

Give Thanks For Peace... (NC) — Twenty thousand Swiss Catholic young men are expected to participate in a national pilgrimage to Einsiedeln...

Most May to thank the Blessed Mother for having preserved their country during the war and kept it at peace and in freedom.

# S. America's Social Advances Surprising

BY RICHARD PATTEE

(Staff Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Havana — The Second Inter-American Seminar on Social Studies terminated its labor with the usual declaration of conclusions and the customary fanfare of speeches and pronouncements.

Those of us who are more or less habituated in the matter of international gatherings might in most cases be somewhat cynical at the real effect of these meetings. A life is generated by a meeting of persons of many nationalities. The present seminar, which was, in reality, more a congress than a study group, achieved much more than any of us had a right to expect.

In the final declaration, no one will expect to find much that is new. The principles are restated and rephrased; the ideas are laid out once more. Resisteration is frequently good. It does no harm either in the concluding session to make ringing protestations of unwavering devotion to the cause of Catholic social action. Some of these eloquent expressions will be dissipated very soon. Some will not last beyond the evening in which they were spoken.

But there is a residue of results that are far more important than all of the formal labors of the Seminar and which up to date has been lacking in Catholic thinking in this hemisphere. Argentina's Astonishing Job. There is a common idea —

and a mistaken one — in the United States, that Latin American Catholics are not doing anything. The Seminar was a brilliant refutation of this idea. If more people could have heard the statement of Father Moledo of Argentina on the set up of social action in that republic, I am confident an enormous amount of miscomprehension would have been overcome. The Argentines are doing a job that is nothing short of astounding. In terms of organization alone they are way ahead of anything we heard from any other country.

From remote Bolivia, where there appeared to be no Catholic social thinking at all, all of us were pleasantly surprised to hear from Raimundo Gregorio a frank and honest appraisal of the state of affairs and how Bolivian university students form themselves into brigades to spread a wider knowledge of the social teachings of the Church.

How could one fall in admiration for Emilio Sirian of El Salvador, who, as a business man and director of a bookstore, also has edited for a dozen years a Catholic weekly, overcoming inconceivable difficulties and financial adversities?

Any observer must have been moved by the spirit and tenacity of Father Arsenio Torres of Ibarra, Ecuador, who in a remote diocese of that mountain republic, has formed a confederation of Catholic trade unions.

Or Father Ramon Bogarin, from far off Paraguay, who runs a radio station, is director of Catholic Action and is the organizer of study circles of workers, supplying them with receiving sets so that they may become better instructed in the social implications of their religion.

And we must not leave out our Cuban friends, who were not merely extraordinary hosts but who are laboring diligently along the lines of creating a social consciousness in this island where negligence has been far too great.

Obviously the present Seminar does not solve anything. It merely brings home to responsible people the terrifying task ahead of all of us. It was not to be expected that the Seminar would produce a solution as such for anything. It merely showed that within Catholic experience there are many worthy solutions.

## Greek Catholic Minority Praised

(NC) — Catholics in Greece have emerged with added prestige from the war according to Apologefische Blätter, Swiss Catholic Action organ published in Zurich. The paper quotes Kadzimir, Catholic newspaper of Athens, saying that all the Catholic Bishops and priests of Greece were found free of any taint of collaboration with the Nazi or Fascist invaders.

There are only some 35,000 Catholics in Greece, representing 0.6 per cent of the population, and there is one Bishop in Athens. The faithful belonging to the Latin Rite number 23,000. The remainder belonging to the Greek Rite. Together they are organized in 45 parishes. The schismatic Orthodox Church has about seven million members.

The Catholics of Greece count among their victims of Nazi persecution Bishop Gregorio A. Vontasinos of Syros, who was arrested because he had given shelter to persons persecuted by the Gestapo, and the Rev. Chrysostomus Vasilion, who was executed by the Germans together with 70 associates because he had offered protection to Jews.

