

Right of Jews To Be Baptized Defended By Slovak Bishops

NEW YORK (NC)—A Joint Pastoral of the Bishops of Slovakia demanding that the principles of natural law be applied to all men "without distinction of origin or nation-

ality" and serving notice that the Church will protect the right of Jews to be baptized is the subject of an article in the Swiss newspaper *Courier de Geneve*, which has been made public here by the Office of War Information.

The Pastoral Letter, signed by seven Bishops of Slovakia, was read in all Slovak churches on March 11, it was announced.

Portions of the pastoral were broadcast by the Vatican Radio in a transmission beamed to Great Britain and Ireland and reported by United States Government monitors.

The pastoral told the Slovak people that the State not only should defend the principles of natural law, but "should itself be directed by them."

It pointed out that the Slovak Constitution provides that "no person shall be punished for an act which has not infringed on the penal law, or when the guilt of the person has not been fixed beforehand by law or by legal standards."

The pastoral warned that if "the standards of natural law" are infringed it would mean the destruction of "the bases of the social order and of prosperity."

Their "responsibility before God," the Bishops said, made them lift their voices "against the measures by which our co-religionists, as well as others of our compatriots, are smitten as a whole without preliminary investigation and without getting at the core of responsibility of each one."

Turning to the subject of the Jews, the pastoral continued: "We have permitted their baptism and we shall permit the baptism of all those whose Christian sincerity is attested by the priest and who engage to fulfill the religious and moral duties exacted of them by the Church."

The text of the pastoral, as reported to the Office of War Information, follows: "The State should defend the principles of natural law and should itself be directed by them. We are happy to affirm that the constitution of our State, the source of all legislation, entirely respects the natural law in proclaiming: No person should be punished for an act which has not infringed on the penal law, or when the guilt of the person has not been fixed beforehand by law or by legal standards."

"Our Saviour defends and sanctifies this natural law. The eternally beautiful parable of the Good Samaritan carries in itself the most profound truth, which is to say that our attitude towards our fellowmen must not be influenced by their language or by their belonging to any State, nation or race. The standards of natural law must, therefore, never be infringed upon because sooner or later all violations of the natural law destroy the bases of the social order and of prosperity."

Responsibility Noted "Conscious of our responsibility before God, conscious equally of our duty to defend the standards of natural law and the standards revealed by God, we resolutely lift our voices against the measures by which our co-religionists as well as others of our compatriots are smitten as a whole, without preliminary investigation and without getting at the core of the responsibility of each one. In our declaration published by *Katolícke Noviny*, Apr. 20, 1943, we set forth clearly our point of view in that which concerns the baptism of Jews. We have permitted their baptism and we shall permit the baptism of all those whose Christian sincerity is attested by the priest and who engage to fulfill the religious and moral duties exacted of them by the Church."

Nigeria Prefect Vatican City—The Vatican Radio has announced appointment of the Very Rev. John McCarthy, of the Society for African Missions, to be Prefect Apostolic of Kaduna, in Nigeria. He succeeds the Rt. Rev. Niger. Thomas Hughes, who has been transferred to the newly-created Prefecture Apostolic of Onitsha, Nigeria.

Cardinal Hits Refusal To Rent To Families With Several Children

QUEBEC (NC)—An appeal on behalf of families with children who have difficulty in obtaining rental of homes has been made by His Eminence Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec.

"Our attention has been drawn to the fact that families with several children find it difficult to obtain lodgings," the Cardinal said. "The scarcity of homes in this period of great industrial activity makes even more shameful the anxiety which the heads of families are suffering."

"The parish priests will do well to recall to their parishioners their obligation of Christian charity and their social duty in this respect. Should not landlords make it a point of honor to shelter the largest families, the living blessing of Heaven and true hope of our country?"

786 Adult Converts

Washington—Seven hundred and eighty-six adult converts were received into the Church during 1942 in the parishes and missions of the Holy Ghost Fathers in the United States and Puerto Rico, figures released here show.

