

U. S. Catholic Editors Hear Duty In Crisis Emphasized

By Burke Walsh

BIRMINGHAM, Ala. (NC)—Gathered here to study the problems which war conditions have raised up for the Catholic Press, Delegates to the Thirtieth Annual Convention of the Catholic Press Association of the United States heard themselves welcomed as "one of the greatest and most important groups in the Catholic Church."

The tribute was paid by the Most Rev. Thomas J. Toolen, Bishop of Mobile and host to meeting, speaking in the presence of three other Members of Hierarchy who had taken part in first day of the convention. Bishop Toolen declared that "after the care of the parish, I would put the care of the Catholic paper and magazine." "I would much prefer to have the Catholic paper going into every home in the parish than to have many things which the pastors consider so essential," he said.

This laudation brought to a close a crowded day which began with a Pontifical High Mass which Bishop Toolen celebrated in St. Paul's Church and at which the Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, preached the sermon. Present in the Sanctuary were the Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie and Episcopal Chairman of the Press Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, and the Most Rev. Albert L. Fletcher, Auxiliary Bishop of Little Rock.

Archbishop Rummel, Bishop Toolen and Bishop Fletcher were present at a luncheon session when Bishop Gannon spoke to the delegates. The prelates took part in other sessions of the convention throughout the day, and were all present again at a banquet session, at which Bishop Toolen gave the principal address.

An Hour of Need

"You have come," Bishop Toolen told the editors and publishers, "to give voice to the efforts of our great Church in our country's hour of need. It is your voice, which is the voice of the Hierarchy of the country and which carries to millions and millions of our Catholic people, and even to those not of our faith, orders that are necessary for the loyal, united, faithful Catholic people. Your great work in this crisis of our Church and our country is to coordinate, to make known, to carry to all, the need, the necessity of living close to God and through that closeness to God to realize and understand love of country and the necessity to work and sacrifice to insure victory."

"No doubt in your discussions during these days," Bishop Toolen continued, "you will consider ways and means of helping in this great cause of victory for our country and the democracies of the world, and I would say that one of the greatest works that the Catholic Press has before it, is to try and preserve our way of life, to keep

our democratic principles, to fight strongly against totalitarianism, because every day, each day, which would destroy that for which our forefathers died and upon which this great country has been built."

"Under the stress of war we are giving up many of our ideals and democratic principles."

"We all know that since surrendered they will be hard to win back. We know that centralization of power in our National Capital grows day by day and State rights and principles are forgotten. If a voice is raised in protest the owner is immediately classed as traitor or fifth columnist. Perhaps in winning the war we will lose the peace. In winning the war we may lose our democratic form of government which we are being called upon to make every effort and sacrifice to hold; in fighting for liberty, we may lose our most cherished possession."

Confidence in Government
"We must have faith and confidence in our government and we have, but that faith is sometimes shaken by some of those who are chosen to carry out the plans of our government. It is your job to fight for the principles of democracy, to keep your eyes and ears open for anything and everything that might weaken or destroy the form of government upon which this country has built and prospered."

Bishop Toolen then called the Treasury Department proposal taxing the incomes of, and leading to limit bequests to, churches, religious and educational institutions "one of the most harmful proposals made by our free government since we entered the war."

"God will give you the peace, courage, enthusiasm to carry on," Bishop Toolen told the delegates, "but with that you need cooperation, good will, the support of the Hierarchy, clergy, religious and people. I think all of us are more preoccupied than we were a few years back. You have a grave responsibility, but you have the most wonderful opportunity that the Catholic Press has ever had."

"You are leaders of Catholic thought in this great country and in many countries throughout the world. You have brought to our South American Catholic brethren the realization and knowledge that we are one. It is your duty to bring Catholic truth to all of our people and the only place that we can find such truth today is in our Catholic Press, magazines and papers."

"If the Catholic Press is to accomplish the end and purpose for which it has been organized, it must reach into every Catholic home and even into those not of our faith. Many not of our faith are deeply interested in knowing truth of things Catholic and the truth can only be found in our Catholic Press. May I say that a great work of education is needed to push our Catholic Press."

"This education must be begun not with the people but with the priests. If there is not greater interest in the Catholic Press, it is due, I would say, principally to lack of interest on part of priests. Yes, the priest has many duties, many obligations, but if he is sold on the value of the press he will do more for it."

