

Bishops Rally To Thwart All Attacks On Catholic Schools

LONDON (NC)—A clear-cut declaration that Catholics will never give up their schools and that they will resist by all lawful means any threats to the existence of Catholic education was made by the Hierarchy of England and Wales at the close of the Low Week meeting.

"We shall not give up our schools," the Bishops declare. "No matter what sacrifices we may be called upon to make for them we shall hold on to them. This is our firm determination."

The Bishops call on their people to be calm and firmly prepared for whatever lies ahead, and they invite with confidence the support of their fellow-citizens.

The Catholic attitude has never really been in doubt. As this declaration follows recent discussions between representatives of the Bishops and of the Government it may mean that the Bishops have knowledge of the Government's intention to introduce legislation that would be crippling to Catholic schools; or it might mean that the Bishops are anxious to fortify the government in a line of action which would meet with opposition in other directions.

'Uniform Education'
The Trade Union Congress, the Labor Party, the Cooperatives, the teachers and other bodies are engaged in a campaign for the abolition of the "dual system" now in force—the system under which denominational schools are able to function apart from the State schools. The "progressives" are out for uniform education and what they call equal opportunity for all.

All the Ordinaries of England and Wales, and the Vicar Capitular of the vacant Westminster diocese, have signed the statement.

"For many months past we have been closely following the development of the Government's plan for the reorganization of the national system of education," the Bishops said. "We welcome the evidence that the scope of the system is to be enlarged so as to provide ample educational facilities for all. We approve the principle of equality of opportunity irrespective of the social or financial status of the family. We rejoice in the evidence that the plan is conceived in a Christian spirit and that religion is to become a more prominent influence in the State schools."

Reasonable Claims
"We maintain that in this England of ours, which takes pride in its religious freedom, the State should provide schools to which Anglicans and Free Churchmen, Catholics and Jews, may send their children with a good conscience, always supposing that there are a sufficient number of such children in a given area to warrant the establishment of a school."

"We are anxious to bring home to our fellow-countrymen the reasonableness of our claim, so that religious allegiance may come to be encouraged rather than penalized."

"Meanwhile, we warmly welcome the statement made by the Prime Minister in his recent broadcast to the nation that the fundamental element of religion must never be taken from our schools."

"We who believe in the Catholic religion are bound to insist that our teachers should be qualified to teach the Catholic religion, not only by their knowledge of it, but by their belief in it and their practice of it. Nothing short of this will satisfy our conscience."

"The present educational system of England and Wales is unjust because it discriminates unfairly between those citizens who wish their children to live according to a definite religion and those who are satisfied with the undenominational religious teaching which is allowed by law in provided schools. Will Mainstay Schools

"There will never be true equality of educational opportunity until the State provides as much for the one class as it does for the other. At present those who wish their children to be taught and to live a definite religion have to pay the same rates and taxes as the rest of the nation; and in addition they have to find the money to build new schools for their children when new schools are needed, and they have to pay part of the cost of bringing the present schools into line with the demands of the Board of Education. The burden on Catholic men and women has been crushing; it has grown to dimensions never contemplated by anyone when the arrangement was made in 1902. Scotland has a fairer system; we trust that the Government will give England and Wales a settlement at least as equitable as that which is now provided in Scotland."

WRITE TO THOSE IN SERVICE



BOLIVIAN PRESIDENT AT MARYKNOLL—General Enrique Favre, President of Bolivia, visiting in the U. S., greets Maryknoll Sisters outside their motherhouse, Maryknoll, N. Y. In foreground are three of the five Sisters who will leave for Bolivia. (From left) Sister Mary Kateri and Sister Mary Henry, M.D., both of Milwaukee, and Sister Marie Eugenia of Manila. Also, the Assistant General of the Maryknoll Nuns, Sister Mary Columba of Philadelphia. (NCWC).

