

Vatican Newspaper Answers Critics of Stand on Poland

ROME (By Wireless, RNS)—Osservatore Romano, Vatican newspaper, has replied to critics who jokingly suggested it should call itself Osservatore Polacco, because of the amount of news and comment devoted to the Polish question.

British Chaplains Perform Duties in Germany

LONDON (By Wireless RNS)—Catholic chaplains serving with the British army are getting down to parish work again—among Germans in Hitler's Reich.

The priests, according to the Universal Catholic weekly, published here, are administering the sacraments to German civilians, hearing German confessions, and answering German sick calls.

An official ruling says chaplains from fraternizing with residents of occupied areas in Germany, but the priests are permitted to assist local clergy in meeting the demands of their ministry.

by stating that it could have been called the Workers' Observer during the Pontificate of Leo XIII or the Bohemian Observer during the Catholic struggle for free schools.

It could also, it said, have been called the French Observer at the time of the fight against laws affecting religious congregations, or the Mexican Observer when the Church in Mexico was being persecuted.

The Vatican organ recalled that it was referred to as the Democratic Observer by Nazis and Fascists.

It happens every time the cause of religion, the Church, morality, justice, sociology, or Christian politics moves geographically or politically, the newspaper said.

"So today it is Poland because of the sentiment, faith, reason, right, and that morality of the peoples which is oppressed by democracy and that justice which for individuals as for nations is indissolubly tied to doctrine, sociology and Christian policy."

Chaplain Meets Fellow Priests on Luzon



DEATH THE SYMBOL of faith in the Yank's return to Philippines is this undamaged cross at San Carlos on Luzon. Confronted at the cross just after the Japanese retreat are Monsignor Leon B. Baccan, Vicar General of Lingayen Diocese, Pastor Mayuga, resident priest at San Carlos and the Rev. Emer W. Mohr, priest of Rochester Diocese. Photo by Willard Nash, Army War pool correspondent.

Pupil Gain Forecast In Catholic Schools

WASHINGTON (NC)—A gain of nearly two per cent in the enrollment in Catholic elementary schools is forecast in the returns received from 79 archdioceses and dioceses for

school enrollments have declined because of the nation-wide falling off in the birth rate during the preceding years. The total for Catholic elementary schools in 1939, the peak year, for example, was 2,522,350 pupils. After that year the biennial surveys up to and including 1943 showed a total decrease of 8.4 per cent, or a loss of 197,414 pupils in ten years.

Public schools lost 12.4 per cent. During the same period the enrollment in public elementary schools dropped from 21,297,697 to 18,837,376, a decline of 2,523,782 pupils, or 12.4 per cent.

In its "Statistical Summary for 1941-42" the U. S. Office of Education reveals even a further decrease in public elementary school enrollments. However, this latest summary contains the following encouraging note:

"Estimates based on the number of children born each year from 1940 through 1942 show the approximate number of children who will be six years old each year from 1945 to 1948. Approximately 1,000,000 more children will be available for the first grade in 1945 than in 1942. The low point in the decade children was reached in 1942. The new high point will probably be reached in 1948 or 1949."

'Annuario' Records 1,334 Residential Dioceses in World

VATICAN CITY (NC)—There are 1,334 residential dioceses in the world, it is revealed by the 1945 edition of the Annuario Pontificio, official Vatican yearbook.

The new volume shows there are presently 41 Cardinals. There are 59 vacancies in the Sacred College, which has 70 members when its complement is filled.

The residential dioceses in the world are divided as follows:

Patriarchates, 20; Metropolitan sees, 59; Archdioceses other than Metropolitan sees, 20; Dioceses, 1234.

Subsidiary areas of all kinds, including territorial sees, total 1,614, of which number 26 have been created in the Pontificate of Pope Pius XII. Seventeen new ecclesiastical territories were created in 1944 alone.

Retaliation by Robomb 'Intrinsically Wrong'

WASHINGTON (NC)—The German method of robot bombing is "intrinsically immoral" and "our military forces are not allowed to use them (robot bombs) in this manner," even to retaliate and to shorten the war.

The American Ecclesiastical Review declares in answer the question whether it is "permissible for our military forces, in retaliation for the robot bombing which the Germans have practiced, to direct robot bombs against the German cities."

"According to accepted Catholic principles," the Ecclesiastical Review says, "although the death of non-combatants or innocent persons may be tolerated as an indirect effect of the bombing of important military objectives, a direct attack on such persons is always wrong, however great the advantage may be from the military standpoint."

"Now," the article continued, "when a deadly missile is launched against a large city in such a way that it cannot be directed against any particular building, negative but it likely to strike in the midst of a peaceful district, those who are in the vicinity of cities which by its very nature will probably directly hit non-combatants."

"The American Ecclesiastical Review," the article continued, "states that the use of robot bombs is intrinsically wrong, even to retaliate and to shorten the war. The weapon is not under tight control and is not directed to any particular target but is scattered over a large area."

The article also states that the use of robot bombs is "intrinsically wrong" because it is "a direct attack on non-combatants."

Maritain Named French Ambassador To Vatican

NEW YORK (NC)—Jacques Maritain, noted French Catholic philosopher, confirmed to Religious News Service here his appointment as French Ambassador to the Vatican. He said he does not expect to assume his duties at the Vatican until about the end of February. He will replace Hubert Guerin who has been acting as unofficial representative of the de Gaulle government.

Mr. Maritain was a (Rochester Catholic) lecturer at Aquinas Hall, St. Bonaventure, on April 15, 1941.

The French scholar recently gave a series of lectures to French students at the University of Notre Dame in Notre Dame, Ind.

Born in France in 1882, Mr. Maritain became a Catholic in 1909 while studying at the Sorbonne in Paris. After serving on the staff of the French government, he became a member of the French Academy in 1920. He was elected to the Académie Française in 1927.

Mr. Maritain has been a resident of the United States since 1940, when he came to the United States to escape the Vichy regime. He has been a member of the National Council of Catholic Bishops since 1941.

7,000 Sisters of Charity Organize Relief in France

NEW YORK (NC)—The Sisters of Charity of the United States are organizing a relief effort in France. The Sisters of Charity of the United States are organizing a relief effort in France. The Sisters of Charity of the United States are organizing a relief effort in France.

Can't Discredit Religion In Public Schools Either!

The Constitution of New York State prohibits any law which shall discredit religion in public schools.

The Constitution of New York State prohibits any law which shall discredit religion in public schools. The Constitution of New York State prohibits any law which shall discredit religion in public schools.

The Constitution of New York State prohibits any law which shall discredit religion in public schools. The Constitution of New York State prohibits any law which shall discredit religion in public schools.

The Constitution of New York State prohibits any law which shall discredit religion in public schools. The Constitution of New York State prohibits any law which shall discredit religion in public schools.