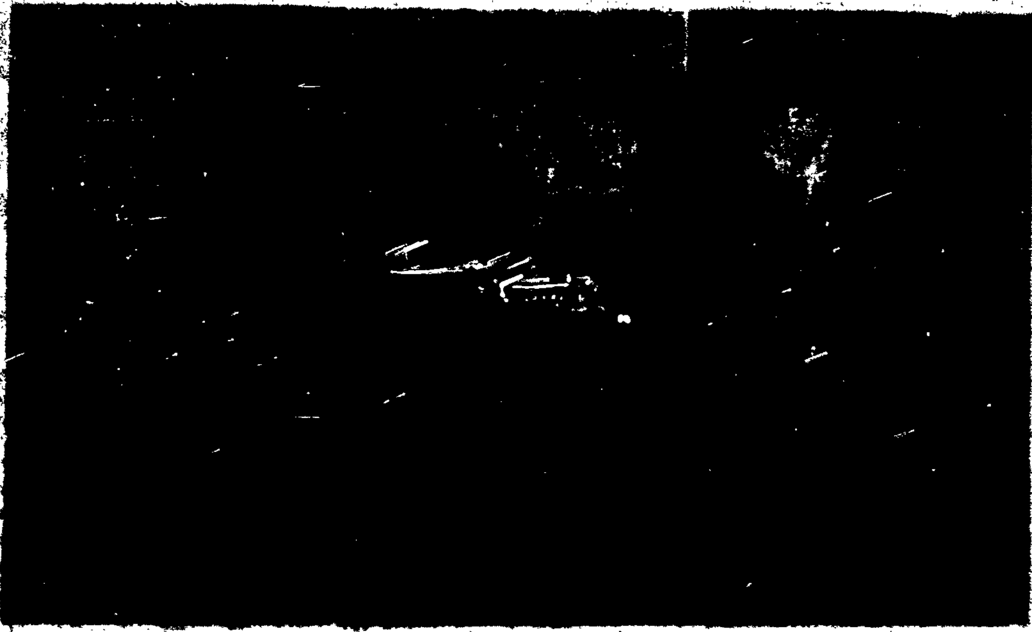
Americans Head Franciscan Orders



With the appointment of Very Rev. Clement Neubauer, O. F. M. Cap. (left), of Milwaukee, as Minister General of the Capuchin Fathers, all three religious bodies composing the First Order of St. Francis are now headed by Americans. The other two are the Most Rev. Bede Hess, O. M. C. (center), of Rome, N. Y., who heads the Friars Minor Conventual and the Most Rev. Valentine Schaaf, O. F. M. (right), of Cincinnati, Minister General of the Friars Minor. (NC Photos)

English Cardinal Tells Labor To Observe Christian Charity

[illegible] — (NC) — "Christian charity can do more to preserve the dignity of labor than any purely political doctrine," His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, declared in an address on the Hour of Faith radio program. He coupled this declaration with the reminder that "while the worker is right to fight injustice which would seek to victimize him, he in turn must observe justice not only to his employer but to the whole community."

Cardinal Griffin paid glowing tribute to his predecessor, Cardinal Henry Edward Manning, Archbishop of Westminster, and Cardinal James Gibbons, Archbishop of Baltimore, whom he characterized as "that great champion of the poor." These [illegible] said, "prepared the way for that famous Encyclical 'Rerum Novarum' of Pope Leo XIII, which was so warmly applauded by the oppressed workers throughout the world."

Dignity Of Labor

His Eminence emphasized that "human labor has dignity precisely because it is human," and pointed out that "by the labor of his hands man perfects his own nature." He added that while in terms of strength and speed labor is often outstripped by the machine, "the marvels of modern invention are the direct result of human labor" and that "when we forget this we are half-way to degrading human nature itself."

"If you ever doubt the dignity of human labor," the Cardinal continued, "remind yourself that Christ Himself labored with His own hands at a carpenter's bench."