Little Burden to Parish

"Where real effort is made, a paper is not much of a burden to a parish. In cases where little attention is paid as to whether the people pay their subscriptions or not, I suppose it is a burden. But no matter what the burden I think it is worthwhile. Personally, I would much prefer to have a Catholic paper going into every home in the parish than to have many things which pastors consider so essential. After the care of the altar, I would put the care of the Catholic paper and magazine."

"We need enthusiasm, courage, sacrifice, if the Catholic Press is to attain its goal. We say every Catholic child in a Catholic school. Why not a Catholic paper and magazine in every Catholic home? It can be done. Let's do it."

In conclusion, Bishop Toolen urged that readers of Catholic publications patronize those who advertise in these publications.

The Rt. Rev. Msgr. Peter M. E. Wynhoven, of New Orleans, Editor-in-Chief of Catholic Action of the South and President of the C. P. A., asserted that the "Catholic Press is the very instrument that will preserve the Constitution of this country." He thanked Bishop Toolen for his encouraging welcome to the delegates, and hailed him as one of the great friends of the Catholic Press in the United States.

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Court Upholds School Bus Laws

ANNAPOLIS.—The Maryland Court of Appeals has upheld a decision of a lower court which ruled that laws empowering the Commissioners of St. Mary's County to provide transportation for parochial as well as public school children are valid.

HONORED BY RED CROSS
Bogots.—The Hippolyte Machado Medal with which the Colombian Red Cross decorates its most faithful workers was conferred upon the Very Rev. Msgr. Diego Garzon on his golden jubilee by the National President of the organization, Dr. Jorge Bejarano.

leave in our government and we have, but that faith is sometimes shaken by some of those who are chosen to carry out the plans of our government. It is your job to fight for the principles of democracy, to keep your eyes and ears open for anything and everything that might weaken or destroy the form of government upon which this country has built and prospered."

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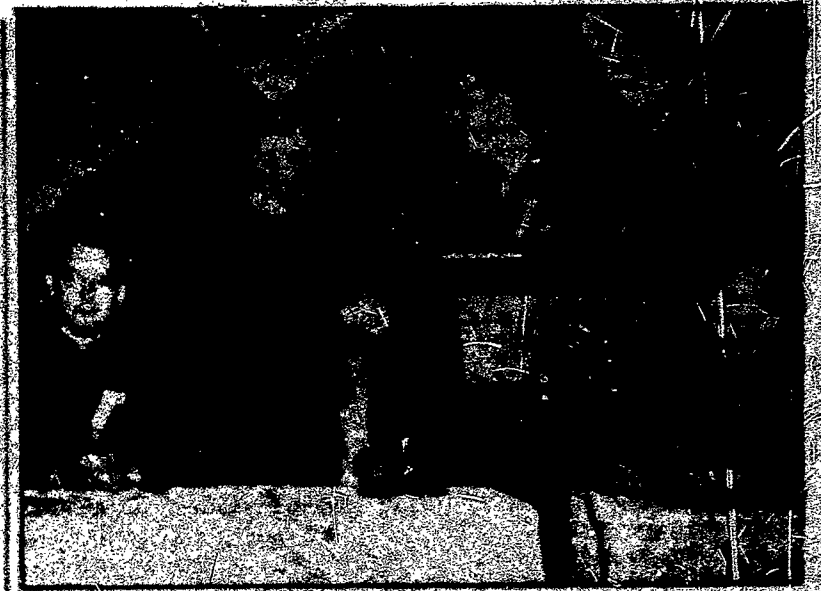
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China Plans National Day of Prayer For U.S.

CINCINNATI.—High Government and ecclesiastical officials will join with the people of China in observing a National Prayer Day, Sunday, June 7, for the success of the American war effort.

The day of prayer is being arranged by the Government of China in response to the request for such a day made by the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade of the United States. It was learned here this week. In a radiogram to C.S.M.C. headquarters at Crusade Castle here, the Rev. Mark Tennant, M.M., American Maryknoll missionary in Chungking, told of plans being made for the day of prayer.



