sermon at the departure.

The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York presided at the ceremony which was attended by over 1,000 including persons outstanding in inter-American relations.

The priests who left with Bishop Walsh are Fathers Alonso Espartero, of New York, Superior of the new mission; Raymond J. Bonner of South Armare, Pa., and Thomas J. Denchy of Manitowoc, Wis. The other 17 selected to staff the mission will leave in June following their ordination to the priesthood.

In his sermon, Bishop Walsh said: "We are going to South America as missionaries. We will endeavor to preach the Catholic Faith in areas where priests are scarce and mission work is needed," he added, "but as regards the elements of true civilization, we expect to receive as much as we have to give."

- 1. No religious instruction in the schools.
- 2. No collections for the Church within the church or elsewhere.
- 3. No confessional cemeteries.
- 4. No more charity work under Church auspices.
- 5. No Religious Orders and Confraternities.
- 6. New regulations hampering religious vocations.

Before the present war, about 4,000 Catholics were living in the Wartheland served by at least 2,000 priests. The Church enjoyed all the rights and prerogatives assured by the Concordat concluded between Poland and the Holy See in 1925. Since the German annexation, all communication with the Holy See or with the Papal Nunciature at Berlin has been prohibited. In vain the Berlin Nunciature tried to obtain permission from the Nazi Government to send a representative into Wartheland to attend to exclusively religious matters.

Of the six Bishops, only one was left in the Wartheland last fall, and according to recent but not absolutely confirmed reports, he has been removed. According to conservative estimates, some 50 priests were shot or otherwise put to death during the first months of occupation. The religious shared the fate of the diocesan clergy. Some were killed, others—almost all of them—were imprisoned, deported or expelled. Many churches, including some Cathedrals, have been withdrawn from use as places of worship ever since the occupation, and still others were closed last October. The racial regulations—obnoxious to Catholics under any circumstances—impose additional hardships when both churches and priests are so limited.

Confirmation Administered In Police Court When Church Proves Too Small

LONDON.—Confirmation was administered in the police court at East Dereham, Norfolk, when the Bishop of Northampton, the Most Rev. Thomas Parker, made his episcopal visitation.

The Catholic Church in the town was too small to accommodate the crowd which gathered to meet the Bishop, and an altar was erected in the apartment in the Assembly Rooms which serves as a police court.

STATE U. CHURCH Oxford, Miss.—A gift of \$10,000 has been offered by the Catholic Church Extension Society for a church for the Catholic students at the University of Mississippi.

## Million Rosaries

San Jose, Costa Rica.—The Community of Nuestra Senora de Ston, which conducts one of the principal schools for girls in this Capital, has requested a million recitations of the rosary before May 13 for the peace intentions of His Holiness Pope Pius XII. This plan for a silver jubilee offering to the Holy Father has met with an enthusiastic reception among Costa Rican Catholics.