Newly-Ordained To Sing First Masses On June 6

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The Rev. Eugene M. McFarland, son of Mr. and Mrs. Eugene J. McFarland, 60 Gregory St.; attended Immaculate Conception School, St. Andrew's Seminary; First Solemn Mass, Immaculate Conception Church, Sunday, June 6, 11 A. M.; Assistant Priest, the Rev. George C. Vogt; Deacon, the Rev. Richard T. Torney; Subdeacon, Frater Joseph C. LeFrois, S.S.J.; Preacher, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph S. Cameron; Reception, June 6, 60 Gregory St., Rochester, 8 to 7 P. M.

The Rev. Edward Lee McMannus, son of Mr. and Mrs. Edward H. McMannus, 28 Beacon St., Rochester; attended Corpus Christi School, St. Andrew's Seminary; First Solemn Mass, Sunday, June 6, Corpus Christi Church, 10:40 A. M.; Assistant Priest, the Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, V.G.; Deacon, the Rev. E. Charles Bauer; Subdeacon, the Rev. Thomas K. Cleary; Preacher, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Walter J. Lee, V.F.; Reception, 28 Beacon St., June 6, 4 to 7 P. M.

The Rev. Jerome F. O'Mara, son of Mr. and Mrs. James H. O'Mara, 975 Hill Ave., Rochester; attended St. Andrew's Seminary, St. Michael's College of University of Toronto; First Solemn Mass, St. Andrew's Church, Sunday, June 6, P. M. 11 A. M.; Assistant Priest, the Rev. George W. Eckel; Deacon, the Rev. Gerard J. Gaffel; Subdeacon, the Rev. Joseph G. Gaffel; Master of Ceremonies, Mr. Raymond Hamel, Fall River, Mass.; Preacher, the Rev. Francis A. Kiechammer; Reception, 975 Hill Ave., June 6, 4 to 6:30 P. M.

The Rev. William J. Rieker, son of Mrs. John F. Rieker, 18 Crosby St., Hornell; attended St. Ann's School, Hornell High School, St. Andrew's Seminary; First Solemn Mass, St. Ignatius Loyola Church, Hornell, June 6, 11 A. M.; Assistant Priest, the Rev. Charles P. Rieker; Deacon, the Rev. Ignatius X. Cameron; Preacher, the Rev. Edward M. Lyons; Reception, 52 Crosby St., Hornell, June 6, 4 to 6 P. M.

TWO AUSTRALIAN PRIESTS ACTIVE IN CATHOLIC PRESS

MELBOURNE.—(NC)—The Rev. Harold Lalor, who formerly conducted a "Children's Hour" on a radio station at Perth under the name of "Uncle Peter," is now Editor of the diocesan newspaper and also conducts the "Catholic Hour" from the same station. He was ordained in Rome after attending the Propaganda College and studied Catholic Action in Belgium.

Another Australian priest, the Rev. R. H. Thompson, who formerly was a country newspaper editor, is now in charge of two diocesan weeklies in Brisbane.

Russia, Reich Block Vatican Bureau Aid To War Prisoners

VATICAN CITY.—(NC-Radio)—The Vatican Information Office continues regularly to send to Washington lists of American prisoners of war in Italy and word from the camps states that the men are anxiously awaiting first news from home.

An announcement in L'Osservatore Romano states that all attempts to obtain news of soldiers in Russia and to organize service communication with them have failed. However, it is stated, the Information Office, following instructions received from the Holy Father, is continuing its ceaseless interest and efforts, leaving nothing untried in the face of grave difficulties. This official clarification, it was announced, was made necessary by tens of thousands of requests received recently at Vatican City for news of persons missing in Russia.

As is known, the Holy See has been unable to obtain direct news of prisoners in Germany and is not permitted to establish correspondence with them. Recent statistics show the British prisoners Section of the Vatican Information Office, since it was founded in May, 1941, has received 60,274 requests and 235,062 pieces of information. The efforts of the Office make no distinction as to nationality, religion or race.

Cited For Valor

Denver.—The Oak Leaf cluster for outstanding achievement in the European war theater has been awarded to Lieut. Wilbur W. Braunig, of the Army Air Forces, who also has been promoted to the rank of first lieutenant, his parents, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Braunig, member of St. Philomena's Parish here have been advised.

