

German Prelate's Sermon Blasts Nazi Blasphemies

WASHINGTON (NC)—A vigorous answer to public attacks by a high Nazi official against God, the Sacraments, prayer and Christian morals was given by the Most Rev. Francis R. Bornewasser, Bishop of Trier, in a sermon in the Trier Cathedral, the text of which has become available in this country.

In the sermon the aged Prelate, who passed his seventy-sixth birthday in March, spoke of a "wave of meetings" which is sweeping over Germany, publicized as patriotic gatherings but actually being used only to further the Nazi "war on Christianity and the Church." The Diocese of Trier had "seen the campaign in action" in meetings at Trier and at Coblenz just a week before he spoke and "at both meetings the same high Government official was the principal speaker," Bishop Bornewasser said.

Series of Sermons

In his courageous, point-by-point answer to the series of blasphemous attacks made at the two meetings, Bishop Bornewasser made statements indicating that the sermon which has reached here is only one of several sermons in which he has taken up "urgent practical questions" and the relentless persecution of the Church by the Nazi Government. He also referred to a statement protesting Nazi attacks, which, he said, was being read the same day "from all pulpits of Trier and Coblenz."

Denouncing one blasphemous outburst in which the speaker at the Trier and Coblenz meetings announced to God that His "game is over," Bishop Bornewasser said he might tell the speaker that "millions upon millions of godly men will still bend their knees in adoration before God when there is not a man left who remembers the name" of the official who blasphemed Him.

Answering the public attack on the Lord's Prayer, Bishop Bornewasser reminded his people of a previous sermon in which he had told them of the confiscation and desecration of churches and convents by the Nazis. "In the ecclesiastical province of Cologne, to which we belong," he said, "47 convents fell victim to the onset of confiscation last summer alone. In 25 churches and chapels the Eternal Light was quenched. Converted to warehouses."

When German troops entered the Polish city of Posen in 1939 it had 30 public churches, he said. "Today there remain only three in which divine worship is still held. The rest have been converted to use as warehouses, riding schools and the like. Thirteen are closed." In the whole Diocese of Posen only 45 of 431 public churches are left, Bishop Bornewasser revealed, and asked, "Have we not every reason to pray: 'Lord, save us from the loss of the Bread of our souls, the Most Holy Sacrament of the Altar.'?"

"The reviling of the holy Sacrament of Baptism was done with comparison that I should be ashamed to repeat in this sanctuary," he said. "I must assume that the speaker has no notion of the nature of Baptism. He only knows, it would seem, that Baptism is the gateway to Christianity, and is therefore opposed to it as he is obviously opposed to true Christianity itself."

At the close of his sermon Bishop Bornewasser called upon his people to "give our enemies at home the real answer, here in this sanctuary, to their attacks against God, against Christ and the Church, as we solemnly rise and recite the Creed and the Our Father."

A primary purpose of Navy uniforms is to show quickly rank and corps, hence authority imposed by law upon those wearing them.

Cited for Bravery



Among the Army nurses who escaped from Bataan before it fell to the Japanese was First Lieutenant Floramund Fellmeih, a Catholic nurse of Chicago and graduate of St. Elizabeth's hospital there. She enlisted in the Army Nurse Corps in 1936 and again in 1940, and was commander of a unit which worked courageously in field hospitals on Bataan peninsula. General MacArthur has cited her for bravery aboard a hospital ship while it was being bombed. (N.C.W.C.)

Proposed Arrests Of Norway Clergy Balked

LONDON. (NC) Radio advices received here by short wave from Sweden and telegraphic dispatches from Berne, Switzerland, state that Vidkun Quisling has seized control of the Norwegian State Church but that German Nazi pressure has balked his proposed wholesale arrest of the Lutheran clergymen who resigned when the campaign of oppression was launched.

Swedish sources said none of the 1,100 resigned clergymen resumed their duties on Sunday, the day when an ultimatum demanding their return became effective. Services were held in only about 30 of the 1,000 churches.

In taking over control of the State Church, Quisling appointed Bishop Eivand Berggrav as Chairman of the Assembly. Bishop Berggrav has been arrested and it was reported he would be sent to a German concentration camp. Three other bishops are reported to have been arrested.

Thousands of teachers in Norway are on strike against the Quisling regime, having issued a manifesto in which they stated they would not instruct the youth of Norway in doctrines contrary to the national belief.

People who pray on their knees on Sunday and prey on their neighbors on Monday need simplicity in their faith. —W. G. Jordan.

