U. S. Troops Join Czech Pilgrimage

PRAGUE — With American troops participating in parade formation and American planes circling overhead in tribute, the Czech Catholic pilgrimage to the Shrine of St. Lawrence on "Vesela Hora," (Merry Hill), near Domazlice, has just been held for the first time since 1939.

Close to 100,000 pilgrims visited the shrine. A highlight of the pilgrimage was the appearance of the Very Rev. Msgr. Bohumil Stasek, canon of the Prague Cathedral, just returned from six years in the Nazi concentration camp at Dachau, where he had lost an eye.

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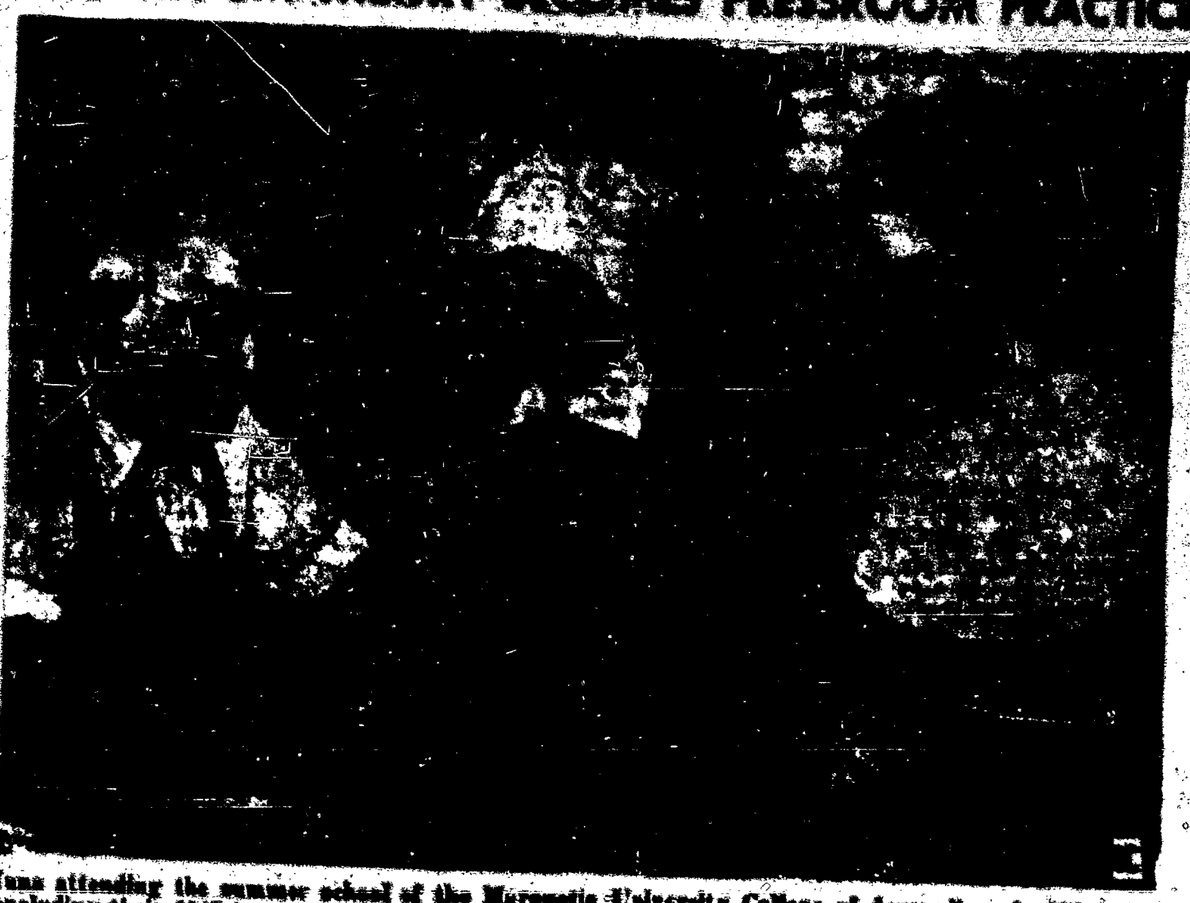

Nuns attending the summer school of the Marquette University College of Journalism, in Milwaukee, concluding their 1945 term by editing the summer edition of the "Marquette Tribune," the student newspaper. Shown here in the composing room, making some last-minute changes just before press time, are Clarence Zigler, foreman of the composing room, who is working on a page form under the direction of Sister Etienne, S. C. N. (left), of Bardstown, Ky., and Sister M. Leon of Nazareth, Mich. (NC Photo)

'Introibo Ad Altare Dei'

Thus Priest Prays as Executioner's Ax Falls in Cologne Prison

Paris — (NC) — "Then the hour has come to chant the Te Deum."

