

# On Guard!

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Our soldiers finally drive the Axis out of France and elsewhere they

will not be faced with the insellate and distasteful task of driving possessive females out of factories and industrial life. Let us hope that the ladies will go quietly and gracefully.

The shrewd editorialist of the Saturday Evening Post frankly ex-

pects that there will be more working women after the war than there are now. In a masculine and cynical fashion, however, he does offer what might be a practical suggestion for demobilizing and demobilizing an army of working women. "Tell them the riveter," he says, "that when she

is an old maid she will still be carrying her lunch to the plant and she will demolish like nothing human." We might add that unless Rosie quits riveting after the war is over she will run the risk of not having a grandchild to plant flowers on her grave or whisper prayers for her soul.

Returning from a 2,000-mile tour of war industries, Mrs. Alfred J. Mathemat, president of the American Legion Auxiliary, has an interesting report on the attitude of women in industry.

"They are frank enough to admit that they work for the money and not for patriotic reasons. They like their new independence, and their ability to buy luxuries for the family."

Mrs. Mathemat also reports that women intend to keep their jobs after the war and do not look on their services as contributing solely to the emergency.

The Catholic Church acknowledges with sincere regret that economic necessity and national emergency often drive women into industrial life, but the Church also insists most emphatically that industry is not the ideal place of vocation for women. "Woman," says Pope Leo XIII, "is by nature fitted for home-work, and it is that which is best adapted to preserve her modesty and promote the good upbringing of children and the well-being of the family."

With inspired vision and foresight, the late Pope Pius XI identified the modern spirit which encourages women to break away from the home and to seek a false freedom outside as one of the prime ambitions of atheistic Communism.

"Communism is particularly characterized by the rejection of any link that binds women to the family and the home, and her emancipation is proclaimed as a basic principle. She is withdrawn from her family and the care of her children, to be thrust, instead, into public life and unwholesome production under the most deplorable conditions. The cure of home and children then devolves upon the collective."

The Catholic Church has always exercised deep concern for the welfare of women. Especially does her sympathy go out to the woman worker in our day. Whenever circumstances oblige women to seek occupation and their livelihood elsewhere than in the home, serious consideration should be given to the kind of work in which women can be safely admitted. "Women," says Pope Leo XIII, "are not suited for certain occupations." Great care should be given to the very circumstances of the work which may be assigned to them. Its structure, function, character and aptitude, women differ from men. Failure to recognize this fact in our industrial life is a definite blunder.

Common sense and Christian wisdom insists that we protect women workers from excessive burdens, undue strain, prolonged hours, night labor and anything else prejudicial to their sex, or to their present or future maternity. Above all, Christian reverence demands that womanly virtue and womanly modesty be protected at all times from peril both in choice and circumstances of female occupation.

## Consecrated



BISHOP NEIDHAMMER

### Seven Of Hierarchy Attend Consecration Of Bishop Neidhammer

NEW YORK (CNC) — In the presence of seven Bishops, a large number of Monsignori, priests, and Religious and a lay congregation of 2,000, who braved a day of record heat to attend the three-hour ceremony, the Most Rev. Matthew A. Neidhammer, O.F.M. Cap., was consecrated Titular Bishop of Caloe and Vicar Apostolic of Bluefields, Nicaragua, this morning in St. Patrick's Cathedral.

The Most Rev. James E. Walsh, Superior General of Maryknoll, was the consecrator. The Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Military Delegate, and the Most Rev. Stephen J. Donahue, Auxiliary Bishop of New York, were the consecrators.

#### Franciscans In Van

Recalling that since the days of St. Francis, members of the Order he founded have "been in the vanguard of missionaries of the Church," the Very Rev. Apollinaris Baumgartner, O.F.M. Cap., Vice Delegate Provincial, who presided, said that "our boys on battlefronts, posts and stations all over the world are seeing the familiar brown habit of the Franciscans in remote and far-away places."

"When the war broke out," he said, "the Order of Friars Minor had priests in 52 places all over the globe and everyone was a volunteer. Some of them have fallen; some are prisoners of war; some continue to labor, hiding in the hills of distant countries and praying for the return of peace."

Father Baumgartner said that of all the Capuchins in China only one remains and that eleven are prisoners of war in Japan.

He emphasized that the only purpose of the missionaries in Nicaragua is "to bring the Light in the Name of Jesus Christ, to do His work that they may strengthen, propagate and conserve His faith."

### Indian Bishops Vary On Church's Outlook

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Admitting that the leaders gratefully accept the educational and charitable efforts of the Christians, yet frown upon their work of conversion, the Bishop sees no reason to fear opposition for the missions from an Indian Government.

In his statement he said: "It is unlikely that there will be an open antagonism, much less persecution, of Christian missions under an Indian Government. Hindus always has been a religion of tolerance. There may even be a better prospect of Christianity disengaging itself from the official and political world under an India Government and asserting in a more striking and emphatic manner the spiritual values for which it stands as well as their influence on the lives of men. Christian things done in a Christian manner can never alienate the Hindu and the Moslem. There is no cause for gloomy forebodings or a pessimistic outlook."

Archbishop Pinner of Calcutta was somewhat pessimistic about the future. He said: "If we are to rely on the various religions of

Ghandi and other big guns of the Congress, missionaries will not be favorably looked upon. Perhaps purely humanitarian works would be tolerated, but no proselytizing." A situation, similar to the one existing "in Japan where little, if any, progress is possible" may develop.

"Taking a more optimistic view, Bishop Crowley, of Dacca, and Superior of the Holy Cross Fathers from the United States laboring in the Bengal country, declared that "unless all signs conspire to deceive us, the Church among Bengal's fifty-three millions has much to hope for, and very little to fear, from the coming new order in India generally. Bishop Crowley believes that "much of Mr. Ghandi's idealism will be forgotten" and the educated native of Bengal, although he may not appreciate the real purpose of mission activity, will highly value "their educational, medical and other activities, together with their devotion to the poorer classes."

Certain thoughts are prayers. There are moments when, whatever be the attitude of the body, the soul is on its knees.

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*I write letters in the nearly-dark*

This is part of an actual letter from a soldier overseas:

"It's not the big thing that you miss out here. It's little things. Like street noises. Or an electric lamp. There ain't no such things. Since I'm on duty all day I write letters in the nearly dark. Funny how you can miss a common, ordinary electric light bulb."

HERE at home folks take electricity for granted because it's right at our finger tip and costs so little. The average American family gets nearly twice as much electricity for its money as it did during the last war.

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