

PEACE PRAYERS ASKED ON FEAST OF ASSUMPTION

Pontiff Exhorts Faithful To Turn To Blessed Mother; Renew Christian Way of Life

Urging Catholics not only to pray that the Blessed Mother will obtain from her Divine Son a Christian peace but that they should also renew in themselves a life "in keeping with Christian teaching and principles," Pope Pius XII has called on the faithful throughout the world to join in a crusade of prayer for a Christian peace on Sunday, August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

The Holy Father made his appeal in a letter to His Eminence Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Papal Secretary of State, to whom he entrusted the task of communicating the Sovereign Pontiff's desire to all the Catholic world, particularly to the Episcopate. His Holiness said he knows the Catholic world "is ready to second Our desires."

Pope Pius said "men seem to pay no heed to Our anxious and suppliant voice," and that he raises his prayers and eyes in mourning to the Father of All Mercies. "That, as you know," he stated, "We have done repeatedly since the outbreak of this terrible war."

(Text of the Supreme Pontiff's letter urging prayers to the Blessed Mother appears below.)

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PRAYERS FOR PEACE

(Selected from the Roman Missal)

O Lord Jesus Christ, who didst say to thy Apostles, Peace I leave you, my peace I give you; look not upon my sins, but upon the faith of thy Church; and vouchsafe to her that peace and unity which are agreeable to thy will. Who livest and reignest God, world without end.

Amen.

O God, from whom are holy desires, right counsels, and just works, give to thy servants that peace which the world cannot give; that our hearts may be disposed to obey thy commandments, and the fear of enemies being removed, our times, by thy protection, may be peaceful. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end.

Amen.

O God, who permittest not the nations who believe in thee to be overwhelmed by any peril, vouchsafe to receive the prayers and offerings of thy people, that in thy mercy thou wouldst grant peace to Christendom and make it secure against all its enemies. Through our Lord Jesus Christ, Thy Son, who liveth and reigneth with Thee in the unity of the Holy Ghost, world without end.

Amen.

Text of Holy Father's Plea

Text of the Holy Father's letter on the Prayer Crusade for Peace follows:

To Our Beloved Son, Luigi Cardinal Maglione, Secretary of State:

Beloved Son, Health and Apostolic Benediction:

While the fraternal harmony among States is unhappily broken and the might of arms prevails and dominates almost everywhere, brutally crushing and torturing not only armies but pacific populations as well. We, as the father, feel in Our spirit the sorrows and anxieties of all, leave nothing untried in an effort to replace hate by charity and to substitute for discord and combat mutual agreement and the quiet gifts of peace.

"Since, however, men seem to pay no heed to Our anxious and suppliant voice, We raise Our prayers and Our eyes in mourning to the Father of Mercy and God of All Consolation, and We beg of Him that all may retrace their steps in penance and prayer. That, as you know, we have done repeatedly since the outbreak of this terrible war.

"In willing acquiescence, however, to the petitions addressed to Us by many of Our sons, We deem it opportune to renew now Our fatherly appeal while the heavens, so far from becoming serene, are darkening with heavier clouds.

"We wish accordingly, through you, Our Beloved Son, to appeal again to all and especially to the Bishops who, the world over, rule the flocks entrusted to their care, so that as the dangerous evils which threaten the Christian family appear graver, more fervent public prayers will be offered to God and to the Mother of God. We desire that this be done in a most particular way on the approaching Feast of the Assumption into Heaven of the Blessed Virgin, to that the great Mother of God, stirred to compassion by such afflictions of her children, by such misdeeds and hardships, may obtain the pardon of sins from her most beloved Son and, through prompting heavenly

grace, bring calm to souls, blot out hatred and rivalries, foster harmony and, in fine, make to shine forth that Christian peace through which alone victory and vanquished may be brought together again, not by force but by justice and equity, and will be able to enjoy prolonged tranquility and prosperity.

"Let all united in this holy crusade raise up fervent prayers, to which let there correspond in each one a renovation of life in keeping with Christian teaching and principles. Let all aim to take the lead over others by their example, and thus may it happily come about that the pacific arms of charity, prayer and fraternity may replace the murderous arms of war.

