

Churches Hail Liberation Of Bologna

By Helen Brett
Religious News Service
Correspondent

Bologna Church bells pealed as Giovanni Battista Cardinal Naselli Rocca stood in the midst of cheering thousands to greet the entry of American, Polish and Italian troops into liberated Bologna.

The Cardinal Archbishop had already sent a telegram to Pope Pius XII thanking him for his intervention to save the city from destruction.

At the Cardinal's suggestion crowds of Bolognese subsequently gathered at the Porta Saragozza to accompany the sacred image of their patron saint, the Madonna of San Luca, in a solemn procession to the Piazza Vittorio Emanuele in the center of the city.

The leading Catholic daily in this section, is in circulation again for the first time in six months. The newspaper voluntarily suspended publication last October rather than follow orders to print articles upholding Nazi-Fascist occupiers as defenders of Christian civilization.

From Raimondo Manzini, noted writer and editor of *Avvenire d'Italia*, came a tribute to Italian priests who, working with forced laborers in the front lines, helped thousands of them to escape.

A month ago, Bologna priests were authorized to take an active part in underground activities of the Christian Democratic Party, but many had been working with the Christian Democrats throughout the occupation and their cooperation with the Partisan resistance is an old story to the people of Bologna.

All of Bologna's public works are intact, thanks to Partisan surveillance and an agreement entered into between Cardinal Naselli Rocca and the National Committee of Liberation to forestall hasty action by underground forces.

A sidelight on the German occupation was revealed by Bologna priests who stated that German Catholic priests in army uniform frequently came to borrow vestments so that they might say Mass secretly in the city churches.

First Graders Demonstrate the Mass



A unique method of studying the Mass was undertaken at St. Cecilia's school, Ames, Iowa, when first grade pupils not only learned the "Missae Recitatae," but also followed the ceremonies in detail as they were enacted by a "priest" chosen from the same class. All the appointments, including altar, vestments and thrones were specially designed and made in scale. The project was a lecture number on recent programs of the Newman Club of Iowa State College and of the National Council of Catholic Women (NCCW).

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Sterilization Law Attacked

Washington (NC) — Legislation which permits the sterilization of the feeble-minded "betokens an approach to totalitarianism" because it allows the State to violate the maintenance rights of the individual, declared the Most Rev. Michael J. Curley, Archbishop of Washington and Baltimore, in a statement to the Commissioners of the District of Columbia.

Archbishop Curley's statement followed disclosures that sterilization operations had been performed on 18 women patients in the District Training School at Gallinger Hospital. According to an opinion of the Corporation Counsel, health officials had no legal authority to order or permit this kind of an operation.

The prelate's statement argues against the suggestion that sterilization operations should be legalized in the District of Columbia.

The right to bodily integrity is inalienable, stated the Archbishop and he added: "It is just as truly the crime of assault to sterilize a feeble-minded person as it is to overpower a person of normal intelligence and forcibly destroy his sexual potency.

Sterilization of the unfit can not be legalized on the ground that they are a burden to themselves and society, the Archbishop insisted. The same argument, he concluded, would permit the State to put feeble-minded persons to death. The Nazi government, the Archbishop's statement pointed out, made this logical deduction and the result was mass-murder of "undesirables" in Germany and subjugated countries.

Archbishop Curley asked for investigation of the sterilizations at the District Hospital and urged legal proceedings against those guilty of "overstepping the bounds of authority granted them by law."

Postulant Pinups

And How They Got There. Thanks to WACs, GIs

A picture of six Indian girls, postulants in a convent "somewhere in India," has become the favorite pin-up of many WACs and — no wonder, states Col. Patrick E. Nolan, Army chaplain.

"It came to our attention," Father Nolan writes, "that six Indian girls wanted to enter the convent. Because of the poverty of the convent and of the girls themselves, it wasn't possible to accept them. I told the soldiers and WACs about it at Mass and within a week we were able to send about 1000 to this convent, which was then able to accept the girls. A picture of the postulants, sent in by the good Father, has become a favorite pin-up of many WACs and GIs."

Bishop of Buffalo Calls For 'Unfettered' Poland

New York (NC) — Praying for the restoration of Poland as an unfettered Christian nation," the Most Rev. John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., Bishop-designate of Buffalo and Military Delegate to the Armed Forces, declared in a sermon in St. Patrick's Cathedral here that "all right-thinking people all who know God and love Him" are "the defenders of Poland before the international bar of justice."