Have you purchased your War Bonds or War Stamps this week?

Social Reform Plan Of Costa Rica President Wins Pontiff's Praise



SAN JOSE, Costa Rica.—(NC)—"The Holy Father who, in his recent Christmas message, gave to the whole world clear and admirable directives for the Christian social order, has manifested his august satisfaction with the step taken by His Excellency the President, with strictly Christian and Catholic spirit, to establish in that nation the foundations of the true and solid social peace which only Christian principles can bring."

This is the message which His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, has addressed to President Rafael Angel Calderon Guardia who had forwarded for the information of His Holiness Pope Pius XII the texts of the articles and amendments which are before the Congress for incorporation in the Constitution of Costa Rica as "Social Guarantees."

When interviewed by the press of the Capital, President Calderon Guardia expressed his pleasure upon receiving the "most gratifying" news of the Holy Father's satisfaction. He said that his heart was filled with joy "both as a sincere Catholic and a Costa Rican." "In urging this important reform," he added, "I have had in mind no aspiration other than serving the neediest of my fellow-countrymen."

On May 16, 1942, President Calderon Guardia sent to the Congress a document which called for the amendment of the Constitution of 1871 to include a chapter of "Social Guarantees."

The bill establishes the right of ownership and recognizes the social character of private property; proclaims the social function of the State, that is the right and the duty of the State to intervene in the processes of production and the distribution and consumption of wealth for the benefit of the common good; the social duty of labor, the right to a decent existence and, consequently, a minimum wage sufficient for the proper maintenance of the worker and his family.

Article 54 would establish the eight-hour day and six-day working week, and one week's vacation with pay annually. Article 55 safeguards the respective organization rights of employers and employees, as well as strike and lock-out rights, with the State guaranteeing collective bargaining and protection and aid to cooperatives. This article also contemplates vocational training in such a way that the State would assure to the greatest possible number of workers training in keeping with their vocation. Article 62 requires equal pay for equal work, and rights for rural workers on a par with those of city workers. The bill also contains Social Security and Public Welfare provisions. All the guarantees formulated in the Presidential bill are declared "inalienable rights."

Servitas Direct School Built By Municipality

BOGOTA.—In the presence of high Government officials the Mayor of Bogota, Dr. Carlos Soto de Santamaria, turned over to the Congregation of the Servites of Mary the new Catholic school built by the municipality.

The founder of this school, which will accommodate some 80 girls students, is Senorita Maria Mercedes Lopez Michelson, daughter of the President of the Republic.

Turning Tables, South Seas Native Catechizes U. S. Chaplain-Confessor

NEW YORK.—(NC)—How a South Sea Island native turned the tables on a chaplain is interestingly told by the Rev. Arthur J. Denello of the Archdiocese of New York, in a letter to the Military Ordinate.

Father Denello relates that while he was preparing for Mass one morning a native approached and said that he wanted to go to Confession. Having heard that some of the natives made false claims of Catholicity, Father Denello determined not to help the native with his Confession, but to let his

maneuver of confessing be the test.

Father Denello continues: "To my amazement and confusion, I found that I was the one being catechized. Was I a Catholic priest? Yes. Did I say Mass in Latin? Yes. Did I believe in the infallibility of the Pope? Yes. All right, he would go to Confession to me."

"He made a Confession as complete and correct as any theologian could have made. After Mass he said he would bring his brothers and friends. And so for a time I had a number of natives at daily Mass."

of his sincerity in professing the faith.

"It was a wonderful and vivid illustration of the universality of the Church—American soldiers of different nationalities kneeling at the Communion rail with these native boys.

"The priests and Sisters who labored here certainly sowed the seed of Christianity in the hearts of these people. Our boys were impressed by the simple and sincere devotion and piety of these natives, which brought home to all of us the words of Our Lord, 'Unless you become as little children you cannot enter the Kingdom of God.'"