N.C.C.W. Convention Opens

(Continued from Page 1)

security in the United States alone. That kind of self-sufficiency can't work if the last 25 years mean anything. Liberation for the world is the only thing that can keep us safe; we have to win the war, but we also have to win the peace.

Cites Centralization Trend

Appealing for greater Catholic participation in local community affairs, the Rev. Dr. George Johnson, Director of the Department of Education, National Catholic Welfare Conference, last night stressed

ed the growing trend toward government centralization. While a certain amount of strong federal control has become necessary because of technological and economic developments, Dr. Johnson said "it behooves the American people to devote themselves wholeheartedly to the preservation and development of local self-government through active community living." "The frontier may be passing," he said, "but the neighborhood remains, and in the neighborhood we have the real America."

Sad Plight of French Youth Under Nazis Causes Concern

MONTREAL.—A sad picture of the lot of youth in occupied France was given in an interview granted La Presse, French language daily here, by the Rev. Rodolphe Paquin, young French-Canadian priest who spent eight years in the now German-occupied city of Tours, was obtained there in 1940 and subsequently eluded Gestapo nets to return here by way of North Africa, Gibraltar and England.

The men of France are "resisting" the Nazis, and the women and children are "no less brave," Father Paquin said. "However," he continued, "I am concerned about the lot of the youth of France. Unfortunately all the youth have not escaped the Nazi propaganda. In the occupied area all youth organizations are forbidden. In Alsace and Lorraine all the children and young people must belong to Nazi organizations."

"Their appointed leaders are trying to break them away from the Church and convert them to the Nazi 'religion.' Not all the young people are allowing themselves to be corrupted, but the number of victims even at that is too great."

Fight for Truth

Church leaders and leading French authors are conducting a vigorous fight against this corruption of the young people, Father Paquin said. He mentioned particularly the efforts of His Eminence Pierre Cardinal Gerlier, Archbishop of Lyon, who, he said, has struck back vigorously at the appearance of anti-Christian publications in unoccupied France. Father Paquin said, the young people have not allowed themselves to become corrupted by Nazi propaganda and several youth organizations continue to do good work.

"The subject of a country which is an enemy of Germany will always find someone to help him escape from France," the young priest said, introducing the extraordinary story of his own escape and return here.

In September, 1940, two months after his ordination, Father Paquin left Tours with another French-Canadian priest, the Rev. Raoul Mercier, who has also studied there. They made the long journey to Marseilles on foot, following one of the numerous contraband routes. Authorities in unoccupied France were quite sympathetic but the two priests had to wait a month battling red tape at Marseilles before they could proceed to Oran, Algiers.

For almost a year Father Paquin fought at the seminary at Oran, finally, with the aid of United States consuls in North Africa and the British ambassador at Madrid, he was able to proceed to Gibraltar by way of Tangiers, Morocco, in 1941.

At Marseilles, Father Paquin said, German and Italian officials supervised the departure of all passengers, but in Algeria and Morocco spies were even more active, seeking to attach themselves to British subjects in order to accompany them to England. The priest had to keep his passport on his person at all times, refusing to relinquish it even to officials, in order to obviate the many ruses of Nazi agents seeking to obtain passports for their own use.

Profanity Unpopular With Australia Troops

MELBOURNE, Australia.—The journal Catholic Worker, which enjoys popularity among the Australian troops, notes encouraging signs of the success of the campaign to discourage the use of profanity among the armed forces.

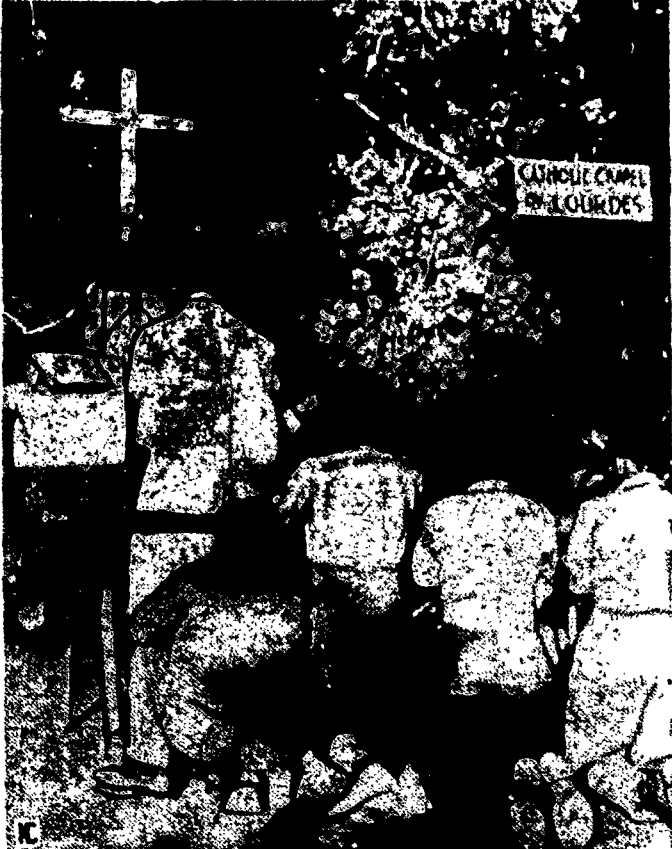
Catholics, in militia units, the paper says, have joined in a movement to purge their speech of profane words and are receiving co-operation from Protestant groups and individuals.