## Brother Andre Stations To be Ready in 1953

(NC) — Completion of the gigantic Way of the Cross being built on the hill leading to St. Joseph's Oratory, the world-famous shrine of the late Brother Andre, is not expected before 1953, it has been revealed here.

The sculptured figures in the project will be one-and-one-half times life size. The sculptor is a Canadian, Louis Parent, who plans to occupy a cottage right on the scene of his work until he finishes it. Special landscape artists are being employed to design a background for the Way of the Cross.

## Catholic Population Increases in Britain

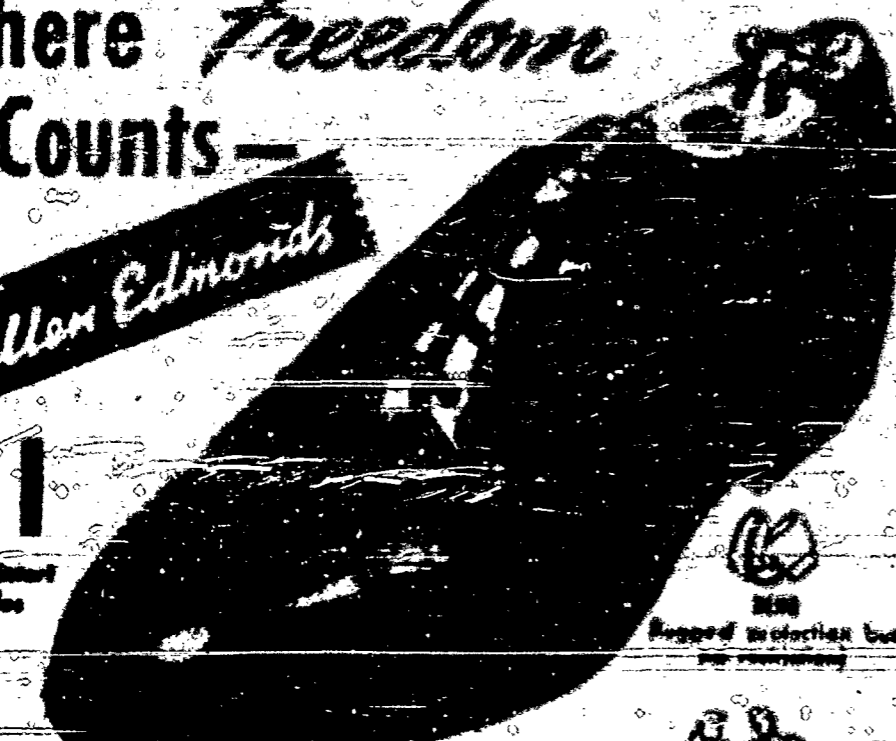
(RNS) — Catholic population of England and Wales increased last year from 2,392,983 to 2,415,424, according to the 1946 Catholic Directory just published here. Conversions during 1945 were estimated at 8,722, as compared with 4,319 in the previous year. The number of churches and chapels increased by 120 to a total of 2,746.

According to the Universe, London Catholic weekly, more than 5,000 officers and men of the British Army were received into the Catholic Church during the war.

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## Near East Missions

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### Our Gratitude

If your paper did not print God's want ads for the Near East missions, we could not help His poor there. Be loyal to Catholic papers and magazines during February, Catholic press month.

### MORE NEWS FROM FATHER ANTHONY

Father Anthony, Superior of the greatest Paulist Fathers of Syria, is fast becoming a familiar sight. God knows he deserves whatever little help we can give him.

This work of ours is nowhere near what could and should be done. The Paulists have been living in tents, even in severe weather, in order to spend our meagre income on the poor.

But how can we, as we should, be engaged in purely spiritual work, when failure after failure looms up before us? The people are wandering, but they haven't even enough for their daily bread.

And to top it, we had to close three schools this month. What a shame. Two years of gathering enough to build them. It is even harder to keep them going.

Father Anthony asks for five hundred dollars. Won't you help our dear priest? They are our best missionaries.

