

Canadian Bishops Stress Catholics' Position In War

Joint Pastoral Signed By 59 Of Hierarchy Extols Sacrifices

QUEBEC (N. C.)—“Anyone, be he soldier, sailor, airman or civilian, who gives his life for his fellow-citizens, is animated with dispositions of faith and zeal for justice, attains to the highest degree of charity. As 33 Archbishops and Bishops of Canada declare in a joint pastoral letter on ‘The position of our Catholic people in the present war’.

The letter is signed by His Eminence, Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, O.M.I., Archbishop of Quebec, 12 other Archbishops and 46 Bishops.

The letter warns against the danger of totalitarianism, and urges that when peace is established it will be on a basis of justice and charity.

To bring down the assistance of God on the country and her rulers, June 14 was set aside for a Dominion-wide recollection of Canada to Christ the King.

Declaring that complete victory seemed more distant than had been anticipated and that the danger “is coming nearer home and threatening more ominously every day,” the Hierarchy of Canada prays that when peace comes it will not be “a superficial and merely external peace, not a mere cessation of hostilities, which would open the way to domination by force and would allow the denial of God and social injustices of all kinds to go unpunished.

Peace of Justice, Charity

Rather the peace for which we long must be a true peace, the fruit of justice and charity, peace that will establish a wise and strong international order, which in turn will guarantee the personal rights of individuals, as well as the general good of nations and of the human race.

“Civil and international society must be organized on the unshakable principles of the Gospel, that the individual, the family and the state may find free scope for their legitimate aptitudes and aims, and that for the whole human race, social life may once more become an aid and a support, rather than a hindrance, in attaining their eternal destiny.

“That is why, dearly beloved in Christ, you have not wavered in the face of the varied sacrifices which the virtue of fortitude imposes on people engaged in a just war.

“One has only to study the anti-Christian doctrines and principles of Nazism in the light of the Encyclical ‘Mit brennender Sorge’ of Pope Pius XI, and of the statements of the German Hierarchy and of the record of oppression and destruction in every country which has come under the yoke of Nazism to realize the extremities of barbarism, persecution and irreligion, to which it would reduce all nations in the world conquest, of which it dreams and towards which it strives.”

Laud Patriotic Response

Deep gratification was voiced at the generous response to the call of Canada. “You have taken your place side by side with your fellow-citizens of every class and creed in this ready and generous response.”

“This spirit of sacrifice and devotion finds its highest expression in those who courageously enter active service, on land, on the sea or in the air. Let us pray for our fighting men that they may persevere to the end determined, intrepid and heroic. Let us often think of the loneliness they experience by their separation from their dear ones at home of the suffering of the wounded, and of the agony of the dying. We should therefore support them by our constant prayers and sacrifices.

“However we must remember that a modern war is not won by the fighting forces alone. We must be prepared to support our fighting forces also in a material way by our labor in war industries and agriculture and by participating in the auxiliary services. Again, by investing in war loans, by readily accepting the regulations concerning the saving and rationing of our resources, by submitting to the thousand restrictions imposed on us by wartime production and civilian defence, by assisting in plans for rehabilitation after the war.

“At the same time, when we think of the sufferings and privations inflicted on so many countries, we should thank God for having mercifully spared us from such trials up to the present.”

Warn Against Frivolity
The Catholic Bishops warn that frivolity and inordinate pursuit of wealth and pleasure will only draw down the anger of God. “We must assure the future welfare of our nation by perfect fidelity to the laws of Christian morality,” the pastor says. “Those who have been called to the training camps should remember that they need a more sublime heroism there than ever on the battlefield. They must not compromise their moral and physical integrity in sinful pleasures and waste the strength they need for the service of God and country.”

The letter enters a vigorous protest against the increase of vice on a commercial basis, and the use of contraceptives, which unprincipled propagandists make bold to advertise even among the armed forces.

Abuses in the matter of strong drink, blasphemy and profanity also are scored.

“Apprehension” is voiced at “seeing so many women, and especially mothers, drawn away from their homes by wartime regulations, into factory work and other occupations so foreign to their sex.”