"May we be allowed to appeal in a most particular way to the most dear people of Italy that, in this gravest crisis, they may rival the faith and Christian virtues of their ancestors and thus, as in times past, so now also, obtain from God that which both We and they desire, calling on the intercession of that innumerable cohort of Saints which their native land has given to Heaven in every age.

"To you, then, Our Beloved Son, We commit the task of communicating Our fatherly appeal in the way you judge most opportune to all — and especially to the Episcopate — the Catholic World, which We know is ready to second Our desires.

"Meanwhile, in presage of Heavenly grace and as a token of Our particular benevolence, We bestow from all Our heart on you, Our Beloved Son, and on each and every one of Our children in Christ, the Apostolic Benediction.

PIUS PP. XII.

The chief value of such lies in the thought and love his life embodies and reveals, and not in the office he fills or the money he accumulates.

Bishop Spalding.

In the Middle East.



Rev. John E. McGarity, C. S. P., formerly of New York City and Portland, Ore., and Paulist missionary in Johannesburg, South Africa, who has been commissioned a Captain in the Chaplain Corps of the U. S. Army and assigned to a bombing group "somewhere in the Middle East." He had been serving as a chaplain for the South African Union Forces at the time of his transfer. Father McGarity was an enlisted man in the Canadian Army overseas during World War I. (N.C.W.C.)

Italian Prelates Caution Against Unreasoned Action

VATICAN CITY (NC-Radio)—A reminder of the critical nature of the times, an appeal for national unity, and an urging not to prevent a proper settlement of matters by un-

reasoned action run through the statements of members of the Italian Episcopate have addressed to their priests and people in these days that have seen the elimination of the Fascist regime in their country.

On Monday, August 2, the Most Rev. Evasio Cilli, Bishop of Parma and Director General of Italian Catholic Action, issued the following statements:

"In this grave hour of responsibility, Italian Catholic Action—whose chief end is the defense and increase of Christian life and civilization—gives to its associates a single directive: Continue your work with exemplary obedience to the Church and loyal discipline in regard to constituted authorities.

"Italian Catholic Action has nothing to forewear of its past labors, but rather rejoices justly in the results of its efforts at the formation of a Christian conscience during these years and feels the duty and the necessity of continuing and intensifying this work now and for the future. The extreme delicacy of the present situation imposes on all the associates of Catholic Action the closest union with their Church and with their fellow members, and the liveliest sense of their duty for the sole end—the triumph of Jesus Christ, the welfare of the Church

SAN LORENZO BASILICA RECONSTRUCTION BEGUN

VATICAN CITY (NC-Radio)—Numerous emergency kitchens established through the generosity of His Holiness Pope Pius XII are serving the victims of the aerial bombardment of Rome.

Religious institutions and colleges are providing lodgings for those who have been rendered homeless, particularly for the children.

Clearance of the debris at the Basilica of San Lorenzo has been begun, the baldachin has been reinforced, and the work of reconstruction is progressing.

and the true Christian prosperity of the homeland."

Cardinal Dalli Costa, Archbishop of Florence, recommended to his people, in a pastoral, those solid principles without which he said the rebirth of Italy and the world is impossible—principles which he added are better understood today, since their abandonment has led humanity to the present catastrophe, to deplore which there are not now and never will be adequate wards.

Fraternal love, Cardinal Dalli Costa said, remains unchanged and is unchangeable. It excludes absolutely, he declared, retribution and vengeance and is absolutely opposed to those racial theories that are arbitrarily and fatally dividing humanity.

Family bonds, which for some time have been relaxed, must be reinforced, the Archbishop of Florence continued. The principle that families and individuals do not exist for the state, but that the state exists for families and individuals remains indispensible, he added. As has been solemnly stated on many occasions by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, the Cardinal continued, the dignity of the human person is sacred and he has inalienable rights to free initiative in economic, moral and political spheres that are necessary to the proper development and perfection of the individual.

Boying an ordered and gradual revision of the existing economic and social structure is necessary, Cardinal Dalli Costa declared, that the principles of social justice must be observed and that, therefore, the condition of labor must be elevated, and it should participate in the benefits of enterprises, according to the Pope's teachings. There must be provision not only for the present but also for the future needs of the individual and the family, he said.

