

Japanese Traits Retarding Victory Told by Missionary

ROME (CIP) — Father Candeau, of the Paris Foreign Mission Society, formerly a Professor of Contemporary Philosophy at the University of Tokyo and one of the foremost Catholic experts on Japanese affairs, told a CIP correspondent in an exclusive interview that even well educated Japanese consider their Emperor a god and do not find anything unreasonable in such a belief.

This shows, Father Candeau stated, how far the Japanese are from Christianity.

The fact cannot simply be attributed to a lack of education because, he said, the Japanese learn and read a good deal and there is no important German, English, or French philosopher whose books are not translated into Japanese and widely read in Japan.

As to the attitude of the Japanese people in this war, Father Candeau said that the Japanese are not only fanatical by temperament but have an unimaginable contempt for death. Leaving for the war means for them leaving without the desire to return.

The spirit of sacrifice and abnegation is for the Japanese something instinctive and natural, not only a product of national education and indoctrination. This may not be entirely attributed to religious convictions, Father Candeau declared, because both Buddhism and Shintosm are unclear and vague in what they teach about life after death.

This trait of the Japanese character will make it difficult for the Allies, Father Candeau said, to obtain, even with considerable superiority of equipment, a rapid victory over Japan.

While the recognition of the Catholic Church in the Japanese "Law on Religions" of 1880 seemed to strengthen the position of the Church in Japan, Father Candeau said, the war has made conditions much worse than before. European missionary bishops have had to give up their diocese. Some of them are allowed, under strict supervision, to work as chaplains to convents. The dioceses are administered by Japanese Bishops only.

PONTIFICAL RITES FOR FR. BRESMAN, PRIEST 48 YEARS

Pontifical Mass of Requiem for the Rev. John J. Bresnahan, pastor-emeritus of St. Bridget's Parish, Rochester, was celebrated at the Gorham Street Church on Wednesday morning by His Excellency Bishop Kearney.

Father Bresnahan died on Saturday, Dec. 30, 1944 at St. Mary's Hospital here following a short illness.

In an eulogy delivered at the Funeral Mass the Rev. Eugene Golding, former altar-boy of the departed priest, paid tribute to Father Bresnahan's forty-eight years in the priesthood and long pastorate at St. Bridget's.

A native of Auburn, N. Y., Father Bresnahan was born on January 3, 1867.

Following his ordination by the Most Rev. Bernard J. McQuaid, first Bishop of Rochester, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, May 30, 1886, he was appointed assistant pastor of St. Bridget's. In 1901 he became pastor of St. Vincent's Church, Churchville, where he remained until 1912 when he was appointed pastor of St. Bridget's. Father Bresnahan concluded a twenty-five year pastorate at St. Bridget's in 1937 when he resigned and became pastor-emeritus.

Following the funeral Mass at St. Bridget's Father Bresnahan's body was taken to Auburn and buried in the family plot.

Priests assisting Bishop Kearney were:

Assistant Priest, Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, V. G.; Deacons of Honor the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles F. Shay; Deacon of the Mass, Rev. J. Enid Gefell; Subdeacon of the Mass, Rev. Gerald T. Brennan.

Master of Ceremonies, Rev. Lawrence B. Casey; Second Master, Rev. John S. Randall; Acolytes, Rev. Robert Fox and Rev. Francis Taylor; Thurifer, Rev. Arthur Ratigan; Book-bearer, Rev. Francis Kleehammer; Candle-bearer, Rev. Paul Wohrbar, and Mitre-bearer, Rev. John Morgan.

The following priests were also present:

Rev. Thomas F. Connors, Rev. Arthur F. Florack, Rev. Arthur Weltzer, Rev. D. R. Sullivan, Rev. J. Beecher Sullivan, Rev. Harold Rogers, Rev. John Tressy, Rev. Paul Gibbons, Rev. W. Willemen, S.S.C.C., Rev. Michael Tydinga, Rev. Leo C. Mooney, Rev. Charles J. McCarthy, Rev. S. B. Krolak, and Rev. Eugene W. McCarthy.

It takes only a pint of your blood sometimes to save a life in a hospital. Give your winter blanket now.

—Sister M. Agnes, R.N.

Calls for Spanish Government Free from Tyranny, Dictators

NEW YORK — Spain must

overthrow its government free from tyranny and dictatorship and based upon the "consent of the governed," the Rev. John Labarge, editor-in-chief of America, declared in a highly significant article on "Spain's Future or Spain."

Advocating a republic or a monarchy, the noted devout editor called for a "strong" government of the people which will recognize human rights, guarantee the innate rights of minority groups, and solve the "Spanish-American problem." He said the main condition Spain will need to escape from the threat of anarchy and enjoy internal stability and peace, are independence, good government, and full development of religion.

Father Labarge expressed hope that Spain will "take her part in the family of nations" not in a vague or abstract way, but as a member of any future international organization.