On Communist Propaganda

And a final warning is given against the propaganda of atheistic Communism. “What a tragedy it would be, if, through the relaxation of our laws against the subversive activities of the godless, the valiant resistance of the Russian people against their aggressors should bring to our country, the discord and class struggles which Communism always incites! If this should happen, our victory in this war would be only a truce before revolution, the bloody sacrifices of war would give place to the worse terror of internal strife, and after fighting for Christianity, we should be at the mercy of the enemies of the very name of God.”

Declaring that final victory must come through the power of God, the Hierarchy urges the expansion of the Sword of the Spirit movement, the earning of victory by prayer and fidelity to religion, the receiving of Holy Communion at least once a month.

For a final peace it is pointed out, “we need to scrutinize not only our enemies, but also ourselves. We must keep in mind that victory over our enemies will be useless, unless afterwards we establish a more just and equitable social order, in which human rights will be more completely respected, wealth more fairly distributed, and intellectual, moral and religious education more thorough and widespread.”

Heroic Maltese Amid Ruins Hear Mass Sung For Them In London

Decree To Bestow Title of 'Venerable' On Kateri Tekakwitha

VATICAN CITY—His Holiness Pope Pius XII has agreed most willingly to the publication of a decree setting forth the findings of the Sacred Congregation of Rites proclaiming that the virtues of Kateri Tekakwitha, “Lily of the Mohawks,” were heroic.

The Holy Father ratified the favorable result of the Sacred Congregation's discussions at an audience accorded June 12 to His Eminence Carlo Cardinal Salotti, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites and Relator of Kateri Tekakwitha's cause. The audience followed a meeting of the Sacred Congregation held Wednesday of last week, in the presence of Pope Pius XII to consider the virtues of the American Indian maiden.

The date for the publication of the decree has not yet been fixed. But when it does appear the decree will style Kateri Tekakwitha as Venerable and in the future she may be addressed by that title.

With the publication of the decree proclaiming the virtues of the “Lily of the Mohawks” to have been heroic, the first part of the process for her beatification, namely, that dealing with her personal qualities, will have been completed. Then will begin the second part of the Apostolic Process, namely, that dealing with miracles proposed in her cause. The purpose will be to obtain a decree stating that miracles really were worked through the intercession of Kateri Tekakwitha. Then beatification will be decided.

LONDON—(N. C.)—Standing in the open amid the ruins of bowed but unyielding Malta, a devout people listened as radio sets brought to them a Mass of Intercession that was sung in Westminster Cathedral here.

They heard His Eminence Arthur Cardinal Hinsley, Archbishop of Westminster, promise that the island's shattered churches will be rebuilt. And as they listened, air raid sirens sounded in Malta.

A message from Malta to the News-Chronicle here said: “The long ceremony with its stately plainsong and running English Maltese commentary was heard with the closest attention from the beginning to the end.”

In particular, the ringing tones of Cardinal Hinsley, echoing through our gaunt ruins with their message of hope, likening the heroic past to the glorious present, made every heart beat faster.

Still More Honored

“When he concluded with the promise that Malta's famous churches and buildings would be rebuilt and would be still more honored by all Christian men for their scars, inflicted by a rage-buffed enemy, men and women with tears streaming down their cheeks, clutched hands to overcome their emotion at the thought that they were not fighting alone, but were part of a great Christian community whose sufferings were felt and understood and whose triumphs were acclaimed equally everywhere.”

In Westminster Cathedral the King was represented by Lord Clarendon and the Government by Lord Cranborne. The War Office and the Air Ministry were officially represented.

Cardinal Hinsley preached from the text from the Acts: “And when we had escaped then we knew that the island was called Malta.”

He said, in part: “When by God's strength, Christendom has escaped the storm and

wreck which now menace the world, then we shall know that Malta's name stands for an unshakable rock amidst the fiercest tempests that ever swept over sea and land.

“On Malta the gaze of the whole world is riveted in wonder. The spirit of its people, intrepid and unconquerable, surges all the records of resolute courage and endurance of past generations. Malta has been declared ‘unshakable’ by the very chief of the attacking forces.

