Roman Pontiff Possesses True Episcopal Jurisdiction

By George C. Thomas

A true Episcopal jurisdiction over the universal Church is possessed by the Roman Pontiff. It is right, therefore, that he be known as the Bishop of the Bishops. From the time of the Apostles the Popes have exercised jurisdiction over all the churches, pastors, and faithful, and this in matters pertaining to discipline and government of the whole Church as well as in those of faith and morals.

In this regard, the Church declares de fide the assertion: The Pope has the full and supreme power of jurisdiction over the universal Church; which is ordinary and immediate over all the Bishops and faithful taken separately or collectively, even in matters of discipline.

A definition of the terms above will explain the importance attached to this article of faith. Power of jurisdiction: The Pontiff's power is truly Episcopal over the entire Church (defined in the Vatican council), namely, like that pastoral power Bishops enjoy in their respective dioceses. Supreme: No other power is greater than or equal to the Pope's power, not even the power of all Bishops combined (without the Pope). Full: This jurisdiction is complete in itself, residing totally and undividedly in him. Ordinary: It belongs to him in virtue of his office and is valid always and under all circumstances (Canon 197). Immediate: This authority is exercised over all, cleric and lay, without the interposition of any other authority.

On the point of the fullness of the Pope's jurisdiction the Gallicans rightly were condemned for their declaration that "the decrees (of the Roman Pontiff) effect every church, yet his judgment is not irreformable, unless the consent of the Church is added thereto" (Art. 4, Declaration of the Gallican Clergy, Denzinger 1325). In other words, the Pope can do by himself whatever pertains to the government of the Church, without concurrence of the Bishops or consent of the Church. Every ecclesiastical power depends on him; he is dependent on none.

Several documents of the Church on the subject are quoted as proof:

"The Holy Roman Church possesses the complete and supreme primacy and sovereignty over the universal Catholic Church" (Profession of Faith of Michael Palaeologus in 1274).

"We define that the Roman Pontiff holds the primacy over the entire world . . . and that to him Jesus Christ Our Lord has given, in the person of the Blessed Peter, the full power of feeding, ruling, and governing the universal Church" (Council of Florence).

Pius VI in 1786 declared, "The Roman Pontiff himself received his supreme power from God . . . He has given him the full power of ruling the Church . . . so that he excels the other Bishops . . ."

The authentic voice of the whole of tradition is in the pronouncement of the Vatican council: "We therefore teach and declare that the Roman Church has by the Lord's appointment the primacy of ordinary jurisdiction over all other Churches, and that this jurisdiction of the Roman Pontiff, which is truly Episcopal, is immediate, and to it the pastors and the faithful of whatever rite or dignity are bound, both individually and collectively, by the of Hierarchial subordination and true obedience; and this not only in the things that relate to the faith and morals but also in those that pertain to the discipline and government of the Church throughout the world. Therefore, her unity thus safeguarded by the profession of the same faith and fellowship with the Roman Pontiff, the Church of Christ is one flock under one supreme pastor (on earth)."

Canon J. M. Herve, noted French theologian, has this to say: "Inasmuch as the total Church—all the brethren, sheep and lambs, faithful and shepherds—has been directly and by divine right committed to Peter and his successors, the Holy Pontiff can everywhere and immediately exercise over all, whether separately or together, the perfect plentitude of the authority that Christ conferred on the Church." — The Western Catholic.

He Who has made you what you are has the right to require that you should be wholly His.—St. Augustine.

Cardinal Says Nation Cannot Sacrifice Self For Love Of Another

VATICAN CITY. — The nation no less than the individual is forbidden to sacrifice itself out of sympathy, or because of a misguided affection for another nation, it is emphasized by His Eminence Justin, George Cardinal Seredi, Primate of Hungary, in a significant article which has just appeared in a new Hungarian review.

The Cardinal's article has just been reported in a broadcast over the Vatican City radio station.

Cites Obligation

Treating of the obligation of self-preservation, Cardinal Seredi says under certain circumstances a Christian is permitted to sacrifice his life for his neighbor or for the community.

"Nevertheless," the Hungarian Primate adds, "it is not allowed that an individual or a nation sacrifice its life just out of sympathy for, or love of, another man or another nation. The legitimate rulers of nations are not entitled to permit such happenings, for Divine Providence has placed them at the head of their nations precisely that they should attend to its conservation and foster and guarantee the public well-being of those they rule, and not to sacrifice them in mere sympathy or excessive affection for another individual or nation."