### TROUBLE

As you know, Iran has not been in the past few months. But the Church must go on. Bishop of Chiraz needs out a holy altar for a little chapel in Teheran. It will cost two thousand dollars. Perhaps you will want to help.

### HOW BUT SURE

It is taking a long time to gather the money needed for the Memorial Chapel of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, which we hope to build on the beautiful island of Cortu, in memory of our fallen fighting men. These men must never die. Can you help?

### FATHER AMBROSE

The excellent Franciscan Father, Ambrose of the Seminary at China, is waiting for aid. He needs a sponsor for ten boys who must be helped. Make one of them your own by giving the hundred dollars for his entire course. He will be grateful.

### UNATTACHED

Membership in the Association — a dollar yearly, twenty perpetually — is a singular gift for our neediest cases. Your share is 18,000 Masses offered for you and your beloved dead.

### NONE AT ALL

Father Anthony's mention of the fact that he had to close three schools reminds us that we have not had donations for a school in a long time. Can you give five hundred dollars for a little school at Kafar in the Holy Land, where there are a thousand prospective converts?

### THEIR PROBLEM

The beloved Daughters of Charity, with headquarters in Beirut, Lebanon, have the problem of feeding two thousand hungry little mouths daily. Won't you make it partly your problem by making a deposit in "MARY'S BANK," from which we can help these nuns?

### DON'T FORGET!

February 11 is the second birthday of the Near East Altar Sodality, our MONTICLO GUILD. If many join, giving a dollar monthly, we shall not find it too hard to send thirty dollars to a poor missionary for vestments.

### "HOW CAN I HELP?"

This little leaflet, sent as request tells what you can do for the Near East missions. Our priests constantly ask for articles like chalices, altars etc. Our hundred dollars will furnish an altar, chalice and ciborium for Holy Communion.

### FIFTY A DAY

The dear Sisters of Perpetual Help beg for medical kits, costing fifty dollars, for fifty sick poor come to their dispensary door every day, in little Marmarita, Syria. In eight months they have cured 1,200!

### WHOLE DOLLAR

If we could give a dollar daily to each missionary priest, much of his work would be assured. Many other things help much.

## Pope Outlines Path to Peace

Vatican City — (Radio, NC) — God is ready to give peace to the world, but men must approach Him along the path of truth, justice and charity. His Holiness Pope Pius XII told two United States Senators in private audience.

The two were Senators James M. Tunnell of Delaware, and William F. Knowland of California, who are on a world tour as members of the Special Senate Committee to Investigate the National Defense Program.

The Holy Father referred to the grave problems facing the world today and continued:

"During six long years, military leaders bore the bulk of the burden. It passes now to leaders of State and to them whose exalted duty it is to formulate laws which will govern and guide the peoples of tomorrow.

"God is only too ready and eager," the Holy Father concluded, "to give peace and concord to His world, but men must be humble enough to accept it from His hands, approaching Him along the path of truth and justice and charity. The true friends of peace have their task clearly marked out for them. It is our constant prayer to the God of all nations that they may have the courage and resolution to accomplish it."

## German Prelate Deplores Nazi Acts

Bonn — (NC) — A letter deploring "the shameful wrong done to Luxembourg" during the Nazi occupation was addressed by Bishop Franz Rudolf Bornwasser of Trier, Germany, to Bishop Joseph Philippe of Luxembourg, the neighboring diocese.

"I shared all the suffering which you and your diocese underwent," Bishop Bornwasser said, "and I have the deepest understanding for the bitterness which must have filled the hearts of the Luxembourg people in experiencing the cruel injustice done to them."

## U. S. CARDINAL'S CHURCH



The Church of St. John and Paul, titular church of Cardinal Pacelli with his election as Pope Pius XII, which will be assigned as the titular church of Cardinal-designate Francis J. Spellman, Archbishop of New York. The beautiful old Romanesque building, which contains the bodies of St. John and Paul who were martyred on St. Peter's Hill, south of the Colosseum, Rome. (NC Photos)

Send all communications to  
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