

Truman's Letter Lauded By 'Osservatore Romano'

Rome — (NC) — The suggestion of a "declaration of family rights" which President Harry S. Truman made in a letter to the National Catholic Conference on Family Life being held in Washington is praised here in an editorial in *Osservatore Romano*.

"The very fact that the Pres-

ident set forth these ideas before a Catholic convention reminds us of the contribution which the doctrine and teachings of the Catholic Church is in a position to make to a future declaration of the rights of the family and to the conviction that the family is once more the basis of social reconstruction since it is the cornerstone of society," the editorial said.

Check Russia's Annexing Plan CDA Urges UNO

New York — (RNS) — The UNO was urged to stand firmly against the "unacceptable annexation plans" of the Soviet Union by the Catholic Daughters of America in a resolution adopted during the semi-annual board meeting here. The board expressed also "vigorous opposition to the 'crucifixion' of Poland and other small nations."

The CDA board, representing membership of 200,000, stressed "the necessity for real and not mock freedoms; the abolition of persecution, concentration camps, secret police and other means of tyranny."

Denouncing planned parenthood, the Catholic women said "we are enemies of our own country if we limit births, since national strength is thereby lessened."

Pope Pius XII was lauded for his recent declaration that women can best safeguard the home by participating in the public life of their countries.

The Catholic Daughters will hold their annual convention on July 2 at the Jefferson Hotel in St. Louis, the board announced.

Catholic Information 'The Only Honorable Way'

That's what the bank president told Hertz, his ex-aminer, just before the federal examiners arrived.

"Accounts short?" he had said. "But where has it gone? More than \$30,000. And you don't know?"

It was then he had laid the little automatic on Hertz' desk. But he hadn't known his man.

"Shoot my c—?" Not on your life. That's yellow. That's rotten. I have more guts than that. Why do you suppose I owned up, if I hadn't intended to make good? Don't you think I could have hopped a train for Mexico last week, or ducked out to the Coast? And you ask me to shoot myself? Why, if you don't get out of here, sir, I'll shoot you for being as scuffling!"

Somehow, we think of that every time we read of a suicide. Yellow; hadn't the nerve to face the music; had to take a run-out powder; contemptible.

That isn't the chief reason, though, why the Catholic Church won't bury a suicide. Her first and, really, the one serious reason is the fact that the deceased died with a gesture of contempt to the Almighty God who said: "Thou shalt not kill." This person used his last moment to snap his fingers in God's face. Shall the Church harbor God's enemy? When they repent, yes; otherwise, no.

"For none of us liveth to himself, and no man dieth to himself. For whether we live, we live unto the Lord; and whether we die, we die unto the Lord; whether we live, therefore, or die, we are the Lord's." (Rom. xiv, 7-8).

There is consolation in the thought that many suicides are out of their head when they kill themselves. — many, but not all.

mind you, for the Stoics of ancient times counseled suicide as a lawful act of heroism, and many a fellow performs complicated legal acts right up to the last minute, drawing up his will, transferring property, settling his bank accounts, etc. That type is sane. But the Church, in judging individual cases, tries her best to take the kinder view—that is, to allow that the victim was beside himself, and then to bury him with a Funeral Mass. It isn't possible in every instance, but even though she should refuse a person Christian burial, it is not her intention to pass judgment on his eternal destiny. That belongs to God alone. — (Catholic Information Society of New York).

Belgium Honors French Bishop for Wartime Aid

Paris — (RNS) — The Belgian government has made the Most Rev. Joseph Mathieu, of the diocese of Arras and Dax, in Southwest France, a Commander of the Order of Leopold for successfully hiding important State documents from the Germans during the war.

When the Germans were advancing through Belgium in 1940, Hubert Pierlot, then Prime Minister, asked the bishop to hide valuable archives belonging to the Belgian royal house. The documents were carefully packaged and placed in a disused well in the convent of the Benedictine Sisters in Poyanne.

Chapel for War Dead
Paris — (NC) — A chapel dedicated to St. Michael and the Holy Angels honoring the memory of the soldiers who died for France from 1940 to 1945 will be built on an eminence in the Jura Mountains in eastern France.

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Canadian Catholics Ask Envoy to Vatican

Montreal — (RNS) — Canadian Catholic organizations will soon ask the Federal Government to establish diplomatic relations with the Holy See and appoint a Canadian ambassador to Rome. It was learned from high dignitaries of the Jesuit Order here. Reference is made to this project in the current issue of "The Sign," a monthly journal published by the Jesuit Order. In it reasons for establishing diplomatic relations with the Vatican and Canada are analyzed.

It is pointed out that 40 different states already enjoy diplomatic relations with the Holy See.

Only four major countries have no representative in Rome. Those are the USSR, Mexico, Turkey and Canada. "Such a situation," says the magazine, "places Canada in an embarrassing company and it is almost startling when one realizes that 43 per cent of Canada's population is Roman Catholic."

Daughter of Noted French Philosopher Joins Church

Paris — (NC) — Mlle. Bergson, daughter of the noted philosopher Henri Bergson, recently embraced the Catholic Faith. Mr. Bergson died in 1941 and Germans then opposed any honors being rendered to him. Of Jewish origin, he leaned toward Catholicism, as was revealed in his last will and testament, which contains the following passage: "My reflections have brought me closer and closer to Catholicism in which I see the completion of Judaism. I would have become a convert, had I not witnessed through the years the preparation of the formidable wave of anti-Semitism which is unfurling over the world. I wished to remain with those who will be persecuted."

Couples Mark Golden Jubilee

Greenham, La. — (NC) — Married in a double ceremony 50 years ago, Mr. and Mrs. Numa Landry and Mr. and Mrs. Louis Le Blanc of this town, celebrated their golden anniversary together at St. Theresa's church here. They were married at Sacred Heart Church, Cormeville, a few miles from here. Making the observance complete, the four witnesses of the 1900 wedding attended the golden anniversary Mass.

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