

# A-Bomb Killed 10,000 Nagasaki Catholics

Tokyo—(NC)—“The most grievous wartime loss to the Church in Japan was not the material destruction, great though this was, but the loss of 10,000 Catholics in one day.”

## Master Knight



John Patrick "Jack" Costello, well-known NBC announcer and special events reporter, was named a Master Knight of the Sovereign Military Order of Malta, on acceptance into the order at a recent meeting.

## Limited German Aid Permitted

Berlin—(NC)—Permission has been given by the United States Government to the American Council of Voluntary Agencies to send relief to the aged, young children, pregnant and nursing mothers, and the ill among German civilians, it has been announced here.

The Rev. James Hoban, of War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference is one of eight representatives of the Council who are now traveling through Germany with the approval of the President's War Relief Control Board and the State and War Departments.

The military government has reserved the right to supervise the distribution of the aid, which must consist only of medical and sanitary supplies, soap, cod liver oil, powdered milk and infant's food and clothing. In the American zone of occupation these items will be distributed through existing German welfare units; in the British and French zones distribution plans have not been completed.

The Rev. Dr. Edward E. Swanson, assistant executive director of War Relief Services-N.C.W.C., had earlier recommended aid by private agencies to German civilians after seeing "innocent children and the aged literally dying from starvation in the streets of the large German cities."

"The private agencies in Germany are prepared to assist their suffering people, but they have not the wherewithal, and that must be supplied by our agencies in the United States," he had declared.

Catholic women's organizations in the United States, seeking to give private aid to needy Germans, had been advised by the War Department that the matter was being explored.

## Cardinal to Study Educational Methods

Archbishop Paulo Marella, Apostolic Delegate to Japan, stated here in commenting on reports of war's devastation received from mission heads throughout the country.

Estimates of damage and destruction to church property in Japan run between \$5,000,000 and \$10,000,000.

Representing the largest Christian stock in Japan, the 10,000 were killed August 9, 1945, in the atomic bombing of Nagasaki, where the Faith was kept alive at heroic cost for centuries. The decimation of that city's population is "a terrible blow in a mission country," said Archbishop Marella.

The latest official statistics on the Catholic population in Japan, proper, were gathered in June 1944, before the devastating atomic bombing and as the heavy raids on Japanese cities were building up to their climax and totaled 118,248. Previous tabulations showed a steady increase in the ranks of the Church, from 103,271 in 1934 to 121,123 in June 1941, just five months before Pearl Harbor. In addition to the Japan, proper, population figures for 1941, statistics showed 9,954 Catholics in Formosa.

The diminution between the 1941 and the 1944 population figures was brought about by government sponsored migration to Manchuria, transfers to occupied China, war mobilizations and war deaths. Actually, while thousands of Catholics thus were sent out of Japan or met death, the Catholic body in the country steadily was acquiring new members through conversions.

Adult conversions numbered 4773 in 1941, and through the war years new converts were entering the Church.

While the end of war has brought complete religious freedom and an unprecedented mission opportunity, it also finds blackened ruins and weakened personnel of the Church in Japan. About 15 per cent of the priests in Japan were taken from their duties into internment or were repatriated. During the war, one priest died in prison, while four priests, 60 Sisters and ten missionaries were killed in air raids.

No new missionaries entered Japan after the war began, and none of the repatriated missionaries as yet has succeeded in returning to the country.

The Church's material losses in Japan are gigantic. Fifty Churches, most of them in the important centers, have been destroyed totally in air raids. In Tokyo, eleven out of 18 parishes are in ruins, among them the Cathedral parish.

Out of 51 churches in the principal cities, 30 have been destroyed and ten damaged badly. In the same cities more than half of the Catholic school buildings have been destroyed. Thirty dispensaries and other welfare institutions have lost all their buildings and between 25 and 30 convents and monasteries have been reduced to ruin and rubble.

## Farley Sees Greater U. S. Voice in Church

Notre Dame, Ind.—(INS)—Francis J. Farley, apostolic delegate to the U. S. Archbishops to the apostolic delegate will give Americans a greater voice in the world-wide councils of the Catholic Church, said Farley.

Hitherto the American hierarchy has remained in an almost missionary-like atmosphere. But the Consistory demonstrated that right here in Rome the Council of American Catholics is not a truly national assembly of the spiritual domain, said Farley.

# Mgr. Sheen Scores Divorce Evils

New York—(NC)—Divorce was defined as "a vain attempt to give respectability to dishonor by invoking a human law to overthrow God's law," by Mgr. Fulton J. Sheen, of the Catholic University of America, Sunday in an address on the Catholic Hour radio program.

