

K. C. Asks Post-War Consideration For Italy's Catholicism

CLEVELAND (NC)—Two resolutions calling upon the United States Government to insist that the Catholic faith and customs of the Italian people be respected in any post-war arrangements for the administration of that country were adopted at the 41st annual meeting of the Knights of Columbus in Cleveland last week.

Pontiff's Cassock Stained With Blood After Visit To Scene Of Bombing

VATICAN CITY (NC)—Radio Observatore Romano notes that there was a large bloodstain on the white cassock of His Holiness Pope Pius XII when he returned to the Vatican after paying a visit to the sections most severely damaged in the second air bombardment of the City of Rome. The Holy Father left the Vatican for the scene of the worst destruction immediately following the air raid last Friday. Observatore says the bloodstain resulted from His Holiness coming in personal contact with the wounded in his solicitude to bring consolation to the suffering people of his Diocese of Rome.

Heroic Priest's Death Reveals Sacrifices During Rome Bombings

VATICAN CITY (NC)—The funeral Monday, Aug. 23, of the Rev. Rafael Melis, O.S.B., pastor of the Church of Sant'Elena, has brought to focus another story of heroic self-sacrifice on the part of the Roman clergy. (The Church of Sant'Elena in the Eternal City was one of the ecclesiastical properties damaged or destroyed in the second bombing of Rome, according to reports. Dispatches from Vatican City say it was gravely damaged.) Father Melis, according to word which has now reached Vatican City, went out into the streets of Rome at the very height of both aerial bombardments. The Eternal City has suffered so far. He sought those in danger of death as a result of injuries received in the raids, that he might administer the Sacrament of Extreme Unction to them. Father Melis survived the first aerial bombardment, but perished in the second, last Friday, while administering to persons injured when a train was struck by bombs.

Prayer To 'Man Upstairs' Heard As Plane Blazes

Newest and most dramatic of the "praying soldier" stories is reported by John F. Chester in the New York Daily News:

Lt. Matthew L. Vinson, 24, of Houston, Texas, co-pilot on the Flying Fortress Blackheart Junior, stayed without a parachute yesterday and watched his B-24 mates bail out after two internal explosions riddled his ship.

Then he fell at once like a torpidly blazing torch and lived to tell the tale in a hospital. An exploding oxygen box tore a big hole in the ship and made the entire interior of the fuselage so hot the flames fused metal doors, buckled away the heavy glass cockpit windshields and burned off the pilot's seat safety belts.

Machine-gun ammunition exploded during the blazing descent and the plane's entire 2,000-pound bomb load went up in a single explosion from the heat after Vinson crash-landed a few feet from a heavily mined area on a northeast England beach.

"There is only one explanation," Vinson said. "The Man Upstairs brought me down. I talked to Him. I talked to Him plenty—and He must have heard me."

Vice-Rector Dies

Nicolet, Ore. — The Very Rev. Calisto Arsenault, Vice-Rector of the Nicolet Seminary, is dead at the age of 71. Ordained 43 years ago his entire sacerdotal career was spent at the Nicolet Seminary, where he has held many posts.

A resolution presented by the Massachusetts State Council and approved by the Supreme Council said in part:

"Whereas certain agencies and groups are now seeking about to organize units for the purpose of dictating the policies and conditions to be imposed upon the people and Government of Italy . . .

"Whereas the placing of the control of the affairs of the people of Italy in the hands of these groups may tend to impose Anti-Catholic philosophies upon its people . . .

"Be it resolved that in the interests of good-will, the Department of State, and any other Government agencies concerned in the United States be instructed that it is the desire of the Roman Catholics of America and elsewhere that the control of administering the affairs of Italy be retained and placed in the keeping of Roman Catholics in proportion to the Roman Catholic population of Italy . . .

