

Nazis Crush Church In Poland, Swiss Weekly Paper Learns

LONDON (NC)—Lengthy and "shocking" details of the extent which the Germans have gone to deprive Poles of the solace of their Catholic religion were detailed in an article published in the *Ostschweizer*, well-known Swiss weekly, according to advices received here by I.A.P. Polish Catholic Press Agency.

More than 25,000,000 Poles are members of the Church, the article said, and "as in all persecutions of Christians, excuses are put forward, that the persecutors maintain that the persecution is not directed against Catholics as such, but because the Catholics in question had a political aim, the preservation of their own nationality," and in order "to provide some support for this claim attempts are made, in some cases at least, to treat Catholics in Poland who are not Poles with forbearance."

Two systems of persecution, average and total, have been employed by the Nazis in Poland, the article related, and listed among the total persecution methods the following:

Compulsory measures against bishops; subjecting to control their relations with their flock and with the Holy See, closely watching their activities and placing obstacles in the way of diocesan visits.

Terror measures against the clergy; everywhere priests have been shot, arrested and deported, and there is not a Polish diocese in which priests have not been executed.

Restrictions against religious Orders and congregations; in every Polish diocese religious houses have been closed, their members imprisoned, deported and slain.

Restrictions against seminaries; even where seminaries are permitted to operate, novices may not be accepted.

Closing of the four Catholic theological faculties at the Polish universities and also the University of Lublin, while the once obligatory teaching of catechism in schools have been abolished.

Suppression of the entire Catholic Press, newspapers, magazines, reviews and other publications.

Foes Of Church Seen Back Of Vatican Relief Obstacles

VATICAN CITY (NC)—Grave difficulties are hindering the efforts of the Holy See in behalf of the victims of war, it is indicated in the May issue of *Ecclasia*, the review published by the Vatican Office of Information. The article is entitled "If the Pope Wishes."

Without speaking of personal hostility deriving from doctrinal arguments or polemics, the *Ecclasia* article says, "it must inevitably be recognized that many obstacles to the charitable activity of the Sovereign Pontiff are attributable to a lack of good will. Other difficulties are entirely objective and derive from international conventions and regulations regarding this delicate matter. Without entering into a discussion of the merits of these conventions and regulations, it must be noted that in many, too many, cases they easily serve to oppose and frustrate the work of His Holiness for war victims."

The article tends to clarify the fact that the Pope is doing all that is possible to alleviate the suffering and mitigate the horrors of war.

"Who could imagine that the Pope remained, or is remaining, impassible or hesitant in the face of such tragedy, especially the sacrifice of human lives, not only on the battlefields but also in the heart of peace-loving cities, carrying destruction into homes, hospitals, churches, and schools, and wiping out historic works of art, treasures of labor, and the beauty of civilization?" the article asks. "When, sooner or later, it will be possible to publish documents of this war, one alone in the world—by the common testimony of belligerents and neutrals—will appear as the master and apostle of a just, equitable, reasonable and civilized peace—the Pope."

Of a semi-official character, the article is regarded as a reply to the accusation of those who are saying the Pope not only has not done enough for peace and relief, but that in fact he is being "used" for the prolongation of the conflict.

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Latest and one of the most impressive bits of evidence is the testimony of *Ecclasia*, a review published by the Office of Information at the Vatican, that difficulties of many kinds are being put in the way of His Holiness Pope Pius XII's unselfish efforts to bring relief to war sufferers wherever he can. It is this testimony, which must be considered as grave, that helps to make the other pieces of evidence fit in. It indicates that the attempts to strip the Church of prestige have run so low as to interfere with assistance in the cases of thousands upon thousands of the war's victims. No matter how serious the consequences, the relief shall not be given, if the Catholic Church is to receive any credit for the giving.

Plan Extended. "This is not an idle fear, students of the matter say. It is not the seeing of ghosts behind every tree. These restrictive efforts have as contemporaries the vicious accusations to the effect that the Pope has done nothing to promote peace; that he is actually being "used" to make the war last longer.

The whole plan goes a step farther. These accusations are used, Vatican sources say, "in anti-religious propaganda of obscure origins which is increasing alarmingly in Europe." As part of this movement, youths are given cash awards for the demonstration of proficiency in blaspheming. Those who have turned from this vicious blasphemy-promoting business are unable to identify those who are at the bottom of it. Because of the very nature of the thing, it has been said that the organization is apparently "cellular" in character.

It is recalled at once, of course, that the words "cell" and "cellular" have their most frequent use in connection with the spread of Communism. Communist "cells" have been the instrument and the secret of the "boring from within" strategy the world over.

This, of course, is only one element in the program of discrediting the Church which observers here are being waged. In itself, however, it is very wide and extremely deep. It involves disruptive attempts against essential charities, a whispering campaign against the Pope, and an attack upon the Church in general—the whole being tied together with threads that cannot be seen.

Here at home the "line" of action is somewhat different, but of a whole with the pattern discernible throughout the world. In short it is this: to single out and concentrate on certain individuals, nations or causes unrelenting efficiency, and then associate the Catholic Church with that person, that nation or that cause. This criticism may be disparaging or subtle. A favorite trick seems to be to make something appear "undemocratic." For that reason, it is condemned as low and mean. It cannot be regarded as an accident that almost invariably this "undemocratic" agency turns out

Move To Discredit Church By Smearing Relief Work Widens

By ELMER MURPHY

WASHINGTON (NC)—Piecing together the bits of evidence that have come to hand in great number and variety, observers here believe they can now outline the shape of a deliberate plan to discredit the Catholic Church as far as possible in the present war situation.