Monsignor Sheen's address was entitled "Exhortation to a Bride and Groom." He explained: "When I marry young couples at the altar of God at a Nuptial Mass, I give them an exhortation." To the couples he said, he emphasizes that "the Sacrament you are about to receive is unbreakable except by death: (1) because of the nature of love; (2) because of the nature of the marriage act; (3) because of the spiritual reality it symbolizes."

The moral reasons for the breakdown of the sanctity of the marriage, the Monsignor Sheen said, are the assumption that marriage is founded on a "unity of bodies—rather than of bodies, minds and a single purpose, namely the foundation of the home under God" and, secondly, an "identification of marriage with the pleasure which marriage brings."

Monsignor Sheen pointed out that there is a tradition of the sea which calls for the captain to go down with his ship. He remarked that until a generation ago everyone recognized there was one ship a person ought not to leave even when he thought it was sinking, the home. "But in 30 of the large cities of the U. S. during the first part of 1945," Monsignor Sheen detailed, "there was one divorce for every two marriages, which means roughly that 50 per cent deserted their ships despite the orders of the Great Captain who forbade desertion: 'What therefore God hath joined together, let no man put asunder.'"



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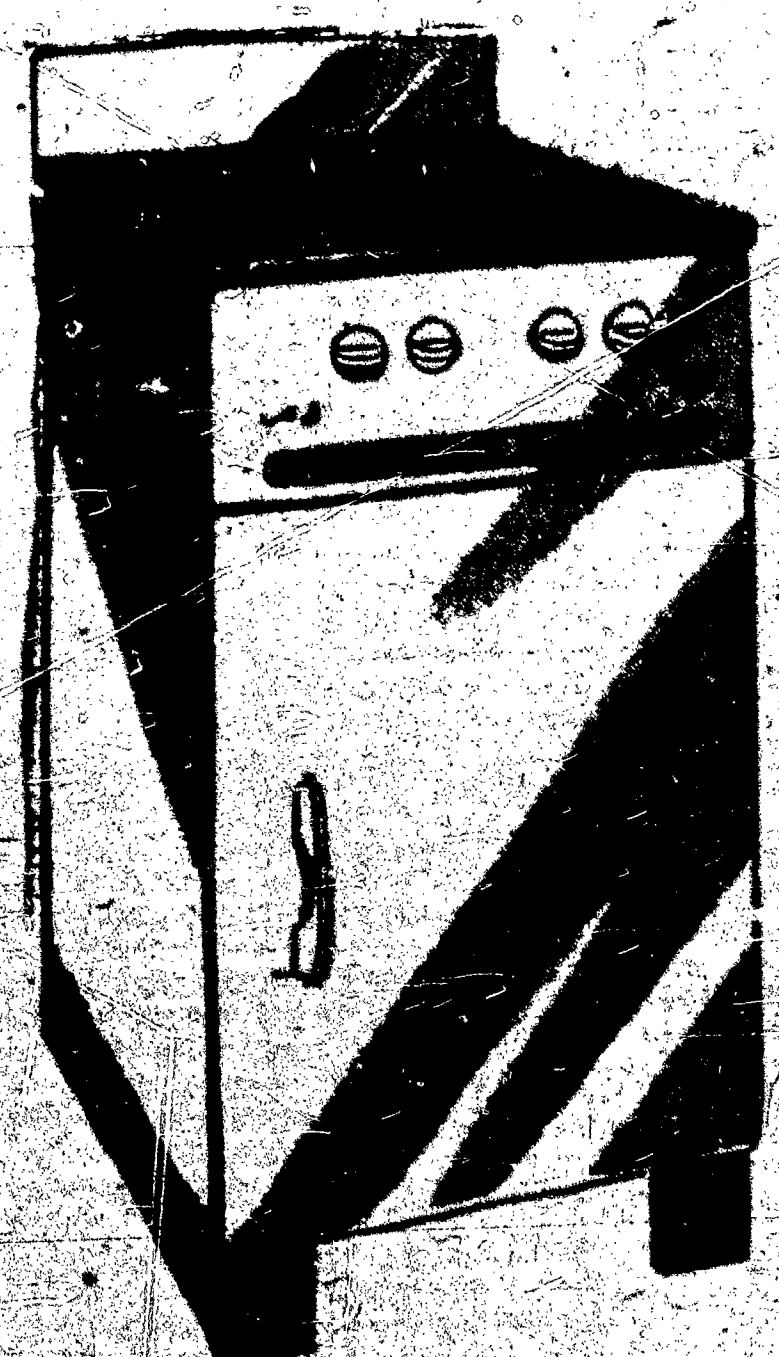
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