The occasion was a Solemn Pontifical Mass for Poland and the spiritual welfare of her people, celebrated by the Most Rev. J. Francis A. McIntyre, Auxiliary Bishop of New York. The Most Rev. Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York, presided at the Mass, which was attended by more than 3,500, including Polish consular and military representatives.

We pray for the restoration of Poland, Bishop O'Hara said, "worthy of the high historical mission entrusted to her in the thirteenth century when she turned back the Tatars, in the

seventeenth century when she turned back the Turks, and in all the intervening centuries when her defense of Christian democratic principles earned for her the enmity of neighboring autocratic states and brought her for more than a century a complete cessation of national life.

Those who owe Poland a debt of gratitude should be the first to demand justice for her, Bishop O'Hara said, recalling the late President's Roosevelt's characterization of Poland as "the inspiration of nations" and Winston Churchill's expression of gratitude for Poland's contribution to saving England in 1940.

Bishop O'Hara referred in his sermon to the recent statement by the Administrative Board of Bishops of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, which warned that if Poland is enslaved "the love of freedom will not be crushed in Polish hearts, but the seeds of war will have been sown."

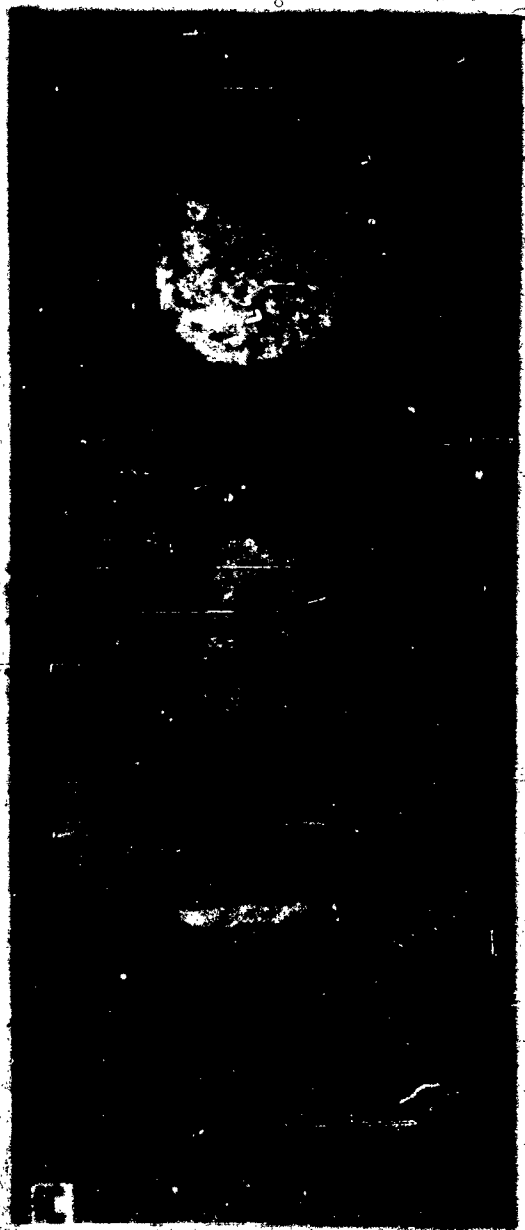
Peace Task Exceeds War--Mgr. Sheen

San Francisco (NC) — During the "task of peace is greater than that of war," the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, in an address on "The Moral Basis of Peace," at the Civic Auditorium here, pointed out that this condition exists "not only because we face a Europe in shambles but because there is no longer a common philosophy of life among the nations of the world."

Referring to the San Francisco Conference, Monsignor Sheen observed: "This is probably the last chance Western Civilization will have to make the peace of the world. There will not be another chance in generations and generations. We are now at the twilight of the Western World and it is time to light our lamps.

"If we who are gathered here in search of peace betray the great patrimony of the ages, power will be snatched from our hands by the East."

Meets the Press



Arriving in Havana, after his first aerial voyage, Juan Moya, 36, a Futuroso Indian from Columbia, is pictured in tribal costume as he was received by reporters to whom he gave a brief account on the Catholic ideal of morality. Reaching a life ambition to visit a foreign country, Juan has returned to his little dairy farm in Columbia where he regales his friends with tales of his travels. *For-Associated Press*

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