

Nazi Schools Endanger Religion Of Children Warns German Prelate

VATICAN CITY—The perils to the religion of school children under the Nazi educational system are warned against in a pastoral letter which German bishops have addressed to their priests and people.

The Most Rev. Joseph Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, emphasizing the importance of religious education has stated that, generally speaking, pupils are no longer permitted to teach in the public schools. When they are allowed to teach, the pastoral says, their work is restricted to an absolute minimum.

The Archbishop declares that the Church loses control over the spirit with which religious instruction is imparted in the schools, and he announces, therefore, the institution of special parochial courses to be given semi-weekly. He calls upon parents to remember their duty to send their children to these instructions.

In another pastoral letter, issued at Christmas time, Archbishop Frings treats of the war question. He says in part:

"We can only guess what God intends when within one generation He sends us two such terrible wars. Perhaps He wishes to teach us that neither the so-called progress of civilization nor the doctrine of the superman will give men and the world happiness and prosperity, and that the world will grow more and more unhappy as it draws away from Him and from the blessings of Divine Revelation. If the world would recover, it must willingly return to the doctrine of Him Who is born today in Bethlehem."

The Most Rev. Conrad Groeber, Archbishop of Freiburg im Breisgau, declared that the entire earthly life of Christ gave testimony in favor of peace, in open contrast to the anxiety over existence now gripping humanity.

"Christ recognized as the only absolutely necessary war," Archbishop Groeber said, "that which man wages against the passions to obtain spiritual peace in time and eternity. In that sense, one understands the words 'I have come to bring not peace but the sword.'"

In contradistinction are the words 'All that take the sword shall perish by the sword.' These latter words have no spiritual significance, and must be understood in that sense. Almost every attack can bring, as a consequence, a defense which often is dangerous if not mortal. This holds true, likewise, of an unjust war declared without reason that causes the disappearance from earth of entire races and peoples."

Archbishop Groeber observed that if inferior war were waged within themselves by all Christians there would be far less reason for exterior wars.

Discussion On Rome Bombing Possibility Finds Vatican Silent

VATICAN CITY. (C.N.C. Radio) — Remarks attributed to Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden of England in recent days have recalled to attention the subject of the aerial bombardment of Rome, but the Vatican maintains an absolute reserve and all signs indicate its attitude on the question is unchanged.

Mr. Eden has been quoted as saying Prime Minister Churchill had made it plain that "we have as much right to bomb Rome as the Italians had to bomb London, and we should not hesitate to do so to the best of our ability and as heavily as possible if the course of the war should render such action convenient and helpful."

No precautions whatever have been taken against air raids either in Vatican City itself or in Vatican buildings located in the City of Rome.

Meanwhile, it is noted here that the matter is now interesting to the German propaganda agencies, Berlin's *Europasender Kulturdienst*, commenting on *Osservatore Romano's* quotation of an article in the *Lausanne Tribune* regarding the gravity of a bombardment directed against Rome, asserts that Anglo-Saxons will ignore the desire to have Rome spared, and accuses English Catholics of failure effectively to defend the sacred character of Rome.

There has been considerable comment on this subject in the *Swiss press*. *Basler Nachrichten*, referring to recent rumors regarding Vatican efforts to sound out the belligerents regarding the sparing of Rome says "not only persons with religious sentiments but also all who love culture and have the regard for the destiny of irreplaceable values that they have for human right would warmly welcome any such effort."

1,000,000 JEWS SLAIN

London — Further information concerning the extermination of Jews by the Germans in Poland has been made public by the Polish Government-in-Exile here. More than 1,000,000 Jews have been executed since the German occupation of Poland, it was stated.

Pastoral Hailed



Most Rev. Konrad Count von Freysing, Bishop of Berlin, whose courageous Pastoral Letter denouncing racism and the totalitarian State has received wide acclaim. (N.C.W.C. Photo.)

Daring Bishop's Defy Wins Plaudits of U. S. Lutheran Clergy, Rabbi

WASHINGTON—Two Lutheran clergymen and a Jewish Rabbi in the Nation's Capital have issued statements in praise of the courageous Pastoral Letter of the Most Rev.

Konrad Count von Freysing, Bishop of Berlin, who devoted his Christmas message to a denunciation of the attempts of the totalitarian State to wipe out individual rights.

The German prelate's message also was acclaimed by the Very Rev. Ignatius Smith, O.P., Dean of the School of Philosophy of the Catholic University of America.

Characterizing the pastoral as "a bold, clear statement," the Rev. Gerald Wenschel, pastor of Grace Lutheran Church, said:

"Bishop von Freysing of the Roman Catholic Church in Germany has not only stated the position of his own Church ever and against the worse-than-heathen philosophy and actions of Nazism, but also of all the Lutheran churches of the world."

"We can thank God," he stated, "that the Bishop of Berlin has made this bold pronouncement at this time when the voices of the Confessional Lutheran churches of Germany apparently have been crushed into silence."

Asserting that the action of Bishop von Freysing "bespeaks a heroism that will be copied by all men everywhere," Dr. J. Harold Mumper, pastor of the Keller Memorial Lutheran Church, said:

"The spirit of Bishop von Freysing, and that of certain leaders of the confessional church, notably the Rev. Martin Niemöller, will doubtless inspire thousands with the same spirit of obedience to God rather than to men. It is a spirit that no temporal power or force of arms can conquer. Neither it is the spirit of Christ and of the brotherhood of man which He came to establish upon earth and about which He declared, 'The gates of hell shall not prevail against it.'"

Rabbi Solomon H. Metz, of the Adas Israel Congregation, said: "I was thrilled when I read the words of Bishop von Freysing, addressed to Hitler."