"I am not suggesting, as you know," Cardinal Griffin added, "that a man should stifle honest ambition in the name of Christianity. On the contrary, a man should always, not only for his own sake but for the sake of his family, seek to better his position. Still less am I suggesting to you that every man should be satisfied with his working conditions.

"I should be misrepresenting the whole social doctrine of the Catholic Church were I to say that workers should not strive and, if necessary fight, in order that both the conditions of work and standards of pay should be in keeping with their human dignity. The Church has always protected the rights of the worker."

Right To Strike

"When Pope Leo XIII proclaimed the workers' right to strike there were many to accuse him of being a revolutionary. In a sense they were right. Christ Himself revolted against the harsh treatment given to ignorant people by the Scribes and Pharisees. The Church, therefore, blesses and fosters workers' unions.

"These unions, indeed, are only the modern version of the old time trade guilds founded and maintained by the Church of God. But in the old Christian guilds master and man got together. It was not considered essential, in really Christian times, to foment conflict between employer and employed. Today, so it seems to me, many disputes are engineered solely to cause a break-down in our social system.

"No one could be more ready than the Popes to condemn unchecked competition and the unscrupulous methods of big business which, to quote Leo XIII, 'put upon the worker a yoke little better than slavery.' But by wise control it is surely possible to ensure co-operation for the benefit of all the members of the community.

Calls For Truce

"In a word, Christian charity can do more to preserve the dignity of labor than any purely political doctrine. Let us call a truce to the monstrous warfare between industry and the community. Remember that while the worker is right to fight injustice which would seek to victimize him, he in turn, must observe justice not only to his employer but to the whole community.

"We know well how commodities in short supply are often sold for outrageous prices. No man has the right to charge unduly high prices for his goods simply because he happens to have secured a corner in them. But it is less often remembered that the worker, in his turn, may be guilty of injustice. There is a just price for work as well as for goods. Men engaged in essential services can throttle their fellow-citizens. The cure for this is a deeper respect for our fellow members in the Body of Christ and for the principles of justice which Christ came to establish on earth.

Russia Blocks Peace, Congress Leader Avers

Washington — (NC) — Efforts to achieve "a permanent peace through international cooperation" are being blocked by Soviet Russia, Representative John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, House Majority Leader, declared here.

"Mr. [illegible] said "fear and uncertainty" prevail throughout Europe because of Soviet influence, and if Russia "persists in stepping on the toes" of other nations, the chances of "building a permanent peace will disappear."

The House leader spoke at the annual Communion breakfast of the Catholic Police and Firemen's Society of the District of Columbia. More than 500 members of the society attended Mass in St. Patrick's Church, offered by Bishop John M. McNamara.

"Our hopes and willingness to cooperate," Mr. McCormack said, "have become somewhat dimmed as a result of the actions of the Soviet Union. The time has arrived for a frank expression of views. It is only through an honest exchange of views that understanding and progress will result."

Mr. McCormack declared that "if the Soviet Union really wants peace in the world — if it is sincere — it will have to cooperate with other nations." Any one large and powerful nation, if stubborn and dictatorially inclined, can prevent the future peace," he said.

London Paper Raps Action Of UN on Spain

London — (NC) — The observation that "the very people who abuse the present regime in Spain are apparently reconciled to dictatorial and terrorist regimes in profusion elsewhere" has been made by The Catholic Herald here in comment on the Spanish probe action of the United Nations Security Council in New York.

"They know perfectly well," the paper adds, "that the spearheads of the attack on Spain comes from countries which are certainly no better than Spain, so far as any constitutional and legal freedom is concerned and infinitely worse in terms of a Christian and civilized moral outlook. And all the evidence goes to show that support in Spain for Franco depends on but a tithe of the force needed to maintain Bierut and Tito."

The newspaper reminds that the Charter of the United Nations lays down the principles and machinery by which the leading nations of the world may intervene for the common good in the affairs of any country.

The Herald continues: "Despite the fact that there is no solid evidence whatsoever that Spain is a threat to world peace, the usurpers of Poland, obviously acting in the name of an aggressive Russia and supported by a France where the communists set the political pace, have brought the case of Spain before the Security Council.

