

POPE TERMS BRAZIL AS GREAT CATHOLIC NATION

VATICAN CITY—(N. C.)

— Expressing his lively satisfaction with the information that the Brazilian National Eucharistic Congress in São Paulo had announced as one of its chief aims the stimulation of vocations to the holy priesthood, His Holiness Pope Pius XII in a personally delivered radio message to the Congress in which he spoke in Portuguese, termed Brazil one of the greatest Catholic nations of America and of the world.

The Holy Father spoke from his private library. Students of the Brazilian College in Rome assembled in an adjoining hall with their Rector, the Very Rev. Marcello Renard M. S. J. At the conclusion of the broadcast they were received by the Sovereign Pontiff who greeted them paternally and gave them his blessing.

His heart rejoiced, the Holy Father told the people of Brazil, at the wonderful spectacle of faith and piety in which they were participating. He recalled that the Brazilian people entered history under the sign of the Cross of Christ in that May of the year 1500, when the cross was erected on the shores of their native land and the first Mass was sung.

Devotion to Sacrament
From that day, His Holiness said, no town or village has existed in Brazil which has not shown a special devotion to the Blessed Sacrament. Each, the Holy Father recalled, has its pious Eucharistic

Associations and their impressive feasts in demonstration of their devotion to the Holy Eucharist and to the Blessed Virgin are known throughout the world.

So fervent are these demonstrations of faith, the Holy Father said, that the people claim no higher honor than that of receiving Holy Communion on these occasions. Nor is there greater shame, His Holiness said, among them than that of being deprived of such honor.

The piety of their ancestors, Saint Peter knew. His Holiness told the people of Brazil, in the present Eucharistic demonstration and in all who through their efforts have contributed to the success of the Congress, particularly those who arranged the program, the joyous jubilation which prepared the way for the national meeting.

Lauds Catholic Action

The Holy Father took occasion to praise the work of Catholic Action in Brazil. "We beseech the Lord," he said, "that this flourishing faith may not be permitted to vanish but that it may bring the fruits of blessings for all Brazil."

The Holy Eucharist, the Pope reminded, revives faith and crowns faith and is the best sign of true faith.

"If at any time cherished sons of Brazil, your faith should be menaced by errors of superstition," the Holy Father said, "may you unite more intimately with Jesus in the Sacrament and, armed with His force, may you resist and fight and win. In the Divine Host is

concentrated the full and infinite love of the Sacred Heart of Jesus as it manifested itself in the great hours of the redemption."

Unity of Souls

Expressing the hope that devotion to the Holy Father may always cement the unity of the people of Brazil, the Holy Father said: "Unity makes for strength, disunion for ruin. This is true particularly when that unity is unity of souls. And this unity and the charity that is born of it must never limit themselves by promoting merely temporal welfare, but must procure spiritual and eternal good."

"Inspired by Christ's charity," said His Holiness, "may you be apostles of good example in prayer, sacrifice, word and action first for the Christians who do not practice the faith which they profess and then win the unbelievers who do not know the true faith."

His Holiness then expressed his joy over the fact that the Eucharistic Congress had as one of its aims the solution of the problem of priestly vocations, a problem which he said is faced by all nations. "May this," the Holy Father said, "be one of the greatest results of your Eucharistic Congress. Happy are those whom Jesus chooses as he chooses the Apostles. Happy are the families whose sons Christ chooses to honor them with the glory of the priesthood. Truly Catholic countries endeavor to promote and to support priestly vocations and thank God when they are granted."

600,000 Brazilians At Tribute To Eucharistic Savior Hear Pope

By Mgr. Joaquin Nabuco

SAO PAULO (NC) — In one of the largest and most impressive demonstrations of faith this continent has ever seen, Brazil brought its Fourth National Eucharistic Congress to a brilliant close here on Sept. 7.

Uncounted throngs took part in the final ceremony—a magnificent procession escorting the Blessed Sacrament to Anhangabau Park, where Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament was given. It has been estimated that 600,000 persons were gathered together to hear the discourse of His Holiness Pope Pius XII broadcast directly from Vatican City in Portuguese on that final day of the great act of faith. His Holiness closed his address by imparting the Papal Blessing, and when his words died away shouts of "Viva Papa" and "Long Reign Jesus Christ" rose from the multitude and rolled across the vast expanse of space in a surging tide.

