

# Religion in Italy Free--Don Sturzo

New York — (NC) — "Protestants and Jews are actually free in Italy without political interference by the Italian Government," said Don Luigi Sturzo, Italian priest, author and statesman, in refuting an assertion that "religious freedom could be obtained in Italy only with the help of the outside world."

This assertion was made by Prof. Bernardo Carciapuoti of the University of Rome, who was sent to this country by the Italian Government and universities to restore relations between American and Italian universities. He said, according to the New York Times, that the religious work and the liberties of Protestants were restricted in Italy.

"Legal conditions of non-Catholic cults in Italy are regulated by the Concordat with the Holy See," Don Sturzo said. "I object to the statement made by Professor Carciapuoti, who is in this country on an official mission. I doubt that he is interpreting exactly the directives of the Italian Government."

In other expressions of doubt, similar to those voiced by Don Sturzo, it was declared to be rather incongruous that a mission purporting to restore harmonious relations between Italian and American universities should be abused by raising unwarranted charges of curbs on religious liberty in Italy.

## Prelate Converted Atom Expert's Wife

Rome — (AP) — The Archbishop of Palermo, Sicily, Most Rev. Ernesto Ruffini, who is expected to become a Cardinal in the not too distant future, was one of the most influential and efficient Monsignori at the Vatican, where he was Secretary of the Congregation of Seminaries and Universities. He also became widely known through the aid which he gave to many victims of Nazism and Islam during the German occupation of Rome.

Monsignor Ruffini has many friends in non-Catholic circles. Among those whom he received into the Catholic Church was Mrs. Enrico Fermi, wife of the famous scholar and Nobel Prize winner whose studies on the splitting of the atom were of vital importance in the invention of the atomic bomb. Signora Fermi is a convert from the Jewish faith.

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# LARGEST CLASS IN GREEK RITE



The largest class in the history of the Greek Rite Catholic Church in the United States, eight candidates, who ordained to the diaconate, and seven of them later elevated to the Holy Priesthood at the Monastery Church of St. Paul of the Cross, in South Side Pittsburgh, in this picture the ceremony of the "imposition of the hands," the actual conferring of the diaconate upon Rev. Michael Miya, of Trenton, is shown. The ordaining prelate was Bishop Basil Talbot, of the Pittsburgh Greek Rite Diocese. Rev. John Pipik, of Pittsburgh, acted as Archpriest, while Very Rev. Msgr. George Michayic (holding book), was the arch-deacon. (NC Photos)

# Christians' Holy Land Rights Seen Involved In Palestine Dispute

(The author of the following article is well acquainted with matters concerning the Holy Land. A native of Syria, he studied for 14 years in Jerusalem and received Holy Orders there in 1911. He also served as a missionary in Transjordania for three years. For the last 20 years Monsignor Asserman has been pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart (Syrian) in Michigan City, Indiana.)

By MSGR. MICHAEL ABRAHAM ASSERMAN (Representative in the U. S. of the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem)

The "Palestine Problem" is again occupying a prominent and eminent place in the day's news. Hatred more between the Jews and the Arabs in Palestine.

It is the now familiar struggle of the Arab to maintain inviolate what he considers his homeland, and of the Jews to continue to develop what he is attempting to establish as his national home.

The matter has become more acute at this time due to the fact that hundreds of thousands of Jews in Europe, made homeless by the war, are turning their eyes East where they hope with the aid of members of their own race and perhaps of the various Allied Governments to find a new and permanent home among their own people in Palestine. The Arabs look with fear upon this new influx of Jews into what they believe is their own state.

Neither side of this controversy is going to be able to settle the matter amicably. It is necessarily a case for arbitration by an impartial commission which should be appointed by the Security Council of the United Nations and which must be prepared to enforce its ultimate decision.

Were the question purely an economic one, were it only a question of the occupation of land, the matter would be less difficult. But it is more involved than that, sticking out a certain number of square miles or determining the number of immigrants who can be received in a certain period. The question of the religious and sentimental attachment of both the Jew and the Arab to Palestine is undoubtedly the moving force behind this growing antagonism.

The vast majority of Arabs are Mohammedans in Jerusalem. In their beautiful mosques, the Dome of which has already been mentioned, they worship Allah. To the Jews, on the other hand,

Jerusalem is the site of their temple, the holy place where rested the Ark of the Covenant. Their wailing wall is daily watered with the tears of those who lament the destruction of that temple and pray for its restoration.

However, in the struggle between these two groups, the rights and interests of the large group of Christians seem to have been overlooked. Palestine to the Christian is not important for its Mohammedan Mosque nor for its ancient Jewish site, but is made sacred because Jesus was born in Bethlehem, walked the dirt roads to Nazareth, through Samaria and to Jerusalem. It is the land which witnessed His miracles, the country in whose language He preached. It was on Mt. Calvary that He was crucified. Palestine is the cradle of Christianity.

If this problem is to be settled on the basis of entire justice, and not on the score of which group can muster the better army more quickly if it is to be worked out by an allied commission so as to enforce the right of both Jew and Arab to worship as he pleases in Jerusalem, then a completely fair solution must necessarily provide for the protection of the rights of the Christians throughout the world to maintain in their own way and to visit freely those shrines and sites in Palestine so sacred in the history of Christianity.

