French Bishops Score Official State Atheism

Paris—(NC)—A vigorous challenge to the notion that the State must preserve an "official atheism" in all its actions and avoid express recognition of the existence of God was sounded in a statement published here at the close of a meeting of the Cardinals and Archbishops of France.

If it professes an official atheism to avoid casting aspersions on the unbelief of a few, the State offends the belief of the many, the Prelates affirm. The notion of a "secular State," they point out, is open to a variety of interpretations, one of which is the totalitarian concept against which the world has just fought a war fraught with sacrifices.

Defining in precise terms the position of the Church with regard to "State Secularism," the French Cardinals and Archbishops assert that:

(1) The State must be sovereign and supreme in its sphere of the temporal order.

(2) It is a calumny to impute to the Church a desire to dominate the State.

(3) If "clericalism" is taken to mean the interference of the clergy in the political realm of the State, then the Church condemns clericalism.

(4) If in a country where creeds are divided "State Secularism" is taken to mean that the State permits everybody free practice of his religion, then this definition is in conformity with the teachings of the Church. The Church asks for nothing but her liberty.

(5) If "State Secularism" is presented as a philosophical doctrine, containing a materialistic and atheistic conception of human life and society, then the Church condemns such a doctrine.

(6) If "State Secularism" signifies a refusal on the part of the State to submit to any higher moral considerations, then the Church again condemns this doctrine.

Verdun Bishop Is Dead

Saw His City Ruined By Two Wars

Paris — (Radio) — Bishop Charles Ginisty, who saw his Verdun diocese devastated by two world wars, has died at the age of 82. He is succeeded by his Coadjutor, Bishop Georges Petit.

Bishop Ginisty took over his See in 1914, only a few weeks before the outbreak of World War 1, and remained in his residence adjoining the Cathedral, one of the most exposed points in the city, during the celebrated siege, being removed finally by formal military order.

Bishop Ginisty paid many visits to the graves of American soldiers buried in the Argonne and St. Mihiel cemeteries in his diocese. He visited the United States and Canada to appeal for funds to reconstruct his Cathedral and provide a burial monument for the unknown soldiers who fell at Verdun.

During World War II, the prelate again remained at his post during battle and occupation, again witnessing destruction of his See City.

Albion Pastor 48 Years, Resigns

Albion — Retiring after nearly half a century's service as pastor of St. Joseph's Church here, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis Sullivan officiated at the installation of his successor at ceremonies Sunday evening, Jan. 13.

Monsignor Sullivan, who celebrated his 90th birthday a month ago, was delegated by Bishop John F. O'Hara, of the Buffalo Diocese, to install the Rev. Felix [illegible], formerly of Holley as new pastor of the church where he had served more than 48 years.

Monsignor Sullivan will continue residence at the parish rectory as pastor emeritus of St. Joseph's Church by appointment of Bishop O'Hara.

Ordained to the priesthood on May 28, 1883, the retiring pastor has been 62 years in the service of his diocese. He was elevated to the status of a Domestic Prelate by His Holiness the Pope [illegible] years ago and has been a member of the Bishop's Council of Buffalo for the past seven years. He is the only [illegible] [illegible] on the [illegible] [illegible].

[illegible] Receives Papal Decoration

[illegible] — (NC) — "A Christian gentleman whose [illegible] has been evident in his service to his country, was [illegible] [illegible]

Catholic Pupils Top Bond Buyers

Treasury Dept. reports show that during the past year 2,247,941 Catholic school students in the United States were responsible for the sale of $65,659,425 in War Bonds and Stamps. As the school savings program continues children at the Corpus Christi School, New York City, make out deposit slips under the helpful guidance of their teacher. Through the weekly Stamp Days the children have become skilled in money management and arithmetic (NC Photos)

Washington — (NC) — Catholic school pupils averaged more than 25 per cent above the national bond-buying average for all the school children in the nation in the last school year.

This striking testimonial to the aid given the government's wartime fund-raising program by Catholic students is revealed in a statement by Msgr. Frederick G. Hochwalt, director of the Education Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference quoting U. S. Treasury Department figures.

Monsignor Hochwalt said Treasury reports showed that during the past year 2,247,941 Catholic school students in America were responsible for the sale of $65,659,425 in War Bonds and Stamps.

"Looking ahead," he declared, "these school savings programs contain many educational aspects which are important to preserve in peacetime. Through weekly Stamp Days children have become skilled in money management and arithmetic. They have learned to practice self-denial and thrift; they have become aware of the citizen's part in government.

Two Rochester Priests' Aid At Sea Landed

Work of two Rochester-born missionary priests aboard a storm-tossed freighter was praised in a special dispatch to the Honolulu Star-Bulletin from former war correspondent Keyes Beech.

The two missionaries, the Reverend Fathers Mark Consalvi and Gerald Leicht, Congregation of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, were among passengers on the 7,250 ton freighter Mokihana which was forced back to San Francisco battered by a pre-Christmas storm.

In an attempt to secure cargo on the forward deck five seamen were seriously injured. Capt. F. I. Hamma decided to turn back so they would receive early hospitalization.

The Mokihana sailed again for Honolulu after Christmas.

The two Rochester priests left the city Nov. 1, in company with the Rev. Richard Brennan, SS. CC., for San Francisco where they were to board ship for Hawaiian missions. Father Consalvi is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Consalvi, 66 Curlew St. Father Leicht's parents, Mr. and Mrs. John Leicht, reside at 352 Alphonse St.