Illness made it impossible for His Eminence Sebastiao Cardinal Leme da Silveira Cintra, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro, to take part in the Congress, to which he had been named Papal Legate of Pope Pius XII. His Excellency the Most Rev. Benedito Aloisio Mello, Papal Nuncio to Brazil, served as Papal Legate in the Cardinal's place. He presided over the Congress and carried the Blessed Sacrament in the great closing procession.

Bishop Gannon Attends
Three scores of Bishops, hundreds of priests, and members of the laity from many countries took part in the Congress.

The Most Rev. John Mark Gannon, Bishop of Erie, was present as representative of the Hierarchy, clergy and laity of the United States. Bishop Gannon's appearance everywhere was greeted with warmth. To him was accorded the honor of raising the Papal flag on the opening day of the Congress, as military guns roared the appropriate salute. Again on the closing day, Bishop Gannon was honored as presiding officer at some of the sessions. The Bishop's address at the final night session of the Congress brought forth a magnificent ovation from the assembly and shouts of "Viva North America."

Representatives of Brazil's government were prominent in the various exercises of the Congress. The Governor of the State of Sao Paulo lowered the colors to the National Anthem at the closing ceremony, when the Archbishop of Montevideo lowered the Papal flag to the playing of "Christus Vincit." Representatives of the armed

forces paraded in the Eucharistic procession.

Thousands of people had poured into Sao Paulo from all directions when the Fourth National Congress was formally opened last Friday morning with a Solemn Pontifical Mass at which the Papal Legate assisted. A choir of 300 male voices sang the Mass. It was on this occasion that Bishop Gannon raised the papal flag.

On Saturday upwards of 216,000 children braved a pouring rain to assist at the Mass which was their own special part of the Congress. On this occasion 220 priests distributed Holy Communion to more than 200,000 young people.

Sunday was the women's day at the Congress, and 270,000 of them offered Communion for a world peace based on justice and charity. Prayer for the World.

The closing exercises of the Congress actually began at midnight.

Sunday, with Bishop Gannon presiding. Three hundred thousand men received Holy Communion, at this time and Masses were offered continuously until 9 o'clock Monday morning when the concluding Pontifical Mass of the Congress was offered for victory. At the moment of consecration at this final Mass, the huge congregation joined in a concerted prayer for the world.

The monstrance in which the Papal Legate carried the Blessed Sacrament in the Eucharistic procession was the gift of the people of Sao Paulo. At the final Benediction, incense which missionaries had gathered by hand in Matta Grosso and other places was burned before the Blessed Sacrament.

The common prayer at the closing Benediction was for the reign of Christ the Eucharistic King.

Nazis Plan Sterilization To Enforce Marriage Laws

NEW YORK (NC) — Sterilization and the prohibition of marriage between persons of different racial stocks will be among the instruments for the enforcing of the new marriage laws in Nazi-occupied Holland, according to information received by the Netherlands Information Bureau here.

An announcement to this effect was made by the German Director General of Public Health Bruining in the Koeltische Zeitung, the information stated.

The Bureau recalled that the Most Rev. John de Jong, Archbishop of Utrecht, Holland, had written to all Catholic medical foundations in the Netherlands urging Catholic physicians to refuse to cooperate with the Nazi-founded Netherlands Union of Sickness Fund Physicians.

The Netherlands Information Bureau also announced receipt of information to the effect that the municipal subsidy for Catholic institutions in the city of Roermond, Holland, had been withdrawn because Church authorities had refused to comply with anti-Semitic regulations.

Recently, the information stated, a sign reading "Jews Forbidden" which had been placed in the Catholic library was ordered removed by Church authorities.

President Praises Church-State Affairs

BOGOTA — The Constitution of Colombia establishes mutual respect and reciprocal deference between Church and State, former President Eduardo Santos said in his farewell message to Congress, and this provision has been "developed on a plane of the highest cordiality, entirely in accord with the Catholic sentiments of the Colombian people."

"The Government," the former President continued, "has always found among the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy a spirit of patriotic cooperation to which homage is rendered. No one who properly comprehends the supreme interests of the nation would seek any end contrary to the Catholic faith that illumines our homes and which is an irreplaceable factor, not merely of spiritual dignity and moral force, but also of Colombian unity."

Catholic Action Day

Lima. On the Feast of St. Rose of Lima, the Young Women's Branch of Catholic Action observed its annual "Catholic Action Day." Official delegations from all parish centers received Holy Communion in a body and participated in a procession of the Blessed Sacrament.