The Christians of the world should be given control of their own shrines. No Christian is happy to see these places so sacred to the world's Christian population controlled by a Mohammedan.

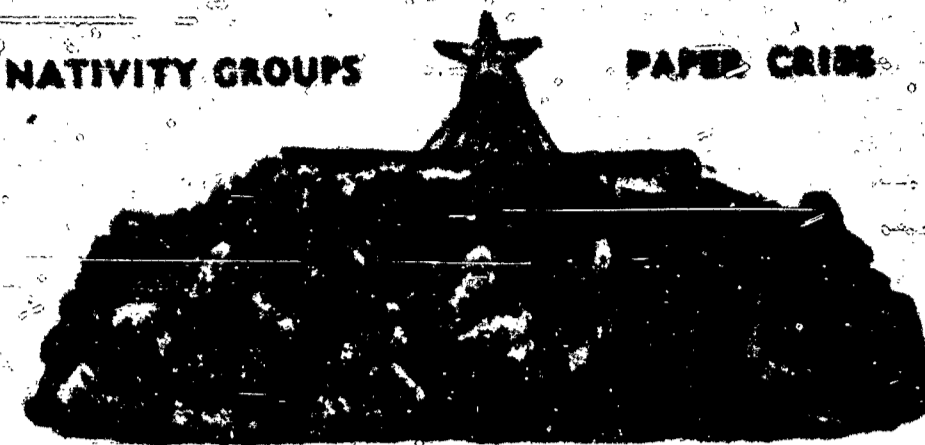
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places sacred to their history. And the Christians should have control over and access to the sites important in the life of Christ.

The commission which attempts to solve this problem must weigh and evaluate the claims of all three groups to the

Holy Land. Whatever difficulties and compromises may be involved in a solution which recognizes the claims of Mohammedan, Jew and Christian, the peace of the world and the happiness of millions of people will be better served by an equitable arbitration of the rights of all three.

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Very Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, S.T.D., National Secretary  
Rev. Andrew M. Rogosh, S.T.L., Assistant Secretary

## Mary's Day

On December 8 won't you make a deposit in "MARY'S BANK," from which we shall help the heroic Sisters of the Immaculate Conception. They run many orphanages and homes for the poor in our beloved Near East. Yours will be a worthy gift to Mary.

**NEEDIEST CASES**  
 Here are some of our neediest cases. We thought you would like to know about them before Christmas.

Father Gautier, Rector of St. Louis Seminary at Istanbul, Turkey, pleads for fifty dollars to buy shoes for twelve needy students.

Sister Corman of the Dominican orphanage at Mosul, Iraq, begs for one hundred and twenty dollars, so that she can bring in another little orphan to make her Christmas happy.

The Sisters of Charity in Cairo, Egypt, write for two hundred dollars. They will find it hard to feed all their poor, standing at the door these winter days.

Over beyond the Jordan, where Our Lord was baptized, the Sisters of the Holy Family are a bit discouraged. They receive unwelcome poor girls from a sorry lot, and have their debts at Christmas amount to four hundred dollars.

Three hundred lepers in the care of the Sisters of the Destitute in India ask your money at this holy time of giving. The present need is two hundred and fifty dollars.

Have a ten dollar gift for the gigantic relief work we are doing in Greece will be deeply appreciated by those victims of war.

What can you do for our homeless at Christmas? We know you will help them with a gift that comes from the heart.

**GIFT CARD**  
 Our gift card, beautiful indeed, tells your friends that you are having Mass said for them at Christmas or have given a sacred article to a Near East mission chapel in their honor. Why not order?

**OURS**  
 Santa Claus, St. Nicholas, honored on December 6, is really a Near East saint. He would want you to think of his poor homeland with a Christmas gift.

**FEAST OF LIGHT**  
 Chalken stars, sanctuary lamps, candles lighting the way to the Immaculate or Bethlehem—yes all to give to a humble Missions Chapel in our beloved Near East.

**SAD NEWS**  
 Bishop Salaman writes that twelve missions in Transjordan, beyond the Holy Land, are without chapels, and the Mass must be offered in miserable hovels. Can you give a thousand dollars to a House of God where the love is shared among the poor?

**ADVENT GIFT**  
 Has your friend who the price of the gift is the gift itself? The gift is the gift itself, and we will send you the gift itself.

**CHRISTMAS CLUB**  
 From our Christmas Club you can delight the hearts of Christ's poor by joining the CHRISTMAS CLUB to donate poor boys for the school, or the MONICA GUILD, to supply vestments for needy missions of the BASHILANS, who help to support Near East missions. Dues in each are a dollar a month.

**APOSTLE**  
 December 6 is the feast of the Holy Family. The apostle James, brother of Our Lord, was born in Bethsaida, Galilee. He was the first to be called by Our Lord. He was the first to be called by Our Lord. He was the first to be called by Our Lord.

**GREATEST HELP**  
 Your Mass offerings are the greatest help to needy missions. We will send you the gift itself.

**CHRISTMAS GIVING**  
 Christmas is the time when we should be giving to the poor. We should be giving to the poor. We should be giving to the poor.

**DEEPLY MOVED**  
 The Holy Family fled to Egypt to escape the wrath of Herod. They were deeply moved. They were deeply moved. They were deeply moved.