A resolution, also adopted by the Supreme Council, introduced by the New York State Council, said in part:

"Whereas Catholicism is the religion of all but a very small portion of the Italian people, and the traditions, customs, codes, and culture of the Italians generally are steeped in that faith; and

"Whereas the representatives of the United States Government will exercise temporarily the administrative power necessary to preserve the civil life of the people following the cessation of war until the people can themselves establish their own government . . .

"Be it further resolved, that the Government of the United States be requested, in selecting Italian-Americans for those administrative offices, that gentlemen with religious qualifications that are sympathetic rather than hostile to the people they will serve should be chosen; and

"Be it further resolved, that a copy of this resolution be immediately forwarded to the President of the United States."

Touch My Heart!

O Sacred Heart that lifted itself up in acts of pure prayer under stress of thy Agony, touch my cold heart with a spark of Thy fire, that I may learn to pray in the hour of sorrow and pain.

CONVERT DIPLOMAT GETS L. A. AWARD

UNION CITY, N. J.—Jefferson Caffery, United States Ambassador to Brazil, and President Manuel Prado of Peru are the recipients of the 1943 "The Sign Las Americas Awards."

The awards, made annually, go to a citizen of Latin-America and a citizen of North America who are judged to have made the richest contribution to spiritual Inter-Americanism. The announcement was made by the Rt. Rev. Mgr. William Barry, Chairman of the Committee on Cultural Relations with the American Republics and Canada, together with the editors of The Sign, magazine published by the Passionist Fathers.

Jefferson Caffery, a convert to the Catholic Church, has spent most of his life in the diplomatic service of his country. Since his appointment to Venezuela in 1931 most of his activities have centered in Latin-American countries. He has been U. S. Ambassador to Brazil since July, 1937.

Now they warn us of a food shortage. That's the food we paid farmers not to raise so scarcity would increase prices.—Elizabeth (N. J.) Journal.



QUINTS CONFIRMED. The Dionne quintuplets after their confirmation by Colonel, the Most Rev. Charles E. Neilligan, Bishop of Pembroke and chief Catholic chaplain of the Canadian army. Back row (from left): paternal grandfather, Alois Legros, their godfather; Monsignor R. M. Clarke; Bishop Neilligan; Father W. H. Laffance, the parish priest; Mrs. M. Corbett, aunt and godmother; Front row: Olivia, Jr., brother; Yvonne, Marie, Corine, Pauline, Annette, Emalee, Daniel. (NCWC).

Marry When 20, Quintuplets Tell Bishop At Confirmation

The Dionne quintuplets, who are now nine years old, believe that the best age to marry is 20! This is what the famous five sisters told Bishop Charles Leo Neilligan of Pembroke, Ont., when he confirmed them Aug. 15 in Callander.

"I questioned the children for about half an hour and found them very well versed indeed in their Catholic religion," the prelate said.

The following is a translation in part of the talk given in French by Bishop Neilligan when he confirmed the Dionne quintuplets:

"My dear children—It is three years ago today that you received your first Holy Communion, and I am sure that you haven't forgotten the joy that filled your hearts at that time. Today, on this great feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, you have received the sacrament of Confirmation. It is another great day of happiness in your life.

"You have now been made part of an army, the army of Christ, the army of Our Lord. You have seen soldiers—they carry insignia. As the soldiers of Our Lord you have received today insignia, but it isn't possible to see this insignia with the eyes of your body. It is the insignia which Our Lord made on your souls and which will remain there always, never to be removed. You have received in your souls the seven gifts of the Holy Spirit—wisdom, understanding, counsel, knowledge, piety and fear of the Lord, and with these is the fortitude to battle the enemies of your souls. As I told you before, you are now soldiers, you have the great honor to be part of the army of Christ, the greatest of all generals.

"One of the virtues of a good soldier is loyalty. This is why we are here, you must always remain loyal to your general, Jesus. You know that a soldier in the Canadian army who knowingly abandons his post is severely punished. That is true also of a soldier belonging to the army of Our Lord. Whoever abandons his post in the army of Jesus commits a great sin, a grievous sin. That's why you must promise today to Our Lord never to let you sell the beautiful mantle of grace which covers your souls at this moment.