The Cardinal's article notes the great sacrifices made by the Hungarian and other nations in defining their rulers, but adds that they have never gone to the extreme of sacrificing themselves. This, it is asserted, they would have no right to do, since their rulers exist for the nations and not the nations for their rulers.

CATHOLIC HOSPITAL GETS LARGEST IRON LUNG

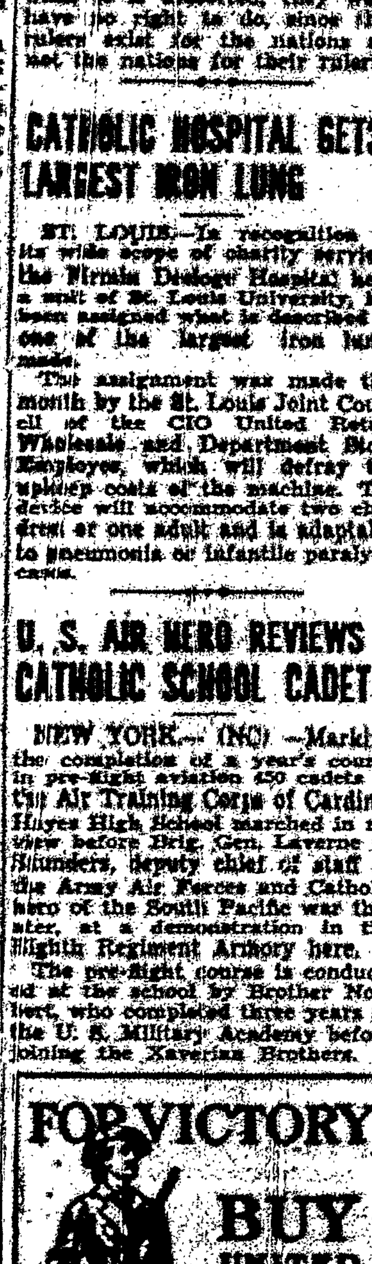
ST. LOUIS.—In recognition of its wide scope of charity services, the Firmin Desloge Hospital here, a unit of St. Louis University, has been assigned what is described as one of the largest iron lungs made.

The assignment was made this month by the St. Louis Joint Council of the CIO United Retail, Wholesale and Department Store Employes, which will defray the upkeep costs of the machine. The device will accommodate two children or one adult and is adaptable to pneumonia or infantile paralysis cases.

U. S. AIR HERO REVIEWS CATHOLIC SCHOOL CADETS

NEW YORK.— (NC) —Marking the completion of a year's course in pre-flight aviation 450 cadets of the Air Training Corps of Cardinal Hayes High School marched in review before Brig. Gen. Laverne G. Saunders, deputy chief of staff of the Army Air Forces and Catholic hero of the South Pacific war theater, at a demonstration in the Eighth Regiment Armory here.

The pre-flight course is conducted at the school by Brother Norbert, who completed three years at the U. S. Military Academy before joining the Xaverian Brothers.



