Parish Halls Are Closed To Political Meetings

QUEBEC.—Parish halls in the City of Quebec may not be used for political meetings of any kind, it is recalled in a statement by His Eminence Rodrigue Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec. Outside the city, however, because such halls are often the only places where meetings can be held, the use of parish halls for this purpose may be tolerated.

"SURSUM CORDA"
By Fr. Gillis—Editorial Page

Spare Rome as 'Battlefield', Holy Father Pleads on Fifth Anniversary of Reign

VATICAN CITY (NC-Radio)—The hope that Rome, the Eternal City, may not be turned into a battlefield, thus perpetrating "an act as inglorious from a military viewpoint as it would be abominable in the eyes of God and of mankind" was expressed by His Holiness Pope Pius XII in addressing the vast throng who came to attend the observance of the fifth anniversary of his coronation as Supreme Pontiff, on Sunday, Mar. 12.

The Holy Father appeared on the loggia of St. Peter's promptly at 3:30 P. M. dressed in a simple, white vestment. His few attendants were not in ceremonial dress. He delivered the address with much feeling, in a resonant voice and with gestures. His voice was carried by amplifiers to the farthest reaches of the great square, in which were thronged some 40,000 persons. At the side of the loggia were assembled members of the Diplomatic Corps, and the nobility of Rome.

Frequently the words of the Holy Father were interrupted by applause and the waving of handkerchiefs, particularly when he made his appeal for peace. His Holiness assumed the cappa and stole for Benediction which he imparted to the bare-headed, kneeling throng.

The weather in the morning had been its worst, the torrential downpour stopping in the early afternoon. The sky was overcast when the Sovereign Pontiff appeared on the balcony.

Text of Message

"Dear Sons," the Holy Father said, "come to receive from the Vicar of Christ a word of blessing and comfort in the midst of desolation and deprived of domestic happiness; deprived, perhaps, of members of your family; often without news of the fate of your relatives and dear ones, We can but remind you of God's promise to work all things, even those which are most calamitous and hardest to bear unto good."

"You are gathered," His Holiness said, "around Us, not to learn of that paternal anguish which makes Us one with you in sorrow—for of that you are already well aware—but to hear from Our lips and to read in Our face the assurance that the weight of your sufferings is all Our very own and that it overflow into the inmost recesses of Our heart.

"Yes, dear sons and daughters, the sorrow which unites us to you is a loving sorrow which makes you doubly dear to Us, all the more beloved as you are the more afflicted; and be assured that there is no one of your sufferings, no one of your anxieties, no one of your spiritual and bodily afflictions which does not inflict upon Our soul a wound far deeper and more painful than inflicted by Our own personal sufferings.

"From that day when We had seen unheeded the appeals We made to avert this war, whereof We foresaw the terrible and disastrous consequences, Our spiritual fatherhood has urged Us on to devote Our selves utterly to the alleviation of those needs and sufferings whose countless multitude We contemplate with anxious solicitude, to give—within the lamentably restricted limits of Our material means—food and clothing to those who had none and whose need was extreme and to reunite those whom battles and invasions had separated.

Appeals for 'Children'

"No means was neglected to separate peoples from the horrors of deportation and exile. When dire reality came to disappoint Our most legitimate hopes, We exerted all Our powers to alleviate, at least, the rigors of such sufferings. But, fully conscious as We were of the insufficiency of all that We could do, We did not cease to cry for help, like the father who, in his sorrow for his unfortunate children, appeals to all, near and far, in whose breasts beats a generous heart.

"Devoted and charitable hearts there were who replied to Our appeal. In Our deep gratitude We keep their names within Our heart to offer them to God that He may write them in the book of everlasting recompense. But in this hour of special trial for the greatly afflicted city of Rome, torn as it is in the living flesh of its citizens, killed, disabled or wounded, for this city whose sufferings have increased and been intensified and whose daily sufferings have become more urgent, We call on all who have means to help, whether with material gifts or with active aid of their labor, not to deny their contribution and their help to so urgent and charitable a cause.

"If each of the cities in almost all continents stricken by aerial warfare that knows no laws or limits is in itself a terrible testimony to the cruelty of such means of warfare, how can we believe that anyone should ever presume to turn Rome—this dear city which belongs to all those and all peoples, on—which the Christian and civilized world now gazes anxiously—to turn Rome, We say, into a battlefield, a theater of war, thus perpetrating an act as inglorious from a military viewpoint as it would be abominable in the eyes of God and of mankind that appreciates the highest and most intangible spiritual and moral values?

Directed to Leaders

"We must, therefore, appeal once again to the clear-sighted vision and wisdom of responsible men in both belligerent camps. We feel certain that they will not wish to have their names associated with a deed which no motive could ever justify in history, and that they would rather turn their thoughts, their intentions, their desires and their labors toward the securing of a peace which will free mankind from all internal and external violence, so that their names may remain in benediction and not as a curse through the centuries on the face of the earth.

"Dear people of Rome! In the turmoil of so many misfortunes and disasters, We feel and admit in the anguish of Our heart how inadequate and insufficient are all human means, in the face of this limitless excess of unspeakable misery. There are disasters before which even the most generous and lavish hand is inadequate. Lift up, therefore, your eyes to heaven, Dear Sons and Daughters, to Him Who will give you the strength to bear your cross with lively faith and Christian fortitude, to Jesus Christ, Our Lord and Saviour."

Carry the Cross

The Holy Father then called upon his listeners to heed the Saviour's invitation and promise of refreshment to those who labor and are heavily burdened. He urged them to carry the cross after the Saviour as penance for personal sins and for the salvation and peace of the world. He appealed to divine mercy that the afflicted, anguished multitude, keeping faith with Jesus, might be strengthened to support with meritorious patience and dignity the bitterness of their life.

Continuing, His Holiness said:

"Eternal and Supreme Priest, Who in Thy benign intention of uniting all nations in one fold under one Shepherd, showed the way to Peter to Rome and thus placed upon Rome's brow the diadem of truth and grace before which the faithful of the world would bow in reverence and gratitude, take this city, in an hour of ever-growing danger, under the powerful wings of Thy omnipotent protection and grant that those who dwell therein may see their days of fear and anguish change into days of spiritual recollection, of resolute and sincere return to Thee and Thy holy law, so often forgotten and violated.

"Lord, on behalf of and in union with all whom this fearful conflict has plunged into mourning, misery and sorrow, We invoke Thee, in the words of the liturgy, 'Show us, we beseech Thee, O Lord, Thine ineffable mercy that Thou mayest both cleanse us from all our sins and deliver us from those punishments which we have deserved because of them.' Grant that all those who trust in Thee may see the dawning of days when the shepherd and the flock, extolling Thee and Thy infinite goodness, may exclaim with joy and gratitude, 'It is the mercy of the Lord that we are not consumed.' (Lamentations, 3, 23.)

"Yes, saved here below and saved for all eternity."

Jerusalem Triplets Named for Archangels

By Bro. Anthony Bruyn, O.F.M.

JERUSALEM, (NC)—What's in a name? Well, now!

Triplets, born here recently, were named in honor of the three Archangels, Gabriel, Michael and Raphael.

The triplets were born to the wife of a Jewish Police Sergeant.

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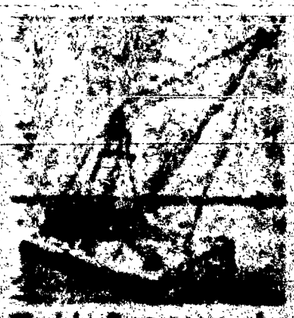

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