"The second virtue of a soldier is courage, bravery. The Sacrament of Confirmation which you have received confers courage and bravery. It gives the courage always to be good Catholics, always to be faithful to one's duty, even to give one's life if it is called for, like Jesus who died on the cross for you.

"Another virtue that must be shown by a soldier is devotion to duty. And you, my children, have your duty toward God and toward your neighbor. You do your duty

toward God in loving and serving Him, in saying faithfully your morning and evening prayers, in assisting faithfully at Sunday Mass and in receiving Communion as often as you can. You do your duty toward your neighbor by being always obedient to your parents and your government, by being gentle and kind to your brothers, your sisters and your playmates, by always being ready to do something for others. My children, if you do all this you will

please God and he will give generously of his goods in your life and you yourselves will make others happy.

"I call down the blessings of God upon you and I ask the Holy Spirit whom you have received in your souls, to guide you, to protect you, and to bring you at the end of your lives into his beautiful paradise. That grace I ask for you in the name of the Father, the Son, and the Holy Spirit. Amen."

Cardinal Hails Training Of Polish Priests In U. S.

The proposal of the Bishops of the United States to train future priests for war ravaged Poland at the Seminary of Saints Cyril and Methodius, at Orchard Lake, Michigan, is acclaimed a "magnanimous offer" by His Eminence August Cardinal Hlond, Primate of Poland in a letter to the Most Rev. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, and Episcopal Chairman of National Catholic Welfare Conference.

The Polish Cardinal states that whereas the major seminaries of Poland had 2,500 students in 1939, there are today less than 70 students at Theology in the country. All seminaries in Poland have been closed.

The number of priests of the Latin rite in Poland, the Cardinal also reports, has reached the 2,000 mark.

'Living Rosary' At Soldier Field

CHICAGO.—Two thousand girls from the Catholic high schools of Chicago will form a living rosary at Soldier Field Sunday evening, Sept. 12, when the Chicago Archdiocesan Union of Holy Name Societies sponsor the Third Annual Holy Name Hour.

As part of the pageantry planned for that evening's ceremonies, the Program Committee, under the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Joseph Morrison, Rector of the Holy Name Cathedral, Chicago, and alumnus of St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, has planned to have these two thousand girls go into the formation of a pair of rosary beads while the 150,000 people who are expected to attend the Holy Hour will publicly recite the Holy Marys and Our Fathers that compose this devotion to Mary.

Coupled with the rosary feature will be the formation of a huge "V" by approximately one thousand members of the U. S. armed forces.

They say women aren't qualified for a parachute auxiliary. It's so hard to change your mind after you jump.—(Cincinnati Enquirer).

Churchill At Rites For General Sikorski Follows Mass Ritual

The recent funeral Mass in London for General Sikorski, Polish Commander-in-Chief, who was killed in an aircraft at Gibraltar, was attended by numerous statesmen and crowned heads, according to N.C.W.C. London correspondent, George Bernard.

The arrival at the Mass of Britain's Prime Minister, Winston Churchill, sent a thrill through the congregation. He was not alone; he had Mrs. Churchill with him as a special mark of their friendship for the Polish Commander. No one in that congregation of 2,000 showed greater interest in the ceremony than did Mr. Churchill; he followed the ritual with a book and stood and knelt at the appointed places as one keenly interested in the unfamiliar but moving rite.

Name Communists To Posts In Badoglio Regime

ROME.—Rome's Catholic daily newspaper, L'Avvenire d'Italia, declares that certain nominations that are being made by the new Italian Government in its reorganization of syndicates "demand the fullest reserve on our part." The paper notes that the new Badoglio Government is naming Socialists, Liberals, Catholics and Communists to posts of responsibility.

All education does today is develop the memory at the expense of the imagination.—Owen Johnson.