

# Bishop Given Satisfaction in Stoddard Case

Springfield, Ill. — (NC) — Based on a commitment made by Dr. George D. Stoddard, New York State commissioner of education and president-elect of the University of Illinois, the Most Rev. James A. Griffin, Bishop of Springfield in Illinois, has stated that "the people of Illinois now have every reason to expect that their religious belief will be accorded fitting respect during Dr. Stoddard's tenure of office as president of their State university."

Dr. Stoddard will assume office at the university in July 1946. Shortly after his selection was announced, Bishop Griffin criticized the choice, citing excerpts from Dr. Stoddard's book, "The Meaning of Intelligence," in which the author described believers in fundamental Christian principles as "feeble in mind." Bishop Griffin called for a profession of faith from Dr. Stoddard and said he would carry the case to the people of the State if the situation were not clarified.

Prompted by the Bishop's action, the university board of trustees made a further inquiry and expressed itself as satisfied with the choice of Dr. Stoddard. The board also made public a telegram from Dr. Stoddard in which he stated he would "administer the university within the limits of academic freedom, and I shall respect and endeavor to make respected the religious beliefs of all students."

After learning of Dr. Stoddard's action, Bishop Griffin issued the following statement:

"Dr. Stoddard has graciously promised, without qualification, to respect and to make respected the religious beliefs of all students at the University of Illinois. In this statement, released by the university's board of trustees, Dr. Stoddard has cleared the atmosphere.

"The sincere fulfillment of this pledge will automatically involve an unequivocal reversal on Dr. Stoddard's part from some of the views expressed in 'Meaning of Intelligence,' and the people of Illinois now have every reason to expect that their religious beliefs will be accorded fitting respect during Dr. Stoddard's tenure of office as president of their State University."

"The Board of trustees has also clarified its policy," Bishop Griffin added. "Its statement was a wholesome guarantee of the fundamental democratic principle of religious freedom. On the strength of today's statement from the board, the citizens of Illinois are forewarned that any professor as such who so much as dares 'to do anything by word or act to influence, change, or criticize the faith or religious conviction of any student' violates the principles of the university."

"My request for a profession of faith from Dr. Stoddard and the board of trustees has been convincingly granted."

## 21 Missioners Die In Dutch East Indies

Washington — (NC) — Distressing news has been received in London concerning Dutch missionaries in the Netherlands East Indies, according to a radio broadcast heard by monitors of the Federal Communications Commission here.

"The Fathers of the Sacred Heart at Tilburg have received word that 21 Fathers and Brothers had died or were slain by the Japanese on New Guinea and on the Kai Islands, the broadcast said. The Capuchin Fathers have received word of the death of six of their number on Java Sumatra.

## Chaplain Waters Welcomed Home



First, with Chaplain Austin B. Hanna, to enter the armed forces from Rochester diocese, in October, 1940, Chaplain Edward J. Waters, Major, U. S. Army is welcomed home this week at Chanery by Monsignor William M. Hart, (left) vicar general. Chaplain Waters served with the famed First Division in Europe.

## Rochester-born Jesuit Gets Science Post at Vatican

The Rev. Walter J. Miller, S. J., son of the late Mr. and Mrs. Andrew J. Miller of Rochester has called for the Vatican where he will become a member of the Staff of the Papal Observatory, Specola Vaticana, located at Palazzo Pontificio, Castel Gandolfo, Italy.

Father Miller who attended Aquinas Institute, Rochester and the New York State College of Forestry at Syracuse University before entering the Society of Jesus in 1924, will be the only American Jesuit astronomer on the staff. His appointment was upon invitation of the Rev. John W. Stein, S. J., Director of the Vatican Observatory.

SAILING with Father Miller on the Gripsholm were four other Jesuit Fathers, the Rev. Edward E. Madaras, S. J., new superior of the Iraq mission, the Rev. Thomas Kelly and the Rev. Thomas McDermott, enroute to Baghdad and the Rev. John C. Ford, due to teach Moral Theology at Gregorian University in Rome.

The Vatican Observatory, where Father Miller has been assigned is one of the best equipped and most modern observatories in the world, in the field of both astronomy and astrophysics. Its beginning dates back to the time of the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in the 16th Century.

## Sainthood Urged For Pius X

Pontiff's Life Studied At Confraternity Meet

Kansas City — (NC) — A hope that "the beatification and canonization of Pius X may come in these years when the nations are striving to establish the reign of peace — a task which will be hopeless without the Prince of Peace," was expressed by the Most Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City, at the Solemn Pontifical Mass closing the Catechetical Conference of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine.