Panama Town Turns From Axis To U. S. As Chaplain Performs Priestly Duties

QUARRY HEIGHTS, Canal Zone—By simply performing the duties of a Catholic priest, the Rev. Joseph P. Owens, of Union City, N. J., who is a captain and a chaplain with the Army air forces, transformed the settlement of a low lying jungle community in this section from Germany to the United Nations and was the accolade of heroism from the officers and men of the Army's Panama Canal Department, according to a release from the headquarters here.

The community, which had been all-out in its sympathy for the Axis until Father Owens took a hand, embraces the towns of Santa Dorotea and Jaque, at the head of Pinas Bay in the section where Panama joins the northern boundary of Colombia.

Axis Propagandist of Colombia Back in World War I days, the

Cites Rochester Chaplain's Aid To Mission In Solomons

Zeal of Catholic service chaplains especially that of Chaplain Elmer Heindl of Rochester diocese, is lauded in a letter received this week by His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, from the Vicar Apostolic of the South Solomons.

Lauds Chaplain Heindl

M. Vicariate Apostolic of the South Solomons Most Rev. James E. Kearney, D.D. Bishop of Rochester My Lord Bishop:

I had the great pleasure to meet one of your priests, the Rev. Fr. E. Heindl and to see his great work among the boys and also among our Catholic people.

As you know, my Lord, many of my missionary priests have been obliged to leave the Islands during the Japanese occupation. So I appreciated very much all that has been done by the Catholic Chaplains in favor of our Christians; hearing Confessions, saying Mass for them and giving Holy Communion. Fr. Heindl has done much for them. I am glad to write this to you, My Lord. Fr. Heindl is still the priest you know, full of zeal, high spirit and a good sense of humor. May God protect him and after the war take him back to your diocese.

During the terrible months we lived last year I remained with ten priests in the Mission and we are doing our best to carry on the work. Our Mission has had a terrible trial. Four of my missionaries, 2 Priests and 2 Sisters, were killed by the Japs. Visale Station, Headquarters of our Mission, has been completely destroyed. We have lost everything.

With the grace of God and the help of our Benefactors we will start again our work. I recommend myself and my Mission to your good prayers.

Believe me, My Lord, I fraternally yours in Christ

+ JEAN MARIE AUBIN (Signed)

Bishop of the South Solomon Catholic Mission Biema, Malaita British Solomon Islands

His Excellency, the Most Rev. Jean Marie Aubin, S.M., Bishop of the South Solomons, whose harrowing experiences have been recounted in dispatches from the South Pacific war area, writes to Bishop Kearney:

"Father Heindl is still the priest you know, full of zeal, high spirit and a good sense of humor. May God protect him and after the war take him back to your diocese."

Chaplain Heindl, son of Mr. and Mrs. William Heindl, 178 Melville St., Rochester, has been in the Army since March, 1942.

In his letter, Bishop Aubin recalls the slaying of two of his priests and two nuns by the Japs and of the complete destruction of his mission. "We have lost everything," the Bishop writes.

(Text of Bishop Aubin's letter appears in Adjuncting Columns)

Official affirmation of the killing of the four Catholic missionaries in Bishop Aubin's Vicariate came in an NCWO News Service dis-



Fr. Elmer Heindl Photo by Heberger

patch published in the CATHOLIC COURIER, Oct. 22, 1942.

The missionaries' death by bayoneting at the hands of the invading Japs took place at Tasimbok, Gwadacanal, Solomon Islands. Their mission station was located at Ruavatu, Gwadacanal. Further details of the killing were lacking.

The two Society of Mary priests were the Rev. Arthur Duhamel, S.M., of Lawrence, Mass., and the Rev. Henry Oude-Engerbrink, S.M., of the Netherlands, superior of the mission. The two Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary whose motherhouse is at the Convent of St. Theresa in Lisieux were identified as Sister Sylvia of France and Sister Odilla of Italy.

