

Revision of Catholic School System In U.S. Studied By Educators

WASHINGTON, (NC)—A study looking to the reorganization of the American Catholic school system has been launched with a meeting of a special committee of the National Catholic Educational Association just held in New York City.

Trappe Family's Spirituality Hailed

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Home to the Trappe family must be a lively, lovely place. Forced in the beginning to do everything for themselves, the family has continued to do so; they live like an enterprising community, with duties for each. There is cooking, mending, sewing the beautiful costumes which they wear, mending shoes, farming, and all the home duties.

There are enough Trappes to form a good game of volleyball which everybody plays, including the Baroness and Dr. Wasner. They even have lively set-toss with girls of neighboring colleges!

And woven through all their life so closely that it is inseparable, is the thread of a living faith. This it is which shines through their singing and makes its lovely light. Christmas for the Trappe family has already begun. The Christmas wreath with four candles for each Sunday in Advent has been hung when they traveled by bus, the wreath used to go on tour! Now it is home with the three youngest members of the family.

There is an Advent candle, and the room where the Christ Child works all during Advent to make Christmas for good children is locked already. Not even the grown members of the family may enter only the parents who help presents for each other, Maria Him. But all are working on silk knitting a pretty white sock in the lobby of the Mark Twain Hotel, while Martina is sewing a leather book cover, and nobody dares ask for whom.

Baroness von Trappe speaks quietly of the empty crib which will be filled with straw by Christmas time one for each little sacrifice which somebody made for the sake of the small Child who will be there.

HOLIDAY ATTIRE

On Christmas Eve there is a festive table, and the girls don the they appear on stage their holiday white costumes in which they attire. All the young people go upstairs to pray the rosary together, while the parents light the candles downstairs. There is the sound of a little bell the announcement that the Christ Child has come.

"I used to think he really did," says Maria, "and I would go like this," and her mouth opened in awe, and she seemed intensely alert. And who will say that the Christ Child had not really come?

After that the secret room was opened and there was much giving of gifts and singing carols, while the youngest child stood up trembling in front of everybody to read the sweetest story the world has ever known, of a Child and His Virgin Mother. And what music must ring in the Christmas air when that family sings of the wonderful birth! Only one thing could be lovelier their singing of the Midnight Mass which follows.

It is of such delightful things as these that the girls talk, eyes shining with remembrance and anticipation, while their fingers move swiftly at their work, and they sit demurely in their long skirts. One can hardly believe that these are the people who have appeared with such outstanding success in Europe who appear for two nights in Town Hall in New York City with their Christmas program, whose conquest of hearts continue.

They are to appear soon again in the Rochester diocese, this time sponsored by St. Michael's Church in Rochester on Dec. 30. Following the performance in Mercy High School Auditorium, the Rev. Arthur Florack, pastor of St. Michael's Church, has made tentative plans for an old-fashioned German "at-home" in St. Michael's Hall. It should be a memorable occasion.

While it is emphasized that the committee exists only to study the entire question and to make recommendations, and that these recommendations may not be accepted by the N.C.E.A., nevertheless the undertaking of this work gives the first substance to a project which has been in the discussion stage since 1933.

The war has given a certain impetus to the study, authorities state but the whole undertaking is one of long standing. Underlying the study for reorganization is the deep-seated conviction on the part of some educators that American youths should complete their college work, and come to their professional or graduate studies, about two years earlier than they do now. Such acceleration presents special considerations in the Catholic field, of which minor and major seminaries are an integral part, since it will involve bringing young men to sacerdotal studies at an earlier age.

The value and necessity of reorganization was admitted by all of the members of the special committee, which also agreed that any reorganization should be on the basis of three levels—elementary, secondary, including the first two years of college, and higher, for professional specialization. There was general agreement it was said, that the present system is two years too long, that the present eight year elementary school should be retained, but that by rearrangement of the curriculum, provision be made whereby bright pupils could go through the entire elementary course in six or seven years, and finish secondary education at the age of 18 or 19.

Any plan for the reorganization of the American Catholic educational program, the Committee agreed, must

Make the greatest possible contribution to the glory of God and the sanctification of souls.

Harmonize most closely with the best Catholic and American traditions, and with the Bishops' Program for Citizenship.

Give rise to the least possible change in buildings, teaching staffs and curriculum.

Result in the best program educationally.

Result in the soundest plan financially.

The Rev. William F. Cunningham, C.S.C. of the Department of Education of the University of Notre Dame, is Chairman of the special committee.

'Uplifting' Says Newsmen of Retreat

MEMPHIS, Tenn.—I spent twelve hours in close communion with God, and I feel certain I will be a better man, a better Christian, and a better citizen for the experience.

Thus wrote Clark Potocous, non-Catholic writer on the Memphis Press-Scimitar, following a retreat he attended sponsored by the Archbishop Stritch Council of the Knights of Columbus, in the Christian Brothers college here. The Most Rev. William L. Adrian, Bishop of Nashville, conducted the retreat.

Has Stories In Cathedral Reader

Among distinguished authors whose works are included in the second-semester second-grade book, "More Friends and Neighbors" of the New Cathedral Basic Readers is Miss Blanche J. Thompson of Rochester.