Lauds Maltese Clergy

Of the heroic clergy of Malta the Cardinal said: “As the devoted Capuchin Father stood to his post in the doomed fortress of St. Elmo in 1666, shriving the handful of survivors of the garrison, sustaining with the Bread of Life those who on the morrow would strike their last blow for Christendom, so now Maltese priests hearten and cheer their people in the air raid shelters by voice and example and strengthen their souls with the Sacraments of the Church; they are also first on the scene as the debris is dragged away when the victims seek comfort for the spirit more than for the body.”

Speaking directly to “unshakable Malta,” the Cardinal declared: “Gathered here today in Westminster Cathedral we offer up our supplications for you, the suffering people of Malta. We implore the great High Priest and Victim of our Sacrifices to bless and reward your fortitude under your stern trials to console the sorrowing, to assuage the pains of the wounded, to give rest and eternal peace to those who have fallen victims of these long months of incessant attack.”

Bishop, Clergy Imprisoned Prelate Dies, In Nazi-Poland

WASHINGTON—Sudden accounts of the persecution of the Church in German-occupied Poland are contained in news based on latest information received by the Polish Catholic Press Agency KAP.

The tragic developments of the Nazi campaign against Catholicism in Poland, KAP states, include:

The death of one Bishop as a result of mistreatment while he was held prisoner.

The arrest of an Archbishop for refusing to write a letter to members of his flock urging them to

join the “crusade” against Russia. Imprisonment of four Bishops in concentration camps.

Internment of three other Bishops. Imprisonment of 1,700 priests, 1,200 of whom are still held in prisons and concentration camps.

The Most Rev. Anthony Nowowiejski, Bishop of Plock, is reported to have died as a result of mistreatment to which he was subjected in a concentration camp at Dziedow. The Most Rev. Romuald Jabrzykowski, Archbishop of Vilna has been placed under arrest. Bishop Constantine Dominik, Auxiliary of Chelmno, is held in a concentration camp near Danzig. Bishop Vladislav Corul, Auxiliary of Lublin, is in the Oranienburg concentration camp near Berlin. Bishop Wotmanski is a prisoner at Oswiecim. Bishop Korul is held at Lond near Poznan. Interned are the Most Rev. Marius Fulman, Bishop of Lublin, who is held at Nowy Sacz, and the Most Rev. Vladimir Jasinski, Bishop of Lodz, and Bishop Tomasz, both of whom are at Siedcecow, near Lodz.

Information concerning the 1,200 imprisoned members of the clergy, received by KAP, states that many of them are suffering from hunger and exhaustion and the results of mistreatment.

These dioceses are listed as having been “completely liquidated”: Iuzewo, Poznan, Chelmo, Plock, Wlaskawek, Lodz, Katowice. The Hierarchy and all other institutions are reported to have been “abolished.” Ninety per cent of the churches and all Catholic schools have been closed, and all Catholic newspapers and lay organizations suppressed.

In Poznan, See of the Primate of Poland, of the 30 churches of pre-war times only two are accessible for Poles and one for Germans. Of 23 priests in the Archdiocese of Gniezno and Poznan at the outbreak of the war, 34 priests remain to serve the Poles and 17 to serve the Germans. Eighty six, according to information received by KAP, have been killed and 451 are in concentration camps.

Hand Thrust Out From Casket, Depopulates Palestine Bus Roof

JERUSALEM—Strange “baggage” often accompanies those who ride the bus lines of the Holy Land. In this case it was a shiny new coffin.

Now in Palestine a coffin is not the forbidding object it is in the Occident. The passenger found the bus crowded, so he and his “baggage” were parked on the roof. A shower came up and the passenger sought shelter in the coffin. Meanwhile, two later arrivals, Arabs,

mounted to the roof and squatted in their flowing abayas, awaiting a turn in the weather.

Their philosophical reverie was broken when the lid of the coffin was lifted from within and a hand thrust out to ascertain if it were still raining.

The story ends with the two Arabs, “kicking Allah with a terrified yell as they leaped from the moving vehicle, thoughtless of peril of life and limb.



“Mary Bring India to Christ” is the title of this fine linoleum engraving by Sister Mary Joan of the Medical Mission Sisters, Fox Chase, Philadelphia (N.C.W.C.)

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