

Family Prayer Urged By Pope For Relief From World Sorrows

VATICAN CITY—Taking "Prayer" for his subject Saturday, when he delivered his traditional discourse to the pastors and Lenten preachers of the churches of the City of Rome.

His Holiness Pope Pius XII emphasized their duty to preach the return of Sunday as the Lord's Day of Prayer, devout assistance at Mass as the center of Christian life, frequent reception of the Sacraments, and the formation of groups of men and women to receive Holy Communion monthly for their own sanctification and the sanctification of others.

Avers French Soldiers Denied Sacraments in Nazi Prison Camps

LONDON (NC)—While a certain amount of religious freedom prevails in the German prisoners of war camps for French officers, there are some men confined in the camps for rank and file French soldiers who have been unable to receive the sacraments since the Battle of France.

This is what a recently released French officer detailed in an account of his camp experiences published in *La Vie Militaire*.

The officer related that the Pope's Nuncio is not allowed to visit the "stalags," or the camps for the rank and file soldiers are called. In each of the camps for officers, called Oflag, the account stated, there is a chaplain-general, who is a voluntary prisoner.

Each group of four blocks of buildings wherein the prisoners are housed constitutes a parish, which has its own religious life, and is in charge of a priest-prisoner who is responsible to the chaplain-general.

One hut, measuring 10 meters by 20, is permanently reserved for religious purposes; half of it, holding some 500 men, serves as a chapel, where the Blessed Sacrament is reserved, while the other half is used variously as a sacristy, a chapel for Protestant services, and a meeting place for societies. Each priest says Mass daily and every Mass is well attended, and on Sundays there is a Solemn High Mass at 7 o'clock at which the camp's school provides the Gregorian chant.

But according to a report in *La Croix*, which quoted the Vatican radio one-third of the French prisoners are unable to fulfil their religious duties.

ARMY CHAPLAIN ORGANIZES HOLY NAME SOCIETY AT NORTH AFRICAN POST

EAST ST. LOUIS, Ill.—How a Catholic chaplain somewhere in North Africa encourages his boys to join the Holy Name Society, and receive Holy Communion on the second Sunday of each month is told in a letter received here by Mr. and Mrs. Chester A. Carthy.

The letter from Chaplain Cecil T. Houle, gives news of their son, Pvt. Richard H. Carthy.

Chaplain Houle tells how, in order to induce the Catholic soldiers under his care to receive the Sacraments regularly, he had designated the second Sunday of each month, Holy Name Sunday, as the special Communion Sunday.

"After preaching and talking about it for some time," he writes, "I am happy to report that our first Holy Name Sunday was a great success. I promised each one who went to Confession and Holy Communion that I would write a personal letter to his parents and that is the purpose of this letter."

Scapular Bureau

New York—Founded to meet the growing demand for authoritative Scapular information, facilities, literature and other Scapular needs, the Scapular Bureau conducted by the Carmelite Fathers of New York in conjunction with the National Shrine of Our Lady of the Scapular celebrated its first year of service on Feb. 15. The bureau is an auxiliary of the Scapular Militia, established two years ago, to provide a Scapular and medal for every Catholic serviceman.

Cause Promoted



His Holiness Pope Pius XII, from an old photograph taken in the Vatican Gardens. Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York, in a letter to Pope Pius XII, has expressed his gratitude for the recent introduction of the cause for the beatification of Pius X. Felici photo. (N.C.W.C.)

Pope Pius urged a reawakening of the faithful to the plain practice of family prayer, stressing their special need today, when spiritual stability and the virtue, faith and innocence of children—the most precious possessions of a family—are so endangered.

The Holy Father concluded with an exhortation to priests to give the example of prayer before the tabernacle, and declared that self-abnegation, penance and charity to neighbor are dispositions assuring praying well.

His Holiness asked, for the Church and for humanity, that the prayers and sacrifices of the faithful be united with all the sufferings afflicted the world in these sad times, and that they be offered up with faith that the Omnipotent Christ will calm the tempest, as He did for the Apostles crying out "Master, we perish," at the time appointed.

Recalling the tradition of prayer that has been associated with the City of Rome from the earliest days of Christianity, Pope Pius XII lamented the fact that, in modern times, prayer is increasingly excluded from public life; that there is a separation of religious practice from civil, professional and social life.

His Holiness urged the pastors and Lenten preachers to teach the conviction that prayer is a duty and also an obligation and honor ennobling man. He said prayer holds first place in man's cooperation with the work of salvation, and that without prayer no one would be able long to observe the law of God.

Referring to those who seem to be Christians on Sunday, but who give no evidence of their religion or Christianity the rest of the week, Pope Pius said this is the effect of the laicism of public life, against which the Church has always been opposed.

This state is impossible for those for whom prayer has become second nature, their daily bread, His Holiness declared. They, he said, act according to the norm of Divine Law in all circumstances, constituting an elevating ferment for the renewal of the world in the spirit of Christ.

Finland Fights Solely To Maintain Frontiers Vatican Writer States

VATICAN CITY—Finland in her recent and present wars has always declared herself fighting solely for the attainment and consolidation of her frontiers of 1939, without any territorial ambitions. This contention is supported by the fact that she has not permanently absorbed territory occupied beyond her frontiers for 1939, it is asserted in an article that has appeared in *Observatore Romano*, the Vatican City daily. The article is headed with the initials "F. C."

It is noted in the article that Finland has always maintained from adherence to peace with groups of nations, this fact allowing her greater freedom in her political activities.