Seminary Approved Under GI Bill

Washington — (NC) — Approval of the Holy Ghost Fathers' Missionary College, a seminary at Cornwells Heights, Pa., as a qualified school for the education of veterans under the GI Bill of Rights has been granted by the Pennsylvania Department of Public Instruction, according to an announcement from the community's provincial house here.

Acting upon this approval, the Veterans Administration has placed the seminary under the terms of the GI measure, and veterans who are admitted as candidates for the Holy Ghost Fathers will have their tuition and some other expenses paid by the government.

Four Brother Priests

London — (NC) — The Rev. Dom James Maurus Kelly, O.S.B., [illegible] of Cowpen, Blyth, Northumberland, who has retired at the age of 81, is one of ten brothers, four of whom became priests. A sister became a nun.

Card. Gilroy of Sydney Friend of U. S. Soldiers

Melbourne — (NC) — Cardinal-designate Norman J. Gilroy's friendliness to the United States is accented by the Sydney Catholic Weekly, in its story on his nomination to the College of Cardinals. The paper highlights his interest in the welfare of the United States troops stationed in this country, and recalls his frequent addresses to them in his cathedral, in which he spoke of their obligations to their families at home.

Spanish Prelates Map Social Justice Course

Madrid—(NC)—"How many tears, how much blood could have been spared humanity if Catholics, at least, had obeyed Papal teachings on social questions," declares the Archbishop of Granada in a pastoral which, "crying out loudly at the doors of the powerful," sets forth Catholic principles in formulating a program for the solution of acute social problems in Spain.

"How deeply have the Popes penetrated into the frightening social questions," the pastoral says, "and how brutally is the Church maligned, as if she lived in perennial placidity, flattering the rich and abandoning the proletariat to its misery." The letter was also signed by the Bishops of Cartagena, Malaga, Jaen, Almeria and Guadix, whose dioceses compose the ecclesiastical province of Granada.

Archbishop Agustin Parrado Y Garcia of Granada is one of the 32 Cardinals-elect who will receive the Red Hat from the hand of Pope Pius XII at the Consistory in Vatican City in February.

"No other question," the pastoral says, "weighs more heavily on the souls of men than the social issue, especially at a time when the spirit of revolution arises threateningly from torrents of human blood and pyramids of skeletons. In such dark days our eyes are turned to fathers of families who cannot find work, or bread, or clothing or a decent livelihood. In fulfillment of the serious duties of our pastoral ministry, we wish to alleviate and remedy the situation, crying out loudly at the doors of the powerful."

While praising the social program of the Spanish State, particularly the principles incorporated in its Labor Charter, the pastoral severely censures employers who do not fulfil their duties by forgetting that property is not intended solely to serve private interests but also the common good.

Landlord "absenteeism" is denounced by the Bishops in these words: "Not a few landowners either do not know their property at all or visit it only occasionally during their lifetime, and have hardly any other news of it than that which reaches them from their administrators."

The pastoral goes on to say that some landlords do not concern themselves with how their tenants live, what wages they receive, what educational facilities exist for them and their children and whether they fulfil their religious duties.

It is not just, the Bishops warn, that the rents derived from those land holdings should go to the great urban centers, "leaving in their ignominious wake enforced unemployment lasting for several months, illiteracy, hunger and the lack of schools and churches."

In other sections of the pastoral the Bishops deal with the problem of working women and the injustice of their receiving wages smaller than those paid to men. They score the employment of children who "have been torn from the maternal arms before they have grown strong and before they have completed their moral and religious education." They advocate the family wage and recommend Catholic associations for study of the social question.

'No Vacant Chair' Cartoon Acclaimed

Washington — A cartoon by Clifford K. Berryman, noted cartoonist for the Washington Star here and Pulitzer prize winner, depicting a vacant chair marked by a cross at the peace conference, has won unrestrained praise in religious circles.

The caption on the cartoon, which shows Foreign Minister Bevin, Secretary of State Byrnes and Foreign Commissar Molotov seated at a table and a gleam of light illuminating the vacant chair, reads: "No Vacant Chair—If Conferences Are To Succeed."

Many ministers and religious-minded people have written the Star in praise of the cartoon. So great was the demand that hundreds of reproductions have been made available. The cartoon appeared in the Sunday Star on December 23, 1945.

Priest Tells of Death March

Manila — (INS) — Two hard-boiled U. S. Army sergeants and a [illegible] white-robed Catholic priest retold this week the tale of humiliation and suffering which Americans underwent at Japanese hands after the fall of Corregidor.

The trio appeared as witnesses at the War Crimes trial of Lt. Gen. Masaharu Homma and told how 20,000 American prisoners of the Japanese were forced to [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] into box cars [illegible] a train ride to Cabanatuan Prison camp.

The witnesses were Sergeants Charles Kudak, Johnstown, Pa., and Tom Bogle, Atlantic City, N. J., and Father Ulric Arcano.

They said that many of the Americans who made the march on Manila's hot pavements on May 23, 1942, were hatless and without shoes and with [illegible] arms and heads swathed in filthy bandages.

The witnesses said the Japanese [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible]

Testimony showed that the Japanese protected horses and mules with straw [illegible] but allowed the Americans to go hatless under a blazing sun.

Scanty rations were literally thrown at the Americans, and then, according to the testimony, they were herded into box cars so closely that they could neither sit nor stand.

Homma listened to the testimony with his head bowed and with his [illegible] [illegible] [illegible] [illegible].