"They have done this with little hope of finding any practical way of giving effect to their policy, even if they could carry it. Franco has obviously prospered on international hostility, and sanctions would only strengthen him still further. The only alternative is open war."

Reduced to Farce

"One might have thought," the Herald adds, "that such an open, blatantly unjust and criminally foolish step would have been avoided, but it is part at the prevalent insanity that even a criminal's prudence is set aside. Moreover, the step tends to discredit and reduce to a farce UNO itself — an object not inconsistent with the general outlook of Russia. And this second consideration links with the third, namely the self-injury caused to the countries of the West by their participation in this madness."

Russia has not hidden her purpose for obtaining as much influence as possible in France, Italy and, if possible, a foothold in the Mediterranean, the Herald says. "The discrediting of UNO would be a victory of first magnitude in Russia's 'white war,'" the paper adds.

Family Allowances Feature Spain's Social Reform Program

Washington — (NC) — A review of social reforms in Spain since the end of the Civil War there in 1939 has been published in booklet form by the Office of Cultural Relations of Spanish Embassy here.

"The record of accomplishments shows, the booklet asserts, that the words of the Holy Father exhorting Government and Church authorities in Spain to propound to the Spanish people "the principles of personal and social justice as set forth in the Gospels and the teachings of the Church" have not fallen on deaf ears.

The program in regard to protection of the family of the laborer is set forth, beginning with an exposition of the National Fund for Family Bonuses. Toward this fund employers contribute five per cent of the total amount of wages paid, and workers contribute one per cent of their respective wages; land owners are taxed to the extent of 15 per cent.

"Those who earn high wages help those of the low wage levels, since the former contributes more to the common fund, and the bonus granted is the same for all who have an equal number so help those with large families of children," the booklet explains, adding that bachelors and married persons without children all under this fund.

Family Subsidies

In December 1944, it is stated, a total of 1,014,000 workers received family subsidies amounting in all to about 800,000,000 pesetas.

With the resources of a National Fund for Family Insurance are provided aid for widows and orphans, loans for marriage and prizes for large families. To assist newly-married persons in setting up households, loans are granted up to 5,000 pesetas. The loan is paid back by turning over to the National Fund one per cent of the total each month.

For each child born, 25 per cent of the balance is cancelled, and on the birth of the fourth child the entire loan is extinguished. Prizes for large families, one national and 50 provincial awards, are distributed every year on the Feast of St. Joseph.

In 1943, it is pointed out, a law was enacted providing special benefits for families with from four to seven children under the age of 18, or for those with more than seven children.

Another measure aiding workers with large families, inaugurated in the new Labor Regulations for one industry in 1942 and now extended to all, establishes a point system for supplementing wages in proportion to the number of a worker's dependents. There are workers in the metallurgical industry with seven children whose normal wage has been doubled under this regulation, the booklet states.

Paid For Sundays

In July, 1946, a law was put into effect that workers must receive full salary on all Sundays, 13 feast days and the two national holidays, all of which are obligatory days of rest under Spanish law. "This law represents for all Spanish workers an increase of 16 per cent in wages," it is stated.

The Law for the Promotion of Education, dated July 19, 1944, provides scholarships, grants-in-aid and travel awards, and makes it obligatory that state and private schools admit a designated number of students without charge.

Five types of social security insurance have been established: accident, silicosis, sickness, maternity, and old-age benefits. All employers are obliged to provide compensation under the National Work Accident Fund for Laborers. The sickness and hospitalization program protects 2,378,724 workers three and one-half years after its inception, and ultimately will include 16,000,000 Spaniards under its provisions, it is stated. The old-age pension system now in operation was established in October 1939; in 1943 pensions were granted to 179,075 persons.

Spanish Primate Sees Falsehoods Basis of Charges

Toledo, Spain — (NC) — The faithful in Spain have been exhorted in a Pastoral by His Eminence Enrique Cardinal Pla y Deniel, Archbishop of Toledo and Primate of Spain, to resort to fervent prayer for the consolidation of peace in the nation so that it may follow the path that will bring progressive accomplishment of internal well-being and effective collaboration with other nations.