"Peace has returned to the world," Bishop O'Hara said. "We recall that Pius X died of a broken heart in 1914 at the outbreak of the first World War. He had been asked by Emperor Francis Joseph to bless the standards and armies of Austria. He had replied 'do not bless war or him who desires it. I bless peace.'"

Present in the Sanctuary were 12 distinguished Catholic writers, who had composed a symposium on the life and work of Pope Pius X as a feature of the Conference. In the group was the Rev. Benedict Egan of St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N. Y.

ped and most modern observatories in the world, in the field of both astronomy and astrophysics. Its beginning dates back to the time of the adoption of the Gregorian calendar in the 16th Century.

THE LATE POPE PIUS XI, magnificently equipped the observatory before the war, entrusting the optical and telescopic contracts to Zeiss of Jena, Germany with an astronomer's dream observatory resulting, Jesuit Fathers in charge state.

Ordained in 1937 at Woodstock College, Woodstock, Md., Father Miller studied at Massachusetts Institute of Technology and Harvard University. He received his Ph. D. in Astronomy under Dr. Harlow Shapley in 1943. He was Professor of Mathematics at Canisius College in Buffalo and Professor of Mathematics and Statistical Analysis at Woodstock College.

He has done astronomical research, principally in the field of spectroscopy at Leander McCormick Observatory, University of Virginia; Warner and Swasey Observatory of the Case School of Applied Science, Yerkes Observatory of the University of Chicago and at Harvard.

His brother is the Rev. Maurice J. Miller, also of the Society of Jesus.

## White-Carbed Nuns Escape Atom Bomb

Sydney — (RNS) — Franciscan nuns wearing white habits when Nagasaki was devastated by the atomic bomb escaped without injury, while others at the same convent who wore black robes were severely burned. It was reported here by Lt. Commander L. G. Hudson of the British aircraft carrier, HMS Sparhawk.

Commander Hudson said the nuns told him they thought the sun had burst as the sky became a sea of flame, and they believed they were seeing the end of the world.

POLLICAL Study at Fordham New York — (NC) — A society to be known as the Burke Society of Fordham University has been formed to promote study of modern political society in the light of the Christian principles and traditions. It was announced by the Rev. William J. Brennan, S. J., general chaplain of Fordham University.

# Spain Blocked Axis Hitler Letters Show

Rome—The testimony of Adolph Hitler himself is on the record to show that Generalissimo Francisco Franco upset the plans of the Rome-Berlin Axis for world domination by refusing to open his frontier to German troops poised for an assault on Gibraltar January 10, 1941.

## British Journal Attack Given Vatican Answer

Vatican City — (NC) — Observatore Romano in an editorial refutes the arguments and criticizes the faulty logic betrayed in

an article in the Churchman's Magazine, published in London, which asked "Papal friends" to remember that Hitler, Mussolini, Goebbels, Laval and Darlan were known to be Catholics.

Furthermore, the Churchman's Magazine said, "Papal friends" should remember that Marshall Petain is a Catholic, that the Vichy regime was blessed by the Pope, that the late French Premier Clemenceau had said of General Maxime Weygand that he was "full of priests up to his neck."

In refuting these charges, Observatore Romano declares it to be hardly necessary to point out that Hitler, Mussolini, et al. were what they were, not because they were Catholics but precisely because they had given up Catholicism.

If Marshall Petain is a Catholic, the editorial remarks, so is Gen. Charles de Gaulle; if Goebbels was a Catholic, Quilting is not; if Clemenceau said of General Weygand that he was "full of priests," he also said of Marshall Foch and did not hesitate to name him head of the French army.

Thus Spain emerged as the nation which, by first going to war with international communism and later refusing to join forces with the Axis, frustrated both the Bolshevik and Nazi-Fascist designs to rule the world by cutting England's life-line in the Mediterranean and thus obtaining dominance in Europe and Asia.

Hitler's disappointment in Franco was expressed in confidential letters exchanged between him and Benito Mussolini, dictator of Italy, in 1940-41. The letters are being published exclusively under a world copyright by International News Service. They show that Hitler himself was convinced that "success in a relatively short time" would have come to the Axis powers but for Franco's refusal to put Spain into the war on their side — a refusal which "eliminated" the "possibility of crushing England in the simplest manner in its Mediterranean positions."

Two years later, Hitler was still bewailing Franco's decision, writing to Mussolini that if Spain had opened her frontier to German troops in 1941, "The whole war in the Mediterranean would have taken a different course. There would be no English and Americans in North Africa today, but only Italians and Spaniards." The letter was dated February 16, 1943.

On December 31, 1940, Hitler had written from his Bavarian hideaway at Obersalzberg, informing Mussolini that:

"Spain, highly disturbed by the situation — which to Franco seems changed — has turned

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