

Holy Father's Letter Calls For More Peace Prayers In May

VATICAN CITY—(N. C.)—"While the world, trusting solely in the force of arms and most murderous inventions, advances along its bloodstained path, we—saddened by the immense carnage and driven by the love of the Universal Father—do not limit ourselves to the indication of the most convenient ways for real peace and an order of things based on the principles of Christian justice, but raise our full confidence in God and raise our supplicating hands to Him, at the same time exhorting all our children scattered over the world to unite their prayers with ours."

Spanish Prelate Warns People Of Nazism's 'Monstrous' Teachings

(By N. C. W. C. News Service)

A calm and reasoned, but nonetheless vigorous, warning against the errors of Nazi doctrine, particularly as they constitute a threat to the faith of Spanish Catholics, is sounded by the Most Rev. Fidel Garcia Martinez, Bishop of Calahorra, Spain, in a Pastoral Letter, a copy of which has become available in the United States.

Bishop Garcia Martinez states that he speaks out in keeping with a Bishop's first duty, namely, to preserve "entire and free" from all error among the faithful, the sacred trust of revealed truth which Jesus Christ has entrusted to His Church.

"Were it a question only of purely temporal, political, or social matters, or of conflicting claims between different peoples or races, or of ideologies concerning problems of a material order only," the Bishop says, "we would say nothing; we would only deplore this descent to atomism and barbarity of the most elemental feelings of good, honor, justice and truth. But it is a question of matters and ideologies which have a direct effect on that revealed truth, which it is our duty to defend within us, Venerable Brothers and Beloved Sons, and if the effort seemed to be necessary to draw your attention to certain of the errors contained in these matters of ideologies and which in the present circumstances may well prove a serious danger to the integrity and purity of your faith."

"One of these errors or collection of errors, openly in contradiction to the most fundamental principles of our Holy Religion, is that known by the name of Communism. Its gravity leaps to the eye. Of its virulence and disastrous effects we have had a terrible and instructive demonstration in our own country.

The Bishop says the impassioned, turbulent and confused times through which we are living "have succeeded in creating a sphere of special danger particularly suited for the infiltration among us of these errors."

"Publications contaminated by these erroneous ideologies are circulating in Spain and the translation into our language has just been

Eleven Ordained

Los Angeles - Fifteen seminarians were elevated to the priesthood in St. Vibiana's Cathedral here by the Most Rev. John J. Cantwell, Archbishop of Los Angeles. Eleven have been ordained for the Archdiocese of Los Angeles, while the remaining four are Claretians.

Spurs Legitimacy Legislation Defeat

SAN JUAN, P. R. - Following two weeks of public discussion touched off by a statement by the Most Rev. Edwin V. Byrne, Bishop of San Juan, which appeared in the newspaper El Mundo, the House of Representatives of Puerto Rico voted down a bill dealing with illegitimacy in the island. The Senate had passed the measure before Bishop Byrne's statement appeared.

Claimed by its supporters to be a move to establish "a regime of social justice in behalf of children born in Puerto Rico," the bill aimed at the elimination of all classification of children as to legitimacy or illegitimacy.

Bishop Byrne, in his statement, said "the social justice which the bill intends to introduce in behalf of illegitimacy is in reality a social injustice to legitimate children, and above all it would lead to a radical destruction of the social institution of marriage."

"It is well," the Bishop added, "that the illegitimate child should be protected as much as possible by obliging his parents to fulfill the duties which this class of parenthood brings with it, but not at

the risk of destroying the basis of the family in Puerto Rico."

"The bill merely refers to illegitimate children or born outside of wedlock, and its text speaks exclusively of correcting the injustice done to a child brought into the world under the stigma of social inferiority, of legal inequality, of economic disadvantage, and of personal humiliation," the Bishop pointed out.

"The quest of social justice is alleged in this bill, and yet with a strange and illogical idea of justice, it calmly commits the injustice of despoiling the legitimate child of the right of proclaiming that he was born of a legitimate marriage. Perhaps this natural right is worth nothing? Why then, is it maintained that it is a social stigma not to enjoy legitimacy of birth?"

"We are in agreement that the child is not responsible that he is illegitimate. The entire responsibility rests on the father."

"We maintain also that the father and the mother, and not the father alone, have the very grave responsibility of providing for the personal and social well-being of that illegitimate child, and legislation must wisely provide for that effect. There is, however, a wide abyss between this and the establishment by law that all children are legitimate."

"Such a bill, in practice, makes all the children legitimate. It states from this date forward no declaration shall be made concerning the legitimacy or illegitimacy of births. Nevertheless, the suppression of such a distinction of birth cannot make all children born in illegitimacy equal by pretending to remove the alleged social injustice attached to a condition which its brands with reproach and social injustice."

"If the matrimonial institution is to be maintained, the legitimacy or illegitimacy of birth is not an empty fiction subject to sentimentality."

"If the matrimonial institution is to be maintained, illegitimacy is a disgraceful fact, even criminal in some cases, but nevertheless a real fact which cannot be removed by introducing into the Legislature of Puerto Rico a mere Be it resolved."

announced of the work which figures as a symbol of all such errors and is condemned by the Church," Bishop Garcia Martinez continues.