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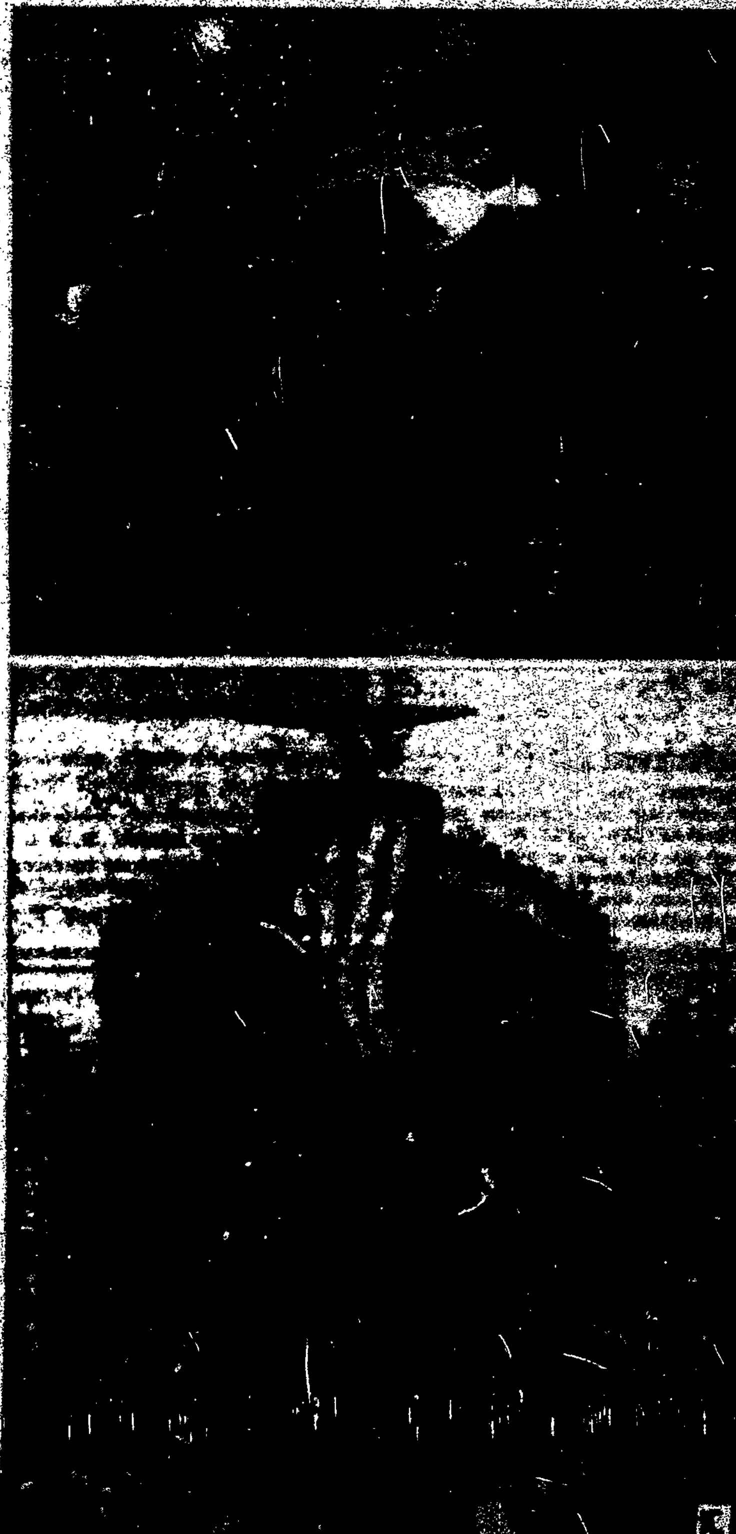

At the yards of the Houston Shipbuilding Company, Bishop Christopher E. Byrne, of Galveston, blesses the Liberty Ship John Mary Odin, named in honor of the first Catholic Bishop of Galveston. Miss Mary Q. Garther (center), president of the Galveston Diocesan Council of Catholic Women, was sponsor at the launching ceremonies. (N.C.W.C.)

Bishop At Bedside Gives Diploma To Villa Girl

Illness and confinement to her bed in St. Mary's Hospital did not prevent one young St. Joseph's Villa girl from receiving her diploma from His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester.

Commencement exercises for St. Joseph's Villa, the home for dependent boys and girls on Dewey Ave., were being held on Saturday, June 19, in St. Charles Borromeo Church when it was learned that one young graduate, Delores Lorsch, was not present. She was reported in St. Mary's Hospital.

When the other boys and girls had been given their diplomas the Bishop and the other distinguished guests at the graduation went immediately to St. Mary's.

Gathered about the bedside His Excellency presented the diploma and gave a short address to the smiling girl graduate.

Present were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay of St. Joseph's Villa Board, the Rev. Arthur F. Ratigan, director, Family and Child Care Division, Rochester Catholic Charities; Sister M. Martina, superintendent of the hospital and five or six nurses.

When the brief ceremony was terminated each of those present came and congratulated the graduate. Other patients in the hospital sent her flowers to complete a memorable commencement day for Delores who received her education from the Sisters of St. Joseph in charge of the Villa.

Seek To Replace Interned Italian Missionaries

VATICAN CITY. — The Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith is seeking to replace with priests of other nationalities the Italian missionaries whose internment or expulsion has left three mission territories in Africa without the ministrations of the clergy.

The Vicariates Apostolic of Gimma in Abyssinia and of Nyeri in Kenya Colony are without priests because the Consolata Missionaries of Turin who staffed those fields have been interned.

Some men can live up to their loftiest ideals without ever going higher than the basement.

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