The Cardinal-Primate, alluding to many charges made in the current anti-Spanish campaign, declared that they "have been founded on such open falsehoods they will not stand up under a clear analysis."

The Pastoral recommended the offering of Masses and recitation of the Rosary in honor of the Blessed Mother during May "in order to attain just and real peace, its consolidation in Spain in a way which, through its Constitution, will bring the definitive structure of the new State," following the path of progressive internal well-being and effective collaboration "in the urgent mutual necessities of people who thirst for peace and justice."

Alluding to the task of peace-making between victorious and vanquished nations, the Cardinal-Primate wrote that "we must pray to God so that those who are to prepare such treaties may have serenity of mind, may not surpass the limits of what justice requires and may not be led astray by hate and vengeance, but on the contrary may bear in mind the true brotherhood of all peoples."

College Wins Honors

Newark, N.J. — (NC) — St. Benedict's Preparatory School here has received four national distinctions in the National Forensic League. The Very Rev. Charles Carroll, O.S.B., college headmaster, has been chosen a State honorary member of the League.

Cardinal Hlond Takes Warsaw See

New York — (NC) — His Eminence August Cardinal Hlond, Primate of Poland, has now taken over the Archiepiscopal See of Warsaw, according to the Inter-Catholic Press Agency, which reports that, on Easter Monday, the Cardinal led a procession through the ruins of Warsaw's Old City to the destroyed St. John's Cathedral, where Mass was offered at an open-air altar.

The news agency dispatch also declares that this step restores the ecclesiastical situation which existed in Poland up to the time of the Partitions in the eighteenth century, when the Primate of Poland was also the Metropolitan of Warsaw. Prior to his move to the Polish capital, Cardinal Hlond was Archbishop of Gniezno and Poznan.

Communications between the Polish Hierarchy and the Holy See are subject to great difficulties, the press agency reports, citing as an example that His Eminence Adam Stephen Cardinal Sapieha, Archbishop of Cracow, did not see the Encyclical "Orientales Omnes Ecclesias," which deals with the persecution of the Ruthenian Church, until he came to Rome for the Consistories in February.

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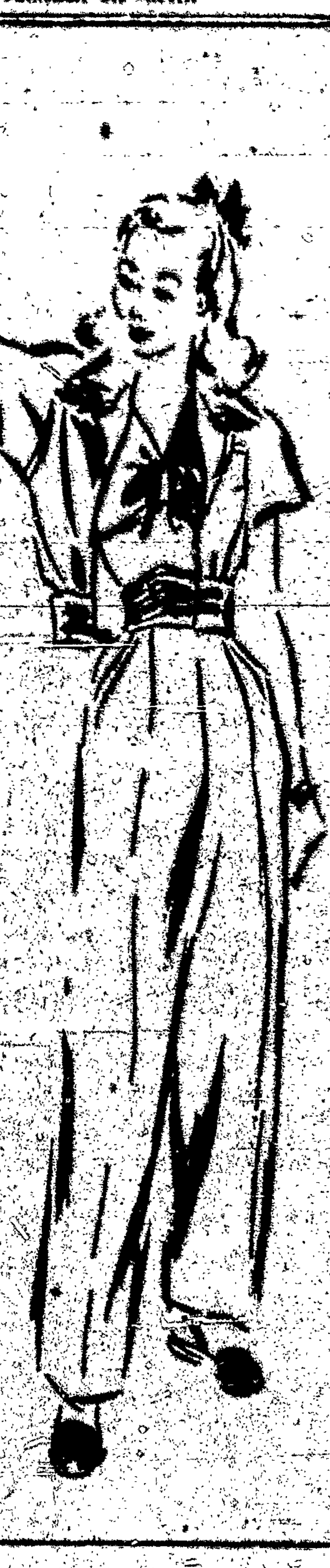

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