He suggested that action by the Spanish Church is "urgently needed to heal internal divisions and help bring about a moderate and stable government."

As to the attitude of the Spanish hierarchy, he asserted that reliable sources of information were behind reports last summer that the Catholic bishops in Spain regard the Franco regime as a temporary expedient and would not oppose even a republic provided it were free of Communist control.

"In Spain," Father Labarge stated, "the action of the Church is crucial in every hope for a healing of those internal divisions which now so cruelly harass that nation. . . . The human element in Spain's political situation is inseparably tied up with the Church."

Pope Urges Belligerent's To End Bucharest Battle

NEW YORK, Jan. 3 (UPI) — Pope Pius XII has appealed to the belligerents engaged in the battle for Budapest "asking them to put an end to the bloody fighting in the Hungarian capital," the Paris Radio reported on Wednesday.



Rev. John J. Bresnahan

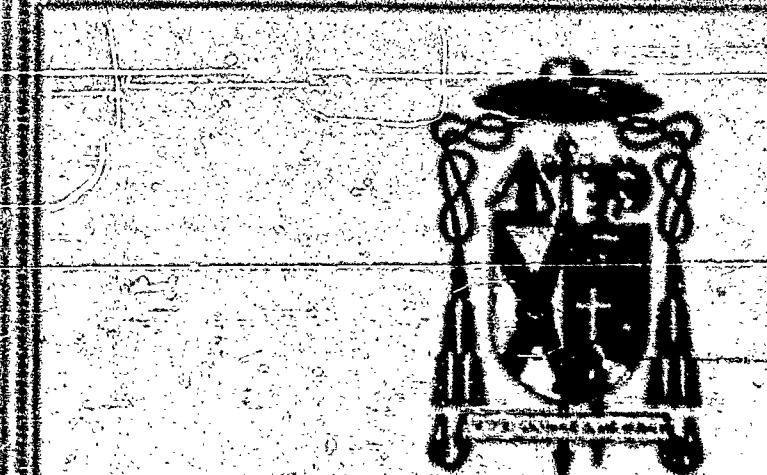
Church Attendance In Germany Increases

ROME (CIP) — It is reliably reported that all German Bishops, having made special inquiries, are in accord in reporting a considerable increase in church attendance during the past year. Not only middle-aged persons but youth and soldiers as well crowd the Sunday Masses so that often many have to stand on the porch.

Asked about the figure given through another source, some months ago, of an increase of about one third over pre-war church attendance in Germany (including Protestant denominations), the same source said he thought this was highly probable.

The primary significance of church attendance being the practical recognition of a power above all human power, this points undoubtedly to an increase in the opposition to the claims of omnipotence of the German totalitarian state.

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BISHOP KEARNEY

will be at home

to extend New Year greetings

to the people of Rochester

on Sunday afternoon

January Seventh

from three o'clock until six

at 947 East Avenue

Fear of Communism Basis Of Sicilian Separation

ROME (CIP) — A Sicilian priest, whose name cannot be quoted, told a CIP correspondent that the Separatist movement in Sicily is developing towards more moderate ideas.

Only a small minority now favors absolute separation of Sicily from Italy; the large majority want some kind of federation which will allow Sicilians to develop their industries and ports on a larger scale.

The Sicilian priest said that the heads of the "Sicilian Independence Movement," which counts about 400,000 members against 25,000 Christian Democrats and not more than 3,000 Communists in Sicily, are anxious not to come in conflict with the Church. They have therefore substituted for the previous distribution of propaganda literature at the church entrances the distribution of a "Prayer for Sicily" which has no definitely political implications and is approved by the ecclesiastical authorities.

BISHOP RYAN CONSECRATED FOR BURLINGTON DIOCESE

BOSTON (INS) — More than a score of Archbishops and Bishops convened on Wednesday (Jan. 3) at Holy Cross Cathedral to participate in the consecration of the Most Rev. Edward Francis Ryan, 66-year-old native of Lynn, Mass., as Bishop of Burlington, Vt.

The Bishop-elect succeeds Most Rev. Matthew F. Brady, who has been named Bishop of Manchester, N.H. A graduate of Boston College in 1901, he was ordained in 1905 after completing his studies at North American College in Rome.

Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston performed the consecration ceremony, assisted by Archbishop Francis J. Spellman of New York and Bishop Francis P. Keough, of Providence, R. I.

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Decree Restricts Mission Activities in Ethiopia

LONDON (INC) — A decree has been issued by Emperor Haile Selassie restricting the work of missionaries in Ethiopia. The act forbids missionaries from attempting to convert Ethiopian nationals and bars them from areas predominantly populated by members of the Ethiopian Church.

The decree, printed in Negarit Gazeta, official Ethiopian publication, establishes "open areas" in which the inhabitants are predominantly non-Christian. In these areas, the decree states, "missions may work."

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