

Hunger and Want Aid Holland Reds to Make Bid for Power

LONDON (NC)—Thriving on deep misery and want in Holland, communist groups which before the war had slight influence in the national life, are now making a serious bid for power in that country, according to reports received here.

Fr. Lafarge Deplores Lithuania Decisions in New York Sermon

NEW YORK (NC)—Recent decisions in regard to Lithuania and the Balkan States contradict the Allies' promise to support "the right of all peoples to choose the form of government under which they shall live," the Rev. John La Farge, S.J., editor of American Catholic, said in a sermon at St. Patrick's Cathedral, commemorating the twenty-seventh anniversary of the independence of Lithuania.

More than 2,000 persons, most of them Lithuanians or of Lithuanian descent, attended the service which was one of many throughout the nation sponsored by the Lithuanian-American Council in cooperation with the Lithuanian Catholic Priests Alliance.

The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, presided in the sanctuary and later presided over the Lithuanian prayer from New York, New Jersey, Connecticut and Pennsylvania.

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Pope Warns Against Campaign For Divorce Opening in Rome

ROME (By Wireless RNS)—Patriotic priests of Rome were warned by Pope Pius XII against open propaganda favoring divorce, in an address originally scheduled to be given at his annual Lenten audience, but printed in "Osservatore Romano." The Pope's recent message prevented the audience, but it was said the Pontiff hopes to receive the priests "as soon as possible."

"Italian legislation at present," the Pope's message said, "does not recognize divorce. Thus the Church is not alone in rejecting it. Also in the world of jurists and lay sociologists, authoritative, admonishing voices have been raised entreats that divorce be not permitted to violate the sanctity of marriage and the family."

"However, open propaganda favoring divorce has already been started in a certain newspaper, with the danger that the weakening may be led to error, and a movement encouraged which is contrary to the natural and divine law, the holy law of Christ."

"Faithful Catholics should, therefore, keep firm" in mind the following three fundamental points: They cannot contract a true, valid marriage except according to the form the Church prescribes. Marriage validly contracted between baptized persons is for this very reason a sacrament. Once a valid marriage between baptized persons is consummated it cannot be dissolved for any reason whatsoever, by any human authority, by any earthly power, but only by death."

Lenten preachers are exhorted by the Holy Father to devote particular attention to the efficacy of the Sacraments, especially the Sacraments of Penance, Extreme Unction, Holy Eucharist and Matrimony.

THE CHAPLAIN'S MAIL ARRIVES



Army Chaplain Captain Mark A. Farrell, wounded in action in Leyte, Philippines Islands, arrives back in the mainland, and is pictured reacquainting at Letterman General Hospital, San Francisco. A few hours after his arrival his mail catches up with him. Senior Chaplain of the hospital, Lt. Col. Thomas L. McKenna, carries the mail to the bedside of his brave comrade. (N.Y.O.)

Uniform Divorce Laws Proposed in Congress

WASHINGTON, D. C.—A joint resolution, proposing an amendment to the Constitution relating to the establishment of uniform laws on marriage and divorce, has been introduced in Congress by Representative Homer Ramey (R, Ohio) who declared he wanted to "drive a wedge into the practice of making marriage and divorce a joke."

"The present set-up is ridiculous," Rep. Ramey declared, "and amendment to the Constitution in the opening salvo in the fight against those states which make a mockery of marriage."

He pointed out that at present a man is prohibited from marrying in one state can cross a state line and marry without any trouble, and the same thing, he added, applies to divorce.

"A man who gets tired of his wife can simply hop out to the next state and get married," he said, "and a woman who is tired of her husband can hop out to the next state and get a divorce."

A group's conversion is on sight that it shouldn't take long to solve.

Cocnuts, Fruits in Collections Help Missions in India

CALCUTTA, India (NC)—Dropping a coconut into the collection plate might cause amazement in other lands but it's accepted practice in India. In Mission Sunday in a country parish in the Diocese of Changanacherry a huge basket was placed in the center of the church and as the people entered the church they tossed up and collected their offerings: coconuts, tropical bananas and hundreds of other products of the soil. These products were later auctioned and a substantial sum was raised for the missions.

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Convert Chief Rabbi Once Offered Self As Hostage to Nazis

ROME (NC)—Professor Israel Zolli, former Chief Rabbi of the Jewish community in this city, whose conversion to the Catholic Faith in recent days has attracted international attention, once offered himself as a hostage if the Nazi forces then occupying Rome would release several hundred Jews they were holding for ransom.

Professor Zolli reveals now that his conversion was a process that went on for years, but there was evidence of earnest to the Faith when he joined the N.O.W.O. (New Order of World) group several months ago. He spoke feelingly of his conversion and said that "the Vatican has always helped the Jews and the Jews are very grateful for the charitable work of the Vatican."

When the Germans occupied Rome in September, 1943, the Jewish population here was about 11,000. The German Professor Zolli charged, called 800 Jews and took several hundred prisoners to be held against the payment of a ransom by the Jewish community.

Fifty kilos of gold was the amount demanded. Professor Zolli wrote to the President of the Jewish Community at the time that he was able, through his personal intervention, to obtain from "high officials of the Catholic Church" 25 kilos (50,000) toward the ransom money and he actually obtained it.

In the same letter, Professor Zolli offered himself as a hostage, if it were required, and declared that he was ready and willing to undertake any mission the President of the Jewish Community wished to assign him.

And today Professor Zolli says he did not abandon the Jews by becoming a Catholic. He does not love the Jews any less because he embraced the Catholic Faith, says this man who only a few months ago offered his own life in exchange for that of other members of his community.

Professor Zolli was a Jew, and was Chief Rabbi of Rome from 1925 until he converted. He was a man of great courage and a man of great faith. He was a man who was willing to sacrifice himself for his people.

K.K.K. Revival Impetus Feared

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Ku Klux Klan is being revived in many parts of the country, according to reports received here. The organization, which was founded in 1865, has been active in the South since its reorganization in 1915. It is now being revived in many parts of the country, including the North and West. The organization is known for its white supremacist beliefs and its use of violence against African Americans and other groups.

Challenges Soviet Plans

WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Catholic Church is challenging the Soviet Union's plans to establish a "People's Republic" in the Balkans, according to reports received here. The Church is concerned that the Soviet Union's plans will result in the loss of religious freedom and the persecution of the Catholic population in the region.