The growing attack they point out, cannot be explained away with the simple statement that the Church has always had her opponents—and opponents. This, they insist, is not mere divergence on a doctrinal point, nor even the misguided fulminations of a tyrant in a relatively restricted area. It is rather, they say, a systematic, implacable opposition that seems to be bred of the fear that the Church will stand out at the end of this war more influential than ever.

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to be opposing Russian communism. Several publications, notably two magazines, have been leaders in following this "line." Their observers say, is the subtle approach. If one were to attempt to take them to task for what they print, they probably would answer: "We don't accuse anybody of anything." Yet, hardly anybody could read the treatment these magazines give certain persons, movements or nations without the subject "appearing in a bad light." And, somewhere down in the article, or by means of a photograph, the subject is tied unmistakably with the Catholic Church. The result is that, with the unthinking reader, the Catholic Church is "put in a bad light."

There is seen in this the subtlety of the plan. It makes one who objects to it look silly. But little by little, these articles put over the idea.

Radio Being Used. It is not the magazines alone that have been supporting this "line" of attack, observers insist. They point to the outpourings of some rather well-known "pink" commentators on the radio. Listen to them with a critical ear. They say, and you'll hear the same tactic that you see followed in print.

It should be borne in mind, observers point out, that the Catholic Church had more than a normal number of enemies when the second World War came to engage the attention of the nation. They were implacable, and there was no reason to believe they would do more than "lie low" while the war was in progress. But apparently, it is believed, they—or others like them—have come to the conclusion that it is dangerous to their purpose to hold their fire until the war is over. They see the Church coming into a more favorable light everywhere.

What, then, to do. A frontal attack on the Church might prove a boomerang. But, an attack must be made. If it can be made subtly, well and good. It might even be made in such a way that unthinking persons would not believe it was being made. Like a pat on the back, the blow could be effective if delivered "soon enough, frequently enough, and low enough."

Named Archbishop Of Salzburg

VATICAN CITY. — The Most Rev. Andrew Rohrer, Titular Bishop of Ibsa and Vicar Capitular of the Diocese of Gurk, has been named Archbishop of Salzburg. It is announced in *Osservatore Romano*.

The filling of two Metropolitan Sees in Hungary is also announced. The Most Rev. Julius Csapik, Bishop of Veszprem, has been named Archbishop of Eger (Agria), and the Most Rev. Joseph Groz, Bishop of Szombathely (Salaria), has been named Archbishop of Kalocsa.

Mass For Jesuits Slain By Japanese

MONTREAL.—A Solemn Requiem Mass was held at the Immaculate Conception Church here for the repose of the souls of the three French-Canadian Jesuits recently killed in Japanese-occupied China.

The victims of the Japanese were: The Revs. Alphonse Dube, Prosper Bernard and Armand LeLonde.

Warns Nation Of Preferring Pleasure To Sacrifice

BUENOS AIRES (NC)—Biology proves that nations which prefer pleasure to sacrifice become extinct, the *Rev. Magr. Chastavo J. Franceschi* says in the widely-circulated weekly *Cherito*, of which he is Director. The individual and social effects of birth control, which he describes as "a rebellion against a divine precept" and an effort to "substitute for the Omnipotent" and become "masters of the life and death of future generations"—are presented as very grave, but even graver "from the supernatural viewpoint."

Citing the fact that "the family with less than three children is destined to disappear," Monsignor Franceschi says that statistics for the Province of Cordoba show that 68.13 per cent of 4,019 families considered, do not come within the indicated limit, and 26.97 per cent have no offspring.

The statistics for Buenos Aires, Rosario and Santa Fe, he adds, are even worse, and "births are inversely proportionate to wealth" since "the proletarian classes have more children than the middle classes, and the latter more than the wealthy class." In the center of Buenos Aires, he adds, there are not enough children to keep the primary schools up to normal enrollment, and "tomorrow soldiers will be lacking to defend the territory and maintain internal peace if this should become necessary in these turbulent times."

Those who would attribute the drop in the birthrate to purely economic causes, he points out, "do not explain why it is precisely the well-off families that have the fewer offspring." The real causes, he deduces, are primarily of a moral order.

Daughter of Italian Prince Receives First Communion from Pope

VATICAN CITY. — At the request of the parents, His Holiness Pope Pius XII administered Confirmation and First Holy Communion to Princess Maria Pia, eldest daughter of Italy's Prince of Piedmont, on May 10. Present at the ceremonies were the parents, His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, and other notables.

New Bishop of Mysore Is Native of India

MYSORE, India. — Transferred from the Diocese of Guntur, the Most Rev. Thomas Pothakamury has taken charge of the Diocese of Mysore, the first India-born prelate to govern the bishopric. In the comparatively short time that he governed the Diocese of Guntur, Bishop Pothakamury was responsible for an unprecedented increase in the prestige of the Catholic Church in the diocese, especially in Andhra-Desa.

(STUDENTS IN APPELATE COURT COMPETITION



Pope Leo XIII looks on approvingly, from the canvas on the wall as the Final Argument of the Appellate Court Competition was held in McMahon Hall, Catholic University of America, by the law students. Standing before the rostrum is one of the winners, Timothy V. Dillon, of Chicago, an attorney for the appellant. Judges at the bench are, left to right: Harold M. Stephens, Associate Justice, U. S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia; Wiley Rutledge, Associate Justice, Supreme Court of the United States; Hollis J. Ladd, Associate Justice, District Court of the United States for the District of Columbia. Photo by Harry Smith (N.C.W.C.)