The dispatch carried this released statement on the missionaries from the Mariel College, Catholic University of America:

"They elected to remain with their flock and they have paid the high price of their heroic fidelity to God and duty. By this supreme sacrifice they have carried on the great Catholic and Christ-like tradition of the true missionary zeal and devotedness."

With his mission completely in ruins, Bishop Aubin recommends himself and his mission to the "good prayers" of His Excellency, Bishop Kearney, in the letter.

The railroads are hiring women as conductors. They will be still known as the fare-box.

town of Santa Dorotea harbored a secret fuel and supply base for German submarines. In 1932, just about the time Adolf Hitler was climbing into the driver's seat in Germany, an ex-German sailor and merchant mariner, August Adrian, moved to the little town and in a short time was the friend of all the natives.

"Senor Augusto" did not go unnoticed by U. S. authorities and after the bombing of Pearl Harbor, he was seized as an enemy alien and was placed in confinement somewhere in the United States. But the natives' all-out sympathy for the land of "Senor Augusto" continued.

Father Owens arrived at Santa Dorotea late in the spring of this year and soon discovered he was the first priest in seven years to visit the place. The natives, all Catholics, flocked to meet him, bringing Rosaries to be blessed

and children to be baptized.

On the occasion of Father Owens' first visit to say Mass, the local Corregidor—an office which combines the duties of the mayor and chief of police—decided the village must have a chapel. He ordered all the natives to the construction job and when the work wasn't going fast enough to suit him, he augmented the labor party with a group of prisoners. The chapel was finished within a few days. Next the Corregidor ordered a clean-up campaign of the entire town and by the time Father Owens was scheduled to arrive, the place was as neat as the proverbial pin.

Wine Sympathy

On his first visit, Father Owens baptized six children, administered the Sacrament of Confirmation to 26 and gave their First Holy Communion to 31. He blessed the chapel and the cemetery, and in all ways satisfied the spiritual needs of the natives. When he departed, the sympathy for Germany definitely was on the wane.

Father Owens, on his second visit, brought a large statue of the Blessed Virgin, painted and gilded at his air base, besides numerous holy pictures, prayer books, Rosaries, medals, copies of the New Testament in Spanish, hymnals and other articles. When he left this time, the German sympathy of the natives entirely had disappeared—in fact the Corregidor asked the chaplain to bring them a portrait of "El Presidente Roosevelt" so it could be hung in a place of honor in the town hall.



FIRST MASS IN 7 YEARS. Chaplain Joseph P. Owens, of Union City, N. J., serving with the Air Force in Panama, shown with native boy acolytes in a jungle community in the Province of Barro, Panama. Finding he was first Catholic priest to visit there in seven years, Father Owens gratified the spiritual wants of the people, arranged for the construction of a chapel and regular monthly services. U. S. Army Air Corps photo. (NCWO)

Group To Protect Schools

LONDON (NC)—A significant new movement spreading through this country is the Catholic parents and Electors Association which is being started in many parishes to protect the position of the Catholic schools.

The movement was started in the suburban parish of Ilford, in the Brentwood Diocese, by Charles L. Kelly. It was taken up by the Catholics of Bradford, Yorkshire, who have sent to every pastor in the country details of their own successful organization.

The association organizes meetings to air Catholic grievances; instructs members of trade unions and similar bodies so that they

may combat attacks upon the schools within their own organizations; seeks interviews with members of Parliament to explain the Catholic position, and in general stiffens the Catholic resistance to possible attack.

153 Nurses Graduated

San Francisco—At joint graduation exercises of five Catholic hospitals, a total of 153 nurses were awarded their diplomas by the Most Rev. John J. Mitty, Archbishop of San Francisco. A number of the graduates immediately will join the nurses' corps of the armed forces.