Special Prayers For Pope In Erin

DUBLIN.—The Standing Committee of the Irish Hierarchy, meeting here with His Eminence Joseph Cardinal MacRory, Archbishop of Armagh, presiding, has appointed Ascension Thursday, May 14, as a day of special prayer and good works on the occasion of the episcopal jubilee of His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

The Lord will redeem the souls of His servants, and none of them that trust in Him shall offend.

Mass Before Bataan Falls



In this picture taken before the fall of Bataan, Mass is being celebrated at a hospital of the U. S.-Filipino Forces somewhere on the Bataan peninsula. Wounded who were able to walk, and some members of the medical corps, assisted at the Mass celebrated here every morning. (N.C.W.C.)

2,497 Priests, Religious Serve Church In Japan

Two thousand four hundred and ninety-seven priests, Brothers and Sisters of whom 1,333, considerably more than half, were natives, were serving within the Japanese Empire (including Korea, Formosa and the Marianas and Caroline Islands) in 1938, when the last official figures of the Catholic Church

in Japan for 1938, were compiled. In Japan proper there were 416 priests, 117 of whom were natives, 214 Brothers, 105 of whom were natives, and 1,253 Sisters, 759 of whom were natives.

In Korea, Formosa and the mandated islands there were 262 priests, 114 of whom were natives, 52 Brothers, eight of whom were natives, and 300 Sisters, 230 of whom were natives.

In addition to diocesan clergy, priests and Religious in the areas mentioned included members of the Paris Foreign Missions, the Society of Jesus, the Society of the Divine Word, Maryknoll, the Dominican Order, the Benedictines, the Salesians and the Franciscans.

"Oil King" is the petty officer aboard a Naval vessel in charge of fuel oil storage.

'No Atheists In Foxholes,' Sergeant Tells Colonel Who Heard Him Praying In Bataan

WASHINGTON. (NC)—It was faith and prayer at least as much as self-confidence that kept our forces going on Bataan Peninsula, according to Lieutenant Colonel Warren J. Clear, who has just returned to Washington from Corregidor.

A retired Infantry officer, Colonel Clear had been on United States Army staff duty in the Philippines. He was born in Boston and graduated from Boston College there, winning a commission in the Regular Army during the first World War. Retired in 1935 because of physical disability incurred in the line of duty, he was recalled to active duty a year and a half ago. In an Army Hour radio broadcast last night, in response to a question on the spirit of the soldiers of Bataan, he said:

slipped into a foxhole during one particularly heavy bombing attack. There was a sergeant in the foxhole, too, and he squeezed to one side to make room for me and then all hell broke loose, and I wasn't surprised to find myself praying out loud.

"The sergeant was praying too. He prayed almost as loud as I did. When the attack was over I turned to him and said: 'Sergeant, I noticed you were praying.'

"'Sir,' he said, without batting an eye, 'Sir, there are no atheists in foxholes!'"

Bishop, Religious Journey By Foot, Truck, Train To Safety From Raids

MELBOURNE, Australia.—After an arduous journey, made on foot, in coal trucks and crowded trains, the Most Rev. Francis Gaells, Bishop of Darwin, nuns of the Darwin area, and half-caste and native girls in their charge succeeded in reaching safety in the south from the air raids on the northern city.

The party began its trek south after an air raid occurred during a

Mass celebrated by Bishop Gaells. After the Mass, general absolution was given to the group and the southward journey began. The first night was spent in the open air and the Bishop heard confessions, sitting in a hollow log. The group continued their journey in coal trucks and trains, with the discomforts of the trip greatly eased by the spirit of universal kindness that prevailed.