"Men and institutions representing these ideologies are praised frequently and without measure and certainly without any reservation. With countries or nations where there are freely prominent cultural relations and interchanges of all kinds are maintained."

"A strict and lasting silence is kept about the unshakable condemnation by the Church of these errors and about the religious persecutions, implacable and tenacious, resulting from such errors, unknown to us but ever present for our Brothers, the Catholics of those countries where such errors are widespread. Tendentious versions are even accepted, placing the blame for these persecutions on alleged political crimes committed by the persecuted. Hence, we repeat, the special danger of this misinformation and misunderstanding."

Bishop Garcia Martinez says these errors "are so manifestly anti-Christian and even monstrous" that, "for the Catholic conscience of our people to deny them energetically and wholeheartedly," it "is sufficient to mention them, separating them from the passions, confusions and party feelings, under which they may well wish to hide."

"To give an example of these errors stating their exact meaning and scope," Bishop Garcia Martinez quotes at some length from "Gott und Volk-Sozialismus Bekennnis" (God and the People—Profession of Faith of a Soldier), published in Berlin and widely circulated by the Nazis and adds:

"As we have already stated, the errors of which we have given a sample, which could easily be many times multiplied, in the previous paragraphs are so anti-Christian, so anti-humanitarian; they imply such monstrous religious, moral, social and political ideas; and they even reveal in their texture such arbitrary, exaggerated and antisocial thought that no comment is necessary, for the conscience of the Spanish people will reject them with energy and even be moved to give thanks to God that they have had preserved for them sufficient mental equilibrium to prevent their falling into such aberration and belief in such myths."

The Most Rev. William Lee, Bishop of Clifton, has announced that Sunday Masses will continue as usual, and will be celebrated in halls where churches are not available.

The bodies of two of the nuns, the headmistress and a teacher, at the York convent have been recovered. The other three are buried in the debris. All resident pupils at the convent school are safe.

Religious Killed In England Air Raids

LONDON.—(NC) Air raids at Bath in the Diocese of Clifton have resulted in the death of one priest, serious damage to two Catholic churches and slight damage to a third. Five nuns are believed to have been killed when their convent school at York was struck.

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IN THE PONTIFICATE OF PIUS XII



Crowned the 21st successor of St. Peter, March 12, 1939, Pope Pius XII has reigned during three eventful years, untiring in his efforts for peace and to alleviate the sufferings of war. Among the outstanding events pictured, upper photo, the exchange of visits with the King and Queen of Italy; center photo, Myron C. Taylor, President Roosevelt's personal representative to the Vatican, is received, and lower photo, a scene during one of the Holy Father's broadcasts to the United States. (N.C.W.C.)

Pontiff Greet Bolivian Envoy Named To Holy See

VATICAN CITY.— His Holiness, Pope Pius XII, in a private audience this morning, received Basilio Mercado, new Ambassador of Bolivia to the Holy See.

In a brief address, delivered in Spanish, Senor Mercado expressed filial homage to the Sovereign Pontiff and asked the support of His Holiness in the fulfillment of

the new diplomatic task assigned him by the President of Bolivia. The new envoy also implored the Apostolic Blessing for Catholic Bolivia and her rulers.

The Holy Father, responding to these utterances, thanked Senor Mercado for such noble sentiments, promised his unceasing benevolence, and expressed his paternal good wishes for the success of the Ambassador's mission, heartily granting the blessings requested by the Envoy.

After the official audience, the Holy Father and the Ambassador engaged in a private conversation for a quarter of an hour. Senor Mercado then visited His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, and following this call went to the Vatican Basilica where he prayed at the Tomb of St. Peter.

In the afternoon, Cardinal Maglione visited Ambassador Mercado at the Grand Hotel in Rome, where the Bolivian envoy is staying pending the preparation of his apartments in Vatican City.

BISHOP EXHORTS FAITHFUL TO MARK DAY AT MASSES

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Academy, Mercy High School and Sacred Heart Academy.

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, in this week issuing a letter to all the faithful calling attention to the Holy Father's jubilee and exhorting men, women and children to participate in Masses and Holy Communion for the Pope's intention.

All parish Masses on the anniversary day will also be offered for His Holiness. Every priest will offer his Mass that morning for the Jubilee intention.

Spiritual Bouquet

A spiritual bouquet will be prepared to be sent to His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States through whom the spiritual tribute of Catholics throughout the United States will be transmitted to the Vatican.

Priests, members of the religious communities and the families will join in the spiritual commemora-

tion of the Pope's twenty-five illustrious and fruitful years as a Bishop and "apostle of peace."

Pope Pius XII was consecrated a Bishop and successor of the Apostles during the first World War. He is observing his Silver Jubilee as a successor to St. Peter amid the turmoil and strife of another and all-embracing World War to which he is dedicating his great talents and power toward a speedy conclusion.

It is to sustain, by united prayer, the Supreme Pontiff's efforts for the welfare of the Church and for lasting peace, that the faithful will respond to Bishop Kearney's call to commemorate the anniversary.