A MISSIONARY MEETS HER MOTHER



Happening by at the precise moment a photographer caught this moving scene as Sister Mathew Marie Stapleton, just arrived home from the Maryknoll Missions in the Orient, was greeted by her mother, Mrs. Alice A. Stapleton of Milwaukee. (N.C.W.C.)

Nuns Distributing Blessed Sacrament In Japan Recall Early Days of Church

MARYKNOLL, N. Y. — (N. C.) — Dramatic experiences reminiscent of the early days of the Christian Church were enacted in Japanese territory last December, when five Maryknoll Sisters were accorded the rare privilege of distributing the Blessed Sacrament after their Bishops and priests had been taken into custody as a result of the declaration of war between the United States and Japan.

The five Sisters to whom this responsibility was delegated were Sister M. Lelia Makra of Cleveland, Sister M. Gabriella Mulhern, of Scranton, Sister M. Dominic Guldara, of Brooklyn, Sister M. Loyola Vollet, of St. Louis, and Sister M. Gregoria Fogarty of Chicago. The circumstances, as related by these Sisters recently returned to the United States aboard the repatriation ship, the SS. Gripsholm, varied in each of the missions involved.

Hurriedly taken from his house under heavy guard, Bishop Francis L. Lane of Fushun, Manchukuo, managed to get word to Sister Lelia, the convent Superior, to hurry to the mission gate. "You yourself are to distribute Holy Communion in the morning," were his instructions to her. Several Christians having heard the Bishop's message the news spread rapidly. The following morning there was quite a congregation at the church.

With her black woolen shawl for a humeral veil, Sister Lelia first brought the ciborium from the rectory chapel to the church. There she opened the main tabernacle. Sister Maria Thyne, R. N., of Arlington, Mass., served as acolyte, holding the communion plate while her Superior distributed the sacred Hosts first to the other Sisters and then to all who came to the altar rail. Meantime the native novices and postulants were waiting in the convent chapel, with their novice mistress, Sister Veronica Marie Carney, of Somerville, Mass. Opening this third tabernacle, Sister Lelia gave Holy Communion to Sister Maria, to the Novitiate and finally communicated herself.

Three miles away at Fushun Hope the police, upon taking the priests into custody as enemy aliens, turned over all keys to the Sisters. This happened in the evening. The following morning the church bell rang as usual. After the people had assembled, the catechist, in accordance of the pastor's instructions, announced that in the enforced absence of the priests there would be no Mass, but that Sister Dominic would distribute Holy Communion, which she did in the chapel of the native seminary.

When the priests in Yeng Yon, Korea, were taken into custody,

there were in the three chapels at the church rectory and convent, three ciboria with a total of about 500 Hosts consecrated in anticipation of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. Not given time to consume reverently such a large number of Hosts, the priests managed to bring all the ciboria to the convent chapel. The pastor's instructions were that the Sisters should consume the particles gradually from day to day, unless an emergency necessitated consuming all at once. For several days in succession Sister Gabriella distributed to each of the other two Sisters in this mission, and herself consumed a number of Hosts until the three ciboria had been emptied.

ALASKA MISSIONER URGES ALL PASTORS TO WRITE TO PARISHIONERS IN SERVICE

NEW YORK — From a lonely outpost in Alaska a chaplain has written to the Military Ordinate a plea for pastors to write to all their parishioners in the Armed Forces. The letter reads in part as follows:

"Is there some way of reaching every pastor in the United States to ask him to send at least a mimeographed letter to all his parishioners in the Armed Forces, telling them to attend Mass regularly to meet their Catholic chaplain, to be interested in the formation of a Holy Name Society, to go to the Sacraments often and to Holy Mass when they can to tell them that when they cannot go to Mass they should gather to say the rosary and read the Sunday Missal?"

"To my mind this is of the utmost importance. Many of our soldiers, sailors, marines and air corps men are in places where they have no Catholic chaplain. If the parish priest would show an interest in them, they would continue their interest in religion."

"Some parish priests are doing this. It gives the chaplain a thrill when a soldier comes up to him and says, 'Father, I received a letter from my pastor.' What usually follows is a conversation that gives this soldier a fresh grip on things spiritual."

Gentleman: One who is polite to you even when he has no favors to ask.