As a result of this situation, the writer continues, this country now finds itself in a position that does not alienate the sympathy of the Anglo-Saxon powers, and especially of the United States. The article then refers to "considerable talk" in the newspapers of the possibility of improvement in the diplomatic relations between the governments of the United States and Finland, which have never been severed despite the strain of the war.

Finland's attitude is a continuation, says the writer, of its political line followed perseveringly.

which is the maintenance of friendly relations with all nations, with the hope of guarding and maintaining peace in justice.

On the occasion of the anniversary of Finland's independence, in December, *Observatore Romano* carried an article by U. Serravallo reviewing the religious history of Finland. Discussing the cultural and economic life of Finland, the Vatican City daily writer said:

"This Finland has become one of the most progressive and civilized nations of Europe. She can look back with confidence; she merits, through her probity, intelligence and industry, the confidence of all, having no other ambition than to live her life as a Nordic queen in those far regions, in harmony with her neighbors. Faith in a sense of justice, conforming to the precepts of the human conscience illuminated by the light of the Gospel, fidelity to the principles of the old moral and political theory—these are what sustain Finland in her present state."

Barney Ross Wearing Catholic Medal Praises Navy's Fr. Gehring, Donor

SAN DIEGO—When Barney Ross, the former lightweight and welterweight boxing champion of the world, came back from Guadalcanal after teaching the Japanese a few lessons about "scrapping" as a corporal in the United States Marines, he brought back with him a wealth of unstinted praise for a Catholic Navy chaplain and wore about his neck a Catholic medal.

The chaplain is the Rev. Frederic P. Gehring, C.M., who also has drawn laurels from his fellow chaplains, both Catholic and Protestant alike, in letters they sent back home. (Father Gehring, a Vincentian priest, is widely known in Rochester diocese.)

Corporal Ross, who is a patient in the Naval Hospital here, recovering from malaria and wounds

he received in the tropical island, said "all the men there would gladly cut off their arms and legs for Father Gehring." The former pugilist called on the Most Rev. Charles F. Buddy, Bishop of San Diego, to pour out his words of praise for Father Gehring.

During the audience, Bishop Buddy noticed Corporal Ross wore a Catholic medal about his neck and asked:

"How is it a Jewish boy like you is wearing a Catholic medal?"

"Father Gehring blessed this medal for me and I wear it on the same chain as my own Jewish medal, my Merit Medal," Corporal Ross replied. "I believe in it, too. I was pretty well shocked, was muddy, blue and melancholy at the time of my injury, when Father Gehring gave it to me. I give Father Gehring all the credit for my recovery."

Corporal Ross related countless little things which Father Gehring performed for his men, which endeared him to them—things like

arranging with the Red Cross to lend them money when pay was late, getting messages back home when it seemed impossible, bringing back cigarettes, pipes, tobacco and other articles for the sick on his visits to "civilization."

Everybody comes to him with their troubles," Corporal Ross related. "He had fellows in his home sometimes up to one and two in the morning. He had a chance to be evacuated between Christmas and New Year, and wouldn't leave the island until another chaplain replaced him."

Under Father Gehring's chaplaincy on the island, the number of services has increased noticeably, Corporal Ross said at one Sunday Mass more than 500 were present. At Christmas Midnight Mass a lone Japanese plane flew over and dropped bombs, but not a man left the service, the former champion boxer said, and also told how he played the organ at the Mass.

FRENCH CARDINAL AT VATICAN



Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris, is pictured on the occasion of his recent visit to Vatican City. He is shown with M. Bernard, French Ambassador to the Holy See. The photo was taken on the roof of Santa Marta, residence of diplomats. (N.C.W.C.)

Madame Chiang Kai Shek's Admiration For Catholic Missionaries' Work Revealed

NEW YORK—Madame Chiang Kai-Shek, now in this country on a nationwide tour, is a great admirer of the work of the Catholic missionaries. So says Rev. John J. Considine, Maryknoll's Assistant General, in his recent book "Across a World."

Father Considine quotes the following statement given by Madame Chiang Kai-Shek to a group of Irish Jesuits in China:

"To the 400,000,000 Catholics scattered throughout the world, it must be a vital concern to know what your missionaries have accomplished at the front, in the rear, in Free China, or in Japanese-occupied areas. They have not accepted the facile passivity of inaction, on the contrary they have hurled themselves unflinchingly and with consecrated zeal into the task of alleviating pain and misery, both physical and spiritual.

"Large numbers of Catholic missionaries, at the risk of their own lives, have protected refugees and preserved the honor of terrified and helpless women, who ran into Catholic compounds when the Japanese military approached. Other Catholic missionaries devoted themselves to the rescue and care of innocent and bewildered children caught in the whirlwind of war. Others, with undaunted courage, continued educational work among the stricken and destitute. In all that they are doing, they have shown the quality of mercy which blesses him that gives and him that receives. In deed and in spirit, their all-embracing

charity is like manna dropped in the way of a starved people. Their life of self-denial and inner discipline has proved to be a source of inspiring courage to all those whom they serve and with whom they suffer."

Bishop Yu Pin Postpones U. S. Visit

CHUNGKING—A visit to the United States which he was to have begun yesterday has been postponed by the Most Rev. Paul Yu Pin, Vicar Apostolic of Nanking.

The 61-year-old Bishop Yu Pin, who was named Vicar Apostolic of Nanking at the age of 35, is well known in the United States. In December, 1937, Bishop Yu Pin arrived in the United States by way of Europe, for an extended visit, which included the Rochester diocese. Last summer he broadcast an address to the United States from Chungking. Last fall it was revealed that when Wendell L. Wilkie was in China Bishop Yu Pin accompanied him on his visit of the Yellow River front at Tungkuan.