This was the reply of Abbe Roger Derry, deported vicar of the Paris Church of St. Francis Xavier, when he was informed by the Cologne prison chaplain on October 15, 1943, that he was to be beheaded.

The two priests went to the place of execution reciting alternately the verses of the hymn of thanksgiving. Then, kneeling and awaiting the fall of the axe, Abbe Derry cried out: "Introibo ad altare Dei" — ("I will go in to the Altar of God.") These were his last words and the first of his eternal Mass.

Just after he had been condemned to death, Abbe Derry wrote a letter to the parish of his parish and entrusted it to the prison chaplain. While interned he had had to make paper bags along with other prisoners, and two small bags served him as stationery. He wrote the following farewell message:

"My very dear Monsieur le Cure: I am some days, perhaps some hours, away from death. God is indeed good in giving me a great peace and that spiritual joy of which the author of the 'Imitation' speaks. There is nothing left of nature; the body is broken, the heart is dead, but the soul is in the heights. I never cease to thank the Good God Who, in His immense bounty, has restored to me so much of fervor.

I shall be able to die, if not without sin, at least without that lukewarmness which a too great external activity is apt to bring. For the prison straw, the rigorous fasting, humiliations and miseries of all sorts, solitude, all that God in His providence has permitted for my good, together with prayer and continual prison have led me up to the summits where all is beautiful and good.

"My life for two years has been one continuous Mass and soon, after the immolation of Calvary, there will be the most intimate communion and an act of eternal thanksgiving. How good God is! For my confidence is greater than any fear I might have because of my sins. Nevertheless I ask your prayers and Masses in place of all those that I could not say (and this above all has caused my greatest suffering and is also the object of my fears."

"May my death be my best celebrated Mass, the most generously and most joyously offered," the letter continued. "Soon, dear Monsieur le Cure, I am going to see Him Who is spite of everything I have loved so much. At last I am going to love Him as I have wished to love Him all my life — and from on high I hope to do more good than I have done here below."

Young College Presidents

Holy Cross, Boston Pick Men at 38 and 39

Boston — (NC) — Appointments of two of the nation's youngest college presidents have been announced by the Very Rev. John J. McElenay, S.J., Provincial of the Society of Jesus in New England.

They are the Very Rev. William J. Healey, S.J., who at the age of 38 became president of Holy Cross College at Worcester, Mass., and the Very Rev. William L. Kelleher, S.J., who has been named president of Boston College.

Father Healey is the youngest of the 21 presidents who have served at Holy Cross since 1843. He succeeds the Very Rev. Joseph R. N. Maxwell, S.J., who had served a six-year term as head of the college. Father Healey is a native of Boston; entered the Jesuits in 1925 upon his graduation from Boston College High School, made his studies at Weston College and was ordained in 1935. He was studying Shakespearean literature at Cornell University when appointed to the presidency.

Newsmen Wait Poland Entry

Rome — (RNS) — Vatican officials are waiting for the new Polish Government to fulfill its promise to permit Allied journalists to enter the country. It was stressed that this pledge must not only be kept but that it must be acted upon soon.

The decision to admit Allied newsmen was announced recently by the Polish Government, but no time was set for putting the policy into effect.

Another matter occupying the Vatican concerns the fate of Polish troops in Italy who refuse to return to their native country. It is expected that after the Polish election, numerous soldiers will join the 10 per cent who have already expressed willingness to go home, but many will still be left in Italy.

Cardinal Hlond has been absent from his Archdiocese since 1939. He was arrested by the Germans in Southern Prussia, and was liberated last spring by American troops.

Booklet on Sex Teaching Now in Seventh Edition

New York — The Rev. Killian J. Hennrich, O.F.M. Cap. has received word that a seventh and enlarged edition of his booklet, Watchful Elders has been released by Bruce-Milwaukee.

On the fifteenth anniversary of its first publication, this little booklet on sex instruction for the young, has appeared with the important addition of a chapter on sex education in public schools entitled "An Enemy Exposed."

Watchful Elders is now available in cloth as well as paper bound editions.

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