Other noted authors included in the readers published by Scott Foresman and Company are Joan Windham, Alice Dalgliesh, May Hill Arbutnot, Maud Monahan, Catherine Beebe, Mary F. Windatt, Father Herbst and Hilda von Stockum.

The stories have been culled from the rich field of children's literature, and the galaxy of writers represented there is one of the finest groups ever assembled in a

SCOUTS BUILD ALTAR FOR SERVICE CAMP



Photographed at the Catholic Youth Organization, in New York, Rev. Joseph J. Tennant (right), Assistant Chancellor of the Army-Navy Diocese, is shown accepting the altar which was made for a service camp by Boy Scouts of Troops 613 and 611, while Rev. Thomas J. McNulty, area scout chaplain for the Manhattan Council, smiles approvingly. Left to right are Scouts Cyril Kelly, John Gray and John Sullivan. (N.C.W.C.)

BISHOP ASSIGNS PRIESTS TO SERVE POLISH TROOPS

NEW YORK—Organization of some pastoral care for Polish troops in Soviet Russia was accomplished by the Most Rev. Joseph Gawling, Field Bishop of the Polish Armed Forces. His Excellency reported upon arrival in Jerusalem from his trip to Soviet Russia, according to KAP Polish Catholic press agency here.

The Bishop's general purpose was to organize church and religious life in keeping with the Polish-Soviet agreement of July, 1941, under which Polish citizens in the USSR were to be given religious liberty. Fifty-five priests have been assigned to minister to the spiritual needs of Polish troops in Russia.

Report 600 Serbian Orthodox Priests Shot

LISBON—A total of 600 Serbian Orthodox priests have been shot by Hungarian invaders of Yugoslavia, according to information received here from a reliable source.

The same source says that resistance to the German-Hungarian forces in Yugoslavia continues.

Soldiers Appreciate Mass

BRISBANE, Australia. Writing from New Guinea to the Catholic Leader, official organ of the Archdiocese of Brisbane, a soldier who is a member of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul, and who before he went away was a daily Mass-goer tells of the way in which the Mass is appreciated on the battle front.

"I have served Mass in some strange places since I have been away," he writes. "You would hardly believe some of the situations unless you were actually present. Our chaplains are equipped by the Catholic United Serv-

Girls In CYO Activities Carry On Varied Program

Signs of progress in the development of the activities program for the Catholic Youth Organization of Elmira, under the direction of Mrs. W. Joseph Dowdle, are already evident.

Plans for the organization of a Girls' Basketball League were formulated at a meeting held at St. Peter & Paul's Church Hall on Thursday, Nov. 10. Of the Seventh and Eighth Grade girls who attended, only five had ever handled a basketball. They were given the "feel" of the ball immediately, practicing standing and running shots, foul shots and dribbling. Dodge ball was also a feature. As soon as the high school girls are registered, the league will be formed on a basis of parish teams.

The craft class got under way Wednesday, Nov. 18, when 50 young people attended the first meeting. Within two weeks, they had finished ornaments of turkeys

and cornucopias for Thanksgiving at St. Joseph's Hospital. Future projects of Christmas gifts for parents, such as plaster of Paris religious plaques and Santa Claus models, wooden scrapbooks and basketry work are also in the making. Airplane models will be another phase of the work. Mrs. John Ronan and Mrs. John Dowdle are assisting in this activity.

Youthful dancers anticipate a Christmas party tentative plans for which were discussed at a meeting of the recreation committee of the Ladies of Charity held in the Federation Building on Wednesday Dec. 2. Meantime the weekly Friday night dances continue at Columbus Center.

CYO Touch-Football

St. Cecilia's Touchfootball team now have permanent possession of the Duncan trophy for touchfootball, won by repeating their former success in winning the championship of

the league for two years in succession. The season was extremely successful from a competitive standpoint, as St. Cecilia's and St. Mary's ran a very close race, especially in the second round. Final league standings at the close of the second round were as follows:

	Won	Lost
St. Cecilia's	7	0
St. Mary's	5	2
St. Patrick's	5	2
St. Casimir's	4	3
St. Anthony's	4	3
Our Lady of Lourdes	3	4

St. Peter and Paul's Teams and St. Charles Borromeo did not compete because of transportation difficulty and lack of a team representative in the League. Their games were designated as forfeit.

Several members of the CYO teams are represented on Championship Team of the Elmira Junior High School Touch Football League, the George M. Diven Eleven. They are Dan Savino, Tom Polovick, Mike Skordynski and Don Coleman.

'Spiritual Goldrush' In African Vicariate

LONDON. Reporting the return of German missionaries to the Vicariate of Mindhoek, Southwest Africa, by permission of the British authorities who for a time interned them, Vatican Radio, in a broadcast to this country, said that a "spiritual goldrush" is in progress there. This is a phenomenon peculiar to Africa, the announcer explained, and it marks the coming of a new era.

MINOR CONVENTUAL GENERAL RECEIVED BY HOLY FATHER

VATICAN CITY. His Holiness Pope Pius XII granted private audiences on Monday to the Most Rev. Bede Heas, Minister General of the Friars' Minor Conventuals, General Ernesto Gaviria, Colombia's Charge d'Affaires at the Holy See, and Arturo Borrero Bustamante, Ecuador's Charge d'Affaires to