

French Catholics Told To Love Communists, but To Combat 'Ism

PARIS—French Catholics must love Communists but they can not cooperate with them in social action, declares the Most Rev. Pierre Theas, popular Bishop of Montauban, in a statement which he has ordered read in every chapel and church of his diocese.

Recently the Communists

Argentina Hierarchy In Pastoral Opposes Protestant Invasion

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina—Protestant proselytizing activities in this Catholic country have been denounced in a Pastoral Letter collectively issued by the Cardinal Archbishop of Buenos Aires and 21 other Bishops of Argentina.

Discussing the attempted "spiritual conquest" by Protestant sects, the Pastoral charges that Protestant missionaries have appeared in Argentina "for the purpose of winning converts among a population which in its majority, has been Catholic since the time of the Spanish conquest."

"We have the right and the obligation," the Pastoral says, "to oppose this kind of propaganda because it sows error and separates souls from religious truth."

"Besides," it is added, "any attack upon our Catholic unity is an attack upon the spiritual and national unity of our country, and inevitably divides us among ourselves and among our sister nations."

The Bishops make known their intention to makeable efforts in opposition to the advances of Protestantism by means of an intensive catechetical and charitable action. They exhort the clergy to multiply Catholic periodicals and pamphlets and to organize catechetical groups; also to remind their people frequently of the grave prohibitions against sending their children to Protestant schools, or of Catholic teachers cooperating in such schools; of the prohibition against reading Protestant publications, attending Protestant lectures, or supporting societies which, under various pretexts, spread Protestantism.

CENSOR POPE'S CHRISTMAS MESSAGE IN NORTHERN ITALY

GENEVA (By Wireless-RNS) — German-occupied northern Italy received only fragmentary reports of the Pope's Christmas message on the meaning of democracy according to information here. Radio transmission was limited to such an extent that broadcasts could not be understood, and newspapers were allowed to print only a few carefully-edited lines.

Milan's Catholic newspaper "L'Espresso" in Germany-held Italy which has preserved some amount of freedom, had the complete text of the Pope's address in type when the Minister of Culture forbade its publication under threat of seizure of the newspaper, and arrest of its editorial staff.

Faced with the impossibility of continuing its work "L'Espresso" suspended publication.

Your ordinary newspaper will give you opportunity of knowing the full text.

Bishop Officiates At Final Tribute to Watkins Glen Pastor

With His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. O'Keefe, Bishop of Rochester officiating, Solemn Pontifical Funeral Services for the Rev. Thomas F. Carroll, pastor, were held in St. Mary's of the Lake Church, Watkins Glen.

Assisting the Bishop in the Solemn Pontifical Mass of Requiem which was attended by approximately 20 priests of the diocese, were: Assistant Priest, the Rt. Rev. Magr. John J. Lee, V.F.; Deacon, the Rev. William J. Brien; Subdeacon, the Rev. Theodore J. Winterroth; Deacons of Honor, the Rev. Leo G. Schwab and the Rev. Hubert A. Blisky, the Rev. Father Bruno, A.S.B., Master of Ceremonies.

The eulogy was preached by the Rev. Stanley M. Salsomovaki, a Bradford.

Music was furnished by the Religious Teachers Philippii who teach in St. Mary's of the Lake School augmented by the Motherhouse Choir of the Philippii Sisters.

A teaching tribute to Father Carroll was paid by the public school principal who eulogized the Catholic children in his school to attend the funeral mass in a body.

Burial was in Watkins Glen.

Asks Religion Classes In Cuba Public School

HAVANA (NC)—Teaching of religion and morals in public schools of Cuba is advocated in a series of articles by Manuel Luis del Rio, on the editorial page of El Diario de Martin, published here.

The writer contends that "to deny the child religious education is the religion of his forefathers, to deny God and His immutable laws is the antithesis."

He observes that although the present Government is neither intolerant nor sectarian, "for reasons we need not go into here, it is impossible today in Cuba to establish the Catholic school officially."

"Respect for the rights of individuals is one of the postulates of democracy," Mr. del Rio writes. "Education of their children is one of the rights of parents that no one can deny without falling into despotism and tyrannical totalitarianism."

of his Province invited Bishop Theas to cooperate with them and to declare that there is no reason why Christians and Communists should not enter into a permanent alliance since both groups are the adversaries of Fascism and social regression.

The Bishop of Montauban states that after conversations with the Communist leaders, and after having studied the documents that they brought to him, he has the duty in all charity, to make his attitude clear. Christian, he says, ought to avoid any confusion and dispel all uncertainty. Communism rests on Marxism and materialism and the incompatibility between Christian doctrine and Communist doctrine is evident. Question of Collaboration

Explains Bishop Theas: "If the social demands of Communists were inspired by principles of the natural law—we are not asking them for a profession of Catholic faith then our collaboration would be total and enthusiastic. But the Communist social program is interwoven with a doctrine regarding man, society and the world that is contrary not only to Revelation but also to the natural law. That is why a lack of accord on principles renders impossible an accord in the realization of action.

The elevation of the labor class is demanded by both Communists and Christians. For the former, this elevation does not go beyond earth or time; for the latter, it reaches to Heaven and eternity. A traveler does not board a train that he knows will be sidetracked before reaching his destination. A Christian does not enter into a movement which has human life on earth as its termination since, according to his faith, this life is merely a step towards and a hope for a better world, one of unending blessedness.

