Italian Leftists Fear Rise in Church Power From Women's Suffrage

By Helen Hiett
Religious News Service Correspondent

ROME (By Wireless)—Fear that votes for women may increase the power of the Catholic Church in Italy is seen behind disagreements between the Christian Democratic Party and left-wing groups as to how the political rights for women should extend.

The current campaign for feminine suffrage, which no political party opposes, has been highlighted by a statement in which Dr. Alcide de Gasperi, Christian Democratic leader and Foreign Minister in the Bonomi government, argued that "the good sense of reasoning women would be most useful in administrative life" and would "bring greater idealism into politics."

Dr. de Gasperi asserted that women have "constituted a magnificent bar front of assistance and resistance" and therefore "it is right to allow them to participate in the development of a free political system."

Left-wing leaders, such as the Socialist Humberto Caleoni, maintained that Dr. de Gasperi's position regarded as the "Catholic" viewpoint would restrict women to voting.

Caleoni insists women need more than the vote or they will "just follow their husbands." He favors legislation under which municipal councils would have on women representative in every ten. The election of a woman in every village, he states, would be enough "to revitalize all others, making them immediately more conscious of their political and social responsibilities."

As the campaign for woman suffrage continues, Communist and Socialist leaders have refrained from pushing divorce or birth control issues which would undoubtedly stir up immediate Catholic opposition.

Protect Civilians, Catholic Nurses Ask

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS)—The National Council of Catholic Nurses is on record as urging that any legislation for induction of nurses into the armed services contain provisions for maintenance of adequate staffs in vital civilian nursing schools and health agencies.

Views of the organization were made public in a press conference with Miss Anne F. Roach, president, and Miss Mary E. Kelly, past president of the council, at a Washington hotel.

Miss Kelly said the organization favored the present system of allocating nurses under the Assignment Service for Nurses of the War Manpower Commission, and she maintains that if that agency [illegible] in exempt spheres to adhere to their status under the WMC classification, there would be no reason for drafting.

[illegible] the Armed Forces under selective service should be a last resort, Miss Roach declared.

CONTRIBUTION TO DEMOCRACY—PROTESTANT PAPER TERMS POPE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE

NEW YORK (NC)—The weekly Information Service of the Protestant Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America, published here, urges readers to procure a copy of the Christmas Message of His Holiness Pope Pius XII and to study the text of the message for its contribution to the philosophy of democracy.

[illegible]

Avers Soviet Citizen Heads Lublin Regime

LONDON (NC)—A biographical sketch of Bolesław Bierut, head of the Lublin Committee recently recognized by Russia as the Polish government, [illegible] Bierut was the Polish representative at the Comintern congress, [illegible] Bierut has been a very active agent of the Comintern for the last 20 years and is a Soviet citizen."

The Manchester Guardian, journal of opinion, commenting on the Lublin Committee, states that it is "clearly non-representative of the Polish people" and "could not [illegible] Russian arms"; that "Boleslaw Bierut has himself admitted that force has to be used against [illegible] of the London Government, he threatened arrest"; and that, under circumstances, "any democratic [illegible] war on the root [illegible] Poland [illegible] Russian arms, the Polish people, like the Greek people, would be given the opportunity of expressing their will."

[illegible]

'Biblical Sunday' To Spur Scriptural Reading Set Jan. 28

WASHINGTON—Biblical Sunday, designed to promote reading of the Scriptures on the part of the laity throughout the nation, will be observed this year on Septuagesima Sunday, January 28, it has been announced here by the Catholic Biblical Association of America, sponsor of the observance.

"Septuagesima Sunday has been set aside as Biblical Sunday because on this day the Church begins the reading of the Old Testament in the Divine Office," the Rev. William H. McClellan, S.J., President of the Association, said. "The important thing is to restore in Catholic families the salutary practice of Scripture reading to help in counteracting the growing worldliness of the times and in bringing our people closer to Jesus Christ, the sole salvation of mankind."