CATHOLIC PRESS LEADERS. Gathered at offices of the Catholic Press Association of the United States for the coming year at the 30th annual national convention in Birmingham, Ala., were: (From left) Rev. Hyacinth Muehr, C.F.M., Chairman; Rev. Daniel J. Kelly, Birmingham member of Board; A. J. Way, of the Catholic University, Cleveland, president; Very Rev. John J. Connelley, M.M., Vice-President.

State K. C. Pledge \$5,000 For Chaplains

LAKE PLACID.—Representatives of the 50,000 members of the Knights of Columbus in New York State, meeting at their 47th annual convention at Lake Placid, May 28-31, pledged their "unlimited loyalty, devotion, cooperation, support and encouragement" to the armed forces of the nation and the agencies of civilian defense and production.

The State Council also approved a donation of \$5,000 to the work of the Chaplains' Aid Association to help the priests serving with the armed forces of the nation. A similar grant of \$5,000 had been voted at the previous state convention and was paid during the past year.

The pledge of cooperation in the war effort was embodied in a resolution passed unanimously at the closing sessions of the convention, at which Hugh A. Doyle of New Rochelle was re-elected State Deputy for a third term and his fellow state officers were again chosen.

The Knights of Columbus war program in New York, the resolution stated, is dedicated to the end "that our enemies may be repulsed and defeated, and that this nation, built upon the Christian concept of dignity of the human being as a creature of a divine creator, may be preserved."

Delegates from the 247 subordinate councils also approved resolutions

concerning the work of the Rapp-Coudert legislative committee investigating subversive activities in the public educational system of New York City and recommending the members of the state legislature who voted to grant the committee's bill.

Referring to the suggestion before the House of Representatives Ways and Means committee that charitable and philanthropic institutions be taxed as a new source of national revenue, the convention went on record as vigorously opposing such a suggestion and ordered that the State Council's resolution be every member of the House from New York State. The Catholic Interest Committee of New York Chapter, which introduced the resolution, pointed out that such a range would include in this category Catholic hospitals, orphanages and charitable agencies.

The convention also took occasion to denounce the action of Senator David I. Walsh of the New York Post, and called upon "our fellow Americans in emphatic condemnation of the New York Post and others who would smear"

(Continued on Page 4)

Bishop Opens Retreat House For Diocese At Geneva

(Continued from Page 1)

Scope of the work carried on by the Redemptorist Fathers was described by Father McCarthy, the provincial, in his stirring address. Briefly recounting the Redemptorist Order's history, he brought out that the retreat movement is one of their essential works.

With the retreat movement gaining momentum throughout the country and in this diocese, the new Retreat House will afford ample opportunity for the spread of spirituality, the movement's main purpose, he said.

Over 500 Attend
Undeterred by threatening weather over five hundred laymen, including a number from the parishes in Rochester and Syracuse Diocese, and about thirty priests including many outstanding members of the Redemptorist Order attended the services.

Father Murphy announced that the first week-end retreat will be held June 27 and 28. Provision will be made to accommodate forty men during the retreat program to be conducted throughout the summer and fall.

Enthusiastic and admiring comments were heard as the visitor inspected the beautiful estate on the shore of Seneca Lake. Of special interest was the beautiful chapel on the first floor and the collection of valuable paintings which adorn the walls.

Father Murphy, when asked about the art treasures hanging upon the walls modestly admitted

that he was somewhat of an "art collector." He seems to have the luck of finding art treasures where no one else would look for them and has secured valuable treasures in out of the way places.

The Redemptorist Father, in his address at retreating families, displayed some of the pieces he has collected. One is a large factory lamp on the porch reading room at the rear of the house. Purchased for a small sum, it was in deplorable condition when he began work upon it, but when finished presented a very beautiful appearance.

At one end of the long entrance is an illuminated picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help and the health for picture is a miniature altar.

Directly off the hall and in what was formerly the living room of the residence is the beautiful chapel. Here will gather hundreds of men for silent prayer and meditation for Holy Mass and for retreat services in years to come.

The beautiful chapel altar was presented as a gift of His Excellency, Bishop Kearney.

Three beautiful stained windows of Munich glass attract the attention immediately. They are worth \$3,000 and were taken from the old Cathedral in Rochester. The window scenes are paintings of the Annunciation, the Visitation, and the Presentation. The chapel will seat forty persons.

Appointments of the rest of the Retreat House, the dining room, living rooms and reception rooms are in keeping with the entire remodeling design.

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