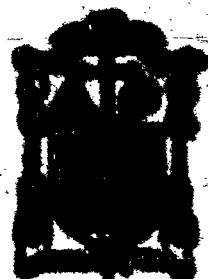
States Christian Position "One conclusion is evident: one cannot be a Communist and a Christian at the same time. It is impossible at one and the same time to be for God and against God, or spiritualistic and materialistic; it is impossible to be a disciple both of Christ and of Karl Marx. A choice has to be made and, likewise, a renouncement.

"Let no one read into these words any hint of malevolence or hostility towards men. They are intended solely to state the Christian position with respect to Communism; it is a position of clarity, loyalty and charity."

BISHOPS OF MEXICO TO HOLD FIRST NATIONAL MEETING

MEXICO CITY (RNS) — All Catholic bishops of the country have been invited by Archbishop Luis Maria Martinez to assemble here April 15-22 for the first National meeting of the Roman Catholic Church in Mexico. Thousands of clerical and lay delegates will take part in sessions of the metropolitan cathedral.

The assembly will be held under the 1917 Canonical Code of Rights which sets for meetings of the Church every ten years to deal with the changing needs of the day and to discuss the changes which must be made in the Code of Canon Law. The assembly will be public, except that sessions involving the Church will be discussed at private sessions.



February 6, 1945

My dear People:

Once again the Holy Season of Lent summons us to the practice of prayer and mortification. Our Church, with its impressive ritual of Ash Wednesday, reminds each of us of our individuality of this responsibility. No one of us can shirk this obligation, neither may anyone absolve us from it.

It is true that owing to conditions created by the war, the customary laws of fasting and abstinence have been mitigated to a considerable extent. That is entirely acceptable to God and in harmony with the practice of His Church. But the obligation rests upon each one of us to find some special form of mortification and self-denial as a partial atonement for our offenses and as a manifestation to God of the sincerity of our motives.

Certainly, daily attendance at the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass is most pleasing in the sight of God. Assistance at parish Lenten devotions adds much to the spirit of the season. The daily recitation of the Way of the Cross brings us unending blessings.

What I should like especially to see renewed in every home is the family recitation of the Rosary. Could not every Catholic family spend a suitable hour when all the members are together and offer this beautiful prayer as a special devotion for Lent? Surely, at no time would these separated from home by the war be closer to their dear ones than in this hour of family prayer. The daily recitation of the Rosary will bring unending graces both upon the home and upon the individual members of the family.

Irregular hours of work, evening engagements and the like, may make the project difficult. I would feel, however, that an earnest consideration of the matter would disclose that there is a certain hour each day when the whole family, or most of its members, could kneel together before the image of Our Lady for the Family Rosary. Only Mary's Son knows the rich blessings which she can win through this prayer.

The Family Rosary then, is offered to my people this year as a special Lenten devotion. May it be the means of unending graces to the world, of bringing back to our families those who are dear to us, and winning from Almighty God the graces best that this be the last Lent when the cross of the "Faded Star" will be drawn by the shadow of war. "Lent of God, Who takes away the sin of the world, give us grace."

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

+ James E. O'Keefe

MEMORANDUM ON...

Priest Held by Nazis Seven Weeks for Keeping Seal of Confession, Reported Slain

PARIS (NC)—Abbe Foucher, a priest of the Diocese of Orleans who was fatally shot in the back by a German soldier while aiding a German officer for participating in the liberation of his parish from Nazi occupation, is reported to have been held by the Nazis for seven weeks for keeping the seal of confession.

On Friday, June 12, 1944, Leo Amalieu, the Bishop of Orleans reports while the Vicar of Montargis was conducting a service in the church, three members of the Gestapo searched his room. When he returned the following conversation took place:

"You received a German soldier into your home?"

"Yes, a Czech soldier."

"There is no such thing as a Czech soldier. Only the Germans are permitted to stay in France. Why did he come here?"

"He came in secret."

"What did he tell you?"

Bringing the News to You

The CATHOLIC COURIER calls its readers attention to the fact that this paper is now receiving the daily wireless dispatches of the International News Service, one of the big three American news-gathering agencies.

Through the network of International News Service correspondents stationed on all continents and in the most important cities of the world the COURIER receives an up-to-the-minute report on the day's events.

Besides the wire dispatches of the International News Service, the COURIER also receives the news columns of the National Catholic World, Catholic News Service, the Religious News Service, and the Office of Information for the Holy See.

The National Catholic World, Catholic News Service is the authoritative Catholic news agency in the United States. Its headquarters are at Washington, D. C. and its branches are in Chicago, N. Y. and C. I.

The Religious News Service is a news column which brings you the latest news from the Vatican and the Holy See.

Japanese Naval Officer, a Catholic, Gives His Life To Save U.S. Marines

Generalissimo Chiang Kai-shek has announced that a Japanese naval officer, a Catholic, gave his life to save U.S. Marines during the war. The officer, who was a member of the Japanese Navy, was killed in action while saving the lives of several American soldiers who were in danger of being captured by the Japanese. The Generalissimo praised the officer's bravery and sacrifice, and stated that he was a true friend of the United States.