There must also be a return to respect for Christian morality in the life of individuals, of families and of nations, Cardinal Dalli Costa asserted. This return, he said, must be accompanied by the absolute conviction that what harms others is never truly beneficial to us; that violence generates violence and is our own ruin; that the violation of the moral law in political life is no advantage but is actually harmful to collectivity.

These principles, which will restore to the world the peace it has lost, have always been proclaimed by the Church, Cardinal Dalli Costa said. He added that now those who supported opposing principles are turning once more to the Church for light.

China's First Lady Lauds Missioners and Supporters

NEW YORK—Lauding the "selfless devotion" of Catholic missionaries in China, Madame Chiang Kai-shek declares in a letter to Bishop Paul Yu Pin, Vicar Apostolic of Nanking, that the generosity of American Catholics who uphold the hands of these missionaries is "deeply appreciated."

The letter, signed Mayling Soong Chiang, was dispatched to Bishop Yu Pin just before Madame Chiang left the United States in June to return to her homeland. It has just been made public here, following its presentation by Bishop Yu Pin to the National office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Madame Chiang's letter to Bishop Yu Pin follows: "The sympathy and practical assistance given so generously by the American Catholics to your fine missionaries who are succoring my people in war-torn

China are deeply appreciated. All of us who have come in contact with your missionaries are impressed with their selfless devotion to the alleviation of human suffering and the elevation of man's spiritual potentialities."

Acknowledging the gift of the letter, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, said "the contents will bring to the friends and benefactors of the Catholic Missions in China a consolation in knowing that their prayers and sacrifices in behalf of the China missionaries are recognized and appreciated by Generalissimo and Madame Chiang Kai-shek."

Christian Culture Series Lists Tenth Year Speakers

WINDSOR, Ont.—Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen for the tenth successive year will open the "Christian Culture Series" with matinee at 3:00 p. m. in Capitol Theatre, Windsor, Sunday, October 3, and evening lecture at 8:30 p. m. in Book Cadillac Hotel, Detroit.

The original "Christian Culture Series" of the Assumption College lecture League is financially non-profit and was founded almost ten years ago by the Rev. J. Stanley Murphy, C.S.B., M.A., Registrar of Assumption College, and present director of the series.

Heard at the Book Cadillac between October and April will be Msgr. Sheen, Maureen Daly (author of "Seventeenth Summer"), Helen Iwolsky (prominent Russian author), Father Leonard Feeney, S.J., Dr. William Agar (scientist and present President of Freedom House), Sr. W. W. Goleis, C.S.C. (poet and President of St. Mary's College, Notre Dame) and President Robert Maynard Hutchins of University of Chicago.

Heard in Windsor in this order will be: Monsignor Sheen, Margaret Speaks (N.B.C. star of "Voice of Firestone") in a full recital; Bishop Paul Yu Pin (Vicar-Apostolic of China); Mrs. Suzanne Silvercray; Jacques Maritain; Wyndham Lewis; Rabele Louis Findebatra (President of The Jewish Theological Seminary of America, New York City); Mar-

tiner J. Adler; "Christian Culture Award" speaker whose name will be announced on January 1; Dr. Arnold Walter (famous exiled pianist-composer) in a lecture-recital; Alfred Noyes; Dr. Yvea R. Simon (famous French philosopher and political analyst) who will speak in French; Mrs. Rutka Lager (well-known Polish author) who will speak in both Polish and English; Padre Colum (greatest living Irish poet); Prof. E. C. Dilla; Mary Hutchinson (star of "Our Town" etc.) in a full hour of dramatic skits; Milton Mayer (brilliant writer and contributor to many magazines; the last lecture will be given in April, possibly by John Farrow, author, movie-director, and Commander in Navy.

Guild Director

Brooklyn—The Rev. John J. Sexton, spiritual director of the Catholic Dentists Guild, has been commissioned in the Navy chaplain corps and will train at the indoctrination school at Williams and Mary College, Williamsburg, Va.

Open Eastern Canada 'Boys Town' in Oct.

QUEBEC—Through the initiative of the Most Rev. Alexander Vachon, Archbishop of Ottawa, and with the cooperation of the Quebec Provincial Government, what may be termed "Eastern Canada's first 'Boys Town'" will get under way next October at Montfort, in Argenteuil County, Quebec.

We ought to go through life holding God's hand.