

Ruthlessness in Warfare By Allies is Deplored by British Religious Leaders

LONDON (By Wireless RNS)—Catholic and Protestant leaders have issued an appeal here "to all Christians" against continued acceptance of the "ever-increasing ruthlessness"

Bloc To Fight OOT Ban On Church Conventions

WASHINGTON, D. C. (RNS)

A strong Congressional bloc is forming here to get the Office of Defense Transportation to do away with the ban on church conventions and related spiritual gatherings which may draw more than 100 persons.

Several Congressmen already have referred to the ban on religious meetings as anachronistic in the House of Representatives, and others have said privately that they will stand behind any move to help get the ban on religious conferences lifted.

Representative Robert F. Rich (R-Pa.) opened up against the ban on religious meetings in a unanimous speech, asserting that "it is necessary for church organizations to function by meetings of their ministers, priests, laymen, or any of the designated people of authority if they maintain their church organizations as they should be operated."

"I care not whether it be a convention of Catholics, or Jews, or Protestants, religion has been one of the predominant things for which this country has been noted since its formation. When the time comes that we prohibit these religious organizations from meeting, it is a pretty bad thing for the country. That is what Hitler did."

St. Polycarp

Bishop and Martyr, was Bishop of Smyrna, and a disciple of St. John. When the persecution broke out in 107, Polycarp was seized and directed to deny the Faith. When he refused, he was ordered to be burned but the fire did not harm him. He was stabbed to the heart and his body burned.

Vermont Bishop Pleads For Homefront Unity Awaiting GIs Return

BURLINGTON (RNS)—An eloquent exhortation for unity among Catholics and non-Catholics, so that America's warriors upon their return from the battlefields throughout the world may find the hand of nation for which they fought and for which they are fighting, was made by the Most Rev. Edward F. Ryan following his installation here as 11th Bishop of the Burlington Diocese on last Friday.

"I should like to address a few words to the good Christian people of this State who are not Catholics," Bishop Ryan said in his plea for unity. "We are all brothers in Christ, redeemed by His Precious Blood. Be let us live as brothers with mutual respect and for the sake of the common good and happiness one toward the other, and with the one purpose of glorifying God and being as worthy citizens of our beloved America."

"Love of God, love of our fellow-men and love of country are the sacred bonds that bind us Catholics and non-Catholics together. Hence let us plan together and work together for the victorious ending of the terrible war being waged throughout the world, for a just and lasting peace based on the teachings of Christ and for a better world in which to live after the war."

The dropping of a thousand tons of high explosive and half a million incendiary bombs on one city in a single attack destroys all possibility of discrimination, while the press now openly speaks of Allied terror bombing. The arrival of the pitiless plane and the development of rocket bombing are pointers to the still deeper moral abyss, on the brink of which civilization stands.

"It is not plain that among the victims of our civilization bombing there must be innumerable men, women and children, who have committed no crime, and these have a claim on Christian people everywhere in the world's plight."

For the love of Jesus Christ forget the past, after the example of St. Paul, and keep your eyes ever fixed on the great way which you have still to run in the path of virtue.—St. Ignatius.

Yanks Hear Sistine Choir at N.Y. CS Club

ROMA (RNS)—Members of the Sistine Choir, the American GI's on their night of the week, were treated to the American Catholic Club for Allied Forces, conducted by the National Catholic Community Service, about in the shadow of St. Peter's Basilica. Allied servicemen stationed in Rome and those visiting the Eternal City are invited to attend these weekly gatherings.

What I have accomplished is an infinitesimal part of what remains to be done.—Hughes Jackson.

Don't Mistreat Innocent Warns Belgian Cardinal

LONDON (By Wireless RNS)—Belgian authorities were called upon to end "without delay" mistreatment of innocent citizens, in a sharply worded Lenten pastoral letter issued by Joseph Kessel Cardinal Van Rooy, Primate of Belgium.

"It must not be said," he declared, "that German methods practiced during the occupation continue to prevail under the Belgian regime."

The Cardinal warned that if the strong breath of tolerance and understanding does not soon be lighted, the atmosphere must be feared that the country will find itself in serious difficulties.

Passing out that during the occupation the principles of justice and charity were frequently transgressed by those who did not have

either to betray Belgium or to denounce cooperation to the enemy. Cardinal Van Rooy asserted they were "guilty to be blamed, and the justice of the country must investigate their cases and punish them appropriately."


"Not also guilty," he added, "are those who after the liberation are treated without authority, denigrated without good reason, and at times if treated a large number of their fellow citizens, among whom some are innocent. Many are charged with pervasions, and have been kept in prison."

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