"It reminded me of the prophets of Israel, thundering their challenge in the face of tyrannical kings. It also heartened me beyond words that in spite of the generation of Nazi pagan racialism, the crusading and militant spirit of justice and truth is still afoot, even in the land of the Nazis."

Father Smith, commending the Pastoral, said: "If the citizens of this nation needed any assurance that our war is a crusade for the destruction of infidels who despise the rights of God and man, they have it in the message of the Bishop of Berlin."

"The Christmas message of Bishop von Freysing coincides in basic principles with the worldwide Christmas message of Pope Pius XII. Both echo the principles of the Gospel of Jesus Christ—the principles of liberty, genuine brotherhood and peace."

Bishops Authorize New Testament Translation

LONDON.—In one week 2,000 readers of the *Universe* promised to purchase copies of Msgr. Ronald Knox's "trial edition" of his new translation of the New Testament, thus guaranteeing its publication. Msgr. Knox asked for 1,000 promises to purchase. The "trial edition" has been authorized by the Bishops of England and Wales.

the mud and rain to go to confession. Standing in the rain to attend Mass is no longer a novelty. During the Season of Advent we formed an active Holy Name Society consisting of 1,500 men. These men have publicly promised to receive Holy Communion on the second Sunday of each month and to live up to the high ideals of this society."

North Africa

"The winter has really set in here, and although it is only moderately cold, it is still raining in heavy downpours," writes the Rev. William J. Moran, of the Archdiocese of San Francisco, now an Army chaplain.

"However, of all the monsoons I have been on, and of all the time I have been overseas, the set-up here for carrying on the chaplain's work is the best. It seems that one has actually to get into the war zone to get things done satisfactorily."

"I have made a chapel out of a large wall tent, with a fly extension, and there we have Mass every morning. The men have made an altar, platform, altar railings, candles and I have plenty of supplies. On Sundays our new choir sings during the entire two Masses. On New Year's Day we started a Novena to the Little Flower, and we are hoping to complete it before anything interferes. However, we have a plan for knocking down the whole chapel, so we can be on our way

'ROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CHAPLAINS

Chaplain Makes Warm Report on Christmas at Top of the World — Alaska.

Faith of U. S. Soldiers in Middle East Called 'Marvelous' in Chaplain's Report.

Daily Visits of Soldiers to Blessed Sacrament Thrills Personnel of Air Base.

Weather Report from North Africa: Moderately Cold; Rain, Mud and Plenty of It.

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

Alaska

We don't know who he is. The report was signed "Chaplain—," but it contained a heart-stirring story of how he administered to the boys in khaki as well as the boys in blue in Alaska at Christmas.

"At 9:30 P. M. Christmas Eve, I started to hear Confessions, while my clerk and a few other boys began to decorate the theater for Midnight Mass. They covered the screen with stars, placed four Christmas trees in front of it, then the altar. On the altar were the only two poinsettias to be had in the neighborhood. They looked grand. There were 190 confessions all told. At 12 the choir began to sing Christmas hymns. At 1:15 everything was over. I went to bed at 2:30. Later I went over to the Navy where there were some Catholic boys in one of the barracks (quarantined with measles). They didn't expect me, but hustled around and got the altar set up.

while I heard confessions right out in the open.

"The boys certainly professed their faith. I was edified. My clerk had brought the altar, crib and decorations and it looked swell when I approached the altar to say Mass. They were tickled when I told them they could all receive Communion. When it was over they crowded around to tell how grateful they were that I came. Their joy they had expressed during the Mass by the way they sang the Christmas hymns. I got warm around the eyes more than once. . . . After taking a bite, I went with my clerk in a command car loaded down with presents for boys who hadn't received anything from home."

Middle East

The Rev. Edward J. Farley, of the Diocese of Brooklyn, now on duty as an Army chaplain, reports the work of the "boys" in fixing up "their little chapels" is so encouraging that he wouldn't be surprised if "some of these days they will be building cathedrals for us," says Father Farley.

"The work out here is a bit heavy, but never so much so that we couldn't take on a bit more. We do have a little church of our own, where we have the Blessed Sacrament always with us now, and when we get a humeral veil we will have Benediction. We have a goodly number of daily Masses held each weekday at 5 P. M. Sundays are rough, as I say Mass here at 6:30 and 8:30, then travel about 25 miles, hear Confessions and say my third Mass about 11:15, then 25 miles back to eat. It means a headache once a week, but what is that among friends. It is marvelous to see the faith of these boys. They fix up their little chapels with all the trimmings during their spare time and out of their own pockets. Some one of these days they will be building cathedrals for us."

Lockbourne Air Base, O.

"The greatest reward and thrill for the long hours put into fixing up the chapel is the ever-increasing number of boys who 'drop in' for a visit to the Blessed Sacrament throughout the day. Attendance at Mass is on the increase though it will be what it should be only when we get a Holy Name movement under way and avail ourselves of the Catholic Action of the better boys, who alone can draw in the lax soldiers through their everyday contacts." Thus reports the Rev. Constantine E. Zelinski, O.M.C., of the chaplains corps.

Southwest Pacific

The Rev. John E. Leonard, a chaplain from the Diocese of Brooklyn, reports: "During the last few months it has not been possible to conduct devotions at night. Most of my men are spread over a large area. This has necessitated my spending most of my time in a jeep, going from one group to another, hearing confessions at night and saying Mass the following morning. It has been an inspiration to

AT BOYS TOWN 'DOWN UNDER'



Some 60 new, young Australian boys make up the population of "Boys Town" at Engadine, New South Wales, under the guidance of the De La Salle Brothers. Brother Alban is pictured instructing