

French Priests Decorated For Heroism in Air Raids

Paris — The French Government has awarded medals to the Nantes, to the Vicar General of superior of a large seminary at the diocese and to two priests in recognition of their devotion and heroic leadership during the aerial bombardments of Nantes.

These priests organized the evacuation of 7,000 children and opened 14 soup kitchens where more than 4,000 meals were distributed each day to bombed-out citizens. They led groups of young men who risked their lives to bring in food from the countryside.

The Diocese of Nantes suffered greatly during the war. Eight

priests and 22 Religious met death in the air bombardments. Among them were three Sisters engaged in caring for the wounded. Another priest, Abbe Brouard, was shot to death by the Germans in August 1944, shortly before the liberation of the city; seven priests died on the battlefields and two in prison camps.

About 20 churches in and near Nantes were destroyed and the Cathedral suffered great damage by bombs and fire. The cost of reconstruction, which will take about ten years, is estimated at 200 million francs.

Spanish Novices Talk Latin Here

Everett, 28. — (NC) — Two Spanish Dominican novices, one formerly a prisoner of the Leftists during the Spanish civil war, have arrived at the Dominican House of Studies here. They are Brothers Pedro Gonzalez and Salvador Luis Rodrigo. Both have to use Latin as the sole means of communication with the American novices.

Brother Pedro was imprisoned in 1936 when a Communist-led mob sacked the Ocumca preparatory school of the Dominican Order and seized 23 priests, later executing them. He was freed in 1939 by a Franco regiment in which his brother served.

Polish Catholics Struggle To Rebuild Lublin College

Washington — (NC) — The difficulties of reviving a Nazi-ravaged Catholic university in the blighted, penalized Polish city of Lublin are revealed in a report received here.

The group of educators who began to resurrect the Catholic University of Lublin less than a month after the Germans left in 1944 are attempting to replace the 30,000 volumes taken from the library and destroyed, repair the shell-torn buildings, provide living quarters for the students, and pay some kind of salaries to the professors.

The school — known in Poland as K. U. L. — was founded

in 1914, the fourth to be established in the re-born nation, and its branch in Economics was widely recognized.

In November, 1939, the invading Nazis arrested Bishop Marcin Palman of Lublin, Chancellor of the University, as well as the entire resident faculty and all the students who were attending classes. They began a systematic campaign of burning all books and papers belonging to the school.

Repeated attempts were made to carry on teaching underground during the German occupation.



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