Pope Urges Faithful To Profess Openly With Courage, Piety

ROME (By Wireless RNS)—Catholics must be prepared to profess their faith openly in these "bitterly grave" times, Pope Pius XII told 4,000 members of the Marian Congregations from thirty-one countries gathered here to honor the Pontiff on the 50th anniversary of his admission to the Roman branch of the Congregation of the Holy Virgin Mary.

Addressing an audience in the Hall of the Benedictions, the Holy Father voiced what was interpreted as an appeal to Marian adherents to combat communism. He declared: "Enemies of Christ and the Church never disarm even when they show peaceful intentions. In this struggle courage and piety are the arms of every congregation".

The huge gathering was composed of Cardinals and other prelates and diplomats to the Holy See, priests, monks, workmen, and soldiers of many nationalities.

Stressing the tasks and duties of Marian congregations, of which there are about 77,000 throughout the world, with more than 7,000,000 members, the Pope said:

"The present time demands Catholics without fear, who feel it natural openly to confess their faith in words and deeds whenever this is demanded by God's law and the sense of Christian honor."

Recalling that Marian congregations exist for every social class and condition of life, from groups of priests and men in high social and intellectual positions to college students and humble workers, the Pontiff singled out for special mention the Congregation of Valencia, Spain; Munich's formerly flourishing Congregation of St. Michael, "courageously and publicly professing the faith," and the Congregation established by Catholic nurses in the United States.

Little Film Star Kisses Relic

New York Daily News Photo

VISITING THE SHRINE of St. Jude Thaddeus in New York City, Margaret O'Brien, eight-year-old movie star is seen kissing the sacred relic of the saint. The relic is being applied by the Very Rev. Richard M. McDermott, O.P., M.A. (right) at Church of St. Catherine of Siena, 411 E. 68th St., New York. Assisting is the Very Rev. Justin J. Cassidy, O.P.

Pope's Gift to Polish General Seen Significant

ROME (By Wireless-RNS)—Pope Pius XII has presented General Władisław Anders, commander of the Polish troops in Italy, with a silver medal bearing the Papal image, usually given only to heads of state or [illegible] and sometimes to church dignitaries intimately associated with the Pontiff.

The Pope's gesture is regarded as highly significant in view of Vatican concern over the issue of Polish independence. The medal was conferred at a private audience preceding reception of a Polish delegation headed by General Anders which gave the Pope a gold and silver shield as a mark of homage and appreciation.

The shield was in a mahogany case which bore the Pontifical keys and a silver plaque on which were engraved the words, in Latin: "To God, to the Vicar of Christ, and to the love of the Fatherland, Poland, always faithful, through the Second Polish Corps in Italy, makes this reverent offering to Pius XII, defender of justice."

Meanwhile, Osservatore Romano, Vatican newspaper, gave prominence to a recent statement by U. S. Senator Joseph H. Ball (Rep., Minn.) that if the United States does not interest itself in European politics the future of states like Poland, Jugoslavia, and Greece, will be "gravely menaced."

'Little Flower's Relics Brought to Paris for Novena of Thanksgiving

PARIS (By Wireless RNS)—The relics of St. Therese of Lisieux will shortly be transferred temporarily to Paris for a national novena of thanksgiving for what French Catholics consider the saint's protection during the liberation of France. The [illegible] will begin February 25.

On June 9 last, Pope Pius XII canonized St. Therese, having beatified her years ago. The [illegible] patron saint. Celebrations were planned at that time, but had to be abandoned.

The saint's body will be borne from Lisieux in a casket prepared by Brazilian Catholics. And will be received at the Cathedral of Notre Dame by Archbishop Suhard of Paris, the Papal Nuncio, the Ambassador of Poland, the Ambassador of Brazil, the Minister of Brazil, the Minister of Poland, the Minister of Poland, the Minister of Brazil, the Minister of Poland, the Minister of Brazil, the Minister of Poland, the Minister of Brazil