

Canadian Bishops Ask Purity Crusade Against Immorality

With a severe indictment of increasing immorality in Canada's everyday life, a joint pastoral signed by 17 members of the Canadian Hierarchy, advocates a "Crusade for Purity" and calls for concrete measures to curb the evil.

The pastoral was signed by the Most Reverend Cardinal Filomeno, O.M.I., Archbishop of Quebec; Archbishop Alexander Walsh of Ottawa; Archbishop Joseph Charbonneau of Montreal; Archbishop Georges Courchesne of Winnipeg; and 13 Bishops.

All Catholics are exhorted to share in the leadership of Catholic Action in bringing pressure upon those persons and circumstances responsible for immorality. The pastoral calls for cooperation in the present mode of crime and elimination of immorality in books, magazines, motion pictures, radio programs and other means of public entertainment.

Prayer League Asked

Formation of a League of Decency and kindred organizations as a means of combating present evils and providing suitable remedies is envisaged by the bishops.

The bishops emphasize that immorality has a sinister influence on individual and family life and the life of the nation. They deplore the practice of birth-control, conjugal infidelity, divorce, separations, a cooling of love between parents and children, and delinquency. In upbraiding the family, the bishops assert immorality destroys the base of civil society.

Divided into three parts, the pastoral first points out the principal manifestations of immorality and impurity in the present day; second, expounds the Christian judgment on these problems and, third, cites means to combat the wave of immorality.

The bishops deplore the practice on the part of both men and women of reading lascivious stories in public; the absence of adult surveillance at gatherings of the young; seemingly unrestricted use of intoxicants at parties attended by youth; vulgar adults and immorality in books, comic strips, movies, radio programs and other means of public entertainment.

The great majority of the population, the pastoral says, are sane and moral, "but the danger of immorality is spreading, and above all the plague of immorality extends everywhere. . . . It is urgent to make an appeal to Christian conscience to check this trend without delay. . . . To open our hearts and minds to the Divine teachings. . . . The bishops, recalling that certain existing statutes and ordinances pertain to these problems call upon the Government to enforce these measures and to institute other effective steps regarding public dress, motion pictures and other amusements.

The bishops also urge the Government to prohibit women and youth from patronizing saloons of meat houses, establishments where intoxicants are sold.

The pastoral states that when the time is opportune a League of Decency will be organized with the objective of defending public morality and maintaining suitable publications, movies, songs, radio programs and other amusements.

VISITOR FROM IRELAND



Very Rev. Daniel Murphy, C. S. S. P., provincial of the Holy Ghost Fathers in Ireland, and the Rev. Nicholas O'Leary, C. S. S. P., of Dublin, former superior of the Holy Ghost Mission in the United States, visited in Miami, as they returned from Trinidad where they were at special meetings of the Holy Mary's College and Our Lady of Fatima College conducted by the order. They are now visiting in the United States. (See American Air Ways photo, CMC Photos.)

Argentine Bishop Scores Dictatorship

Buenos Aires — A sharp repudiation of dictatorship and a strong reminder of the source, the limits and the responsibilities of governmental authority was voiced here by Bishop Miguel de Andrea, "Titular of Temnos," in accepting an honorary degree from the Faculty of Law and Social Sciences of the National University of Buenos Aires.

In conferring the degree, Dr. Horacio C. Ilvarola, rector of the university, announced it was the first time in its history that the institution's Superior Council had bestowed an honorary degree by a unanimous vote and paid tribute to the bishop's sound convictions on political and social questions and to his social apostolate founded on the Papal Encyclicals. Bishop de Andrea has for many decades been a leading exponent in this country of Catholic thought on democratic freedoms and social and economic questions.

Declaring the "foundation of true democracy" springs from Christianity, and that all authority has its source in God, Bishop de Andrea said there are "lessons in history when men appear who think themselves invested with the power of God and sometimes believe themselves capable of 'taking His place.'" This is a blasphemous negation of Christianity, he said, Christianly enhances.

"No doctrine embraces as does Christianity the dignity of the governed, nor so guarantees the authority of those who govern," the bishop declared, adding that "if there ever was a time when it was necessary to bring about a revolution of the true doctrine of the origin of power, it is ours."

"The means established by God for transmitting authority," he continued, "lead to a high conclusion — the obligation of all who guide human capacity to better the people materially and morally, to bring them to that level of responsibility which befits the right to choose their own governments."

Scot Bishops See Peace In Russia's Conversion

London — (NC) — The Bishops of Scotland have issued a statement in which they describe the persecution in East Europe as "perhaps surpassing in ferocity anything known in the days of Nero," and declared that no lasting peace was possible without Russia's conversion.

"As members of Christ's Mystical Body, the faithful in those regions have a right to look to us for aid and above all for the assistance of our prayers," the bishops declared. "The prayers directed by Leo XIII to be said after Low Masses are being offered for the conversion of Russia.

"Without the conversion of Russia no lasting peace is possible. The establishment of peace is further gravely affected by the immense danger of world famine. If this year's crop fails, the conditions of the displaced peoples in Europe, who are already suffering acutely, become positively tragic. Much depends on the next few months."

The bishops have ordered special prayers after every Low Mass to implore peace for the world.

Pastor's Golden Jubilee

Washington — (NC) — The golden jubilee of his ordination was observed by Msgr. John W. Dowling, 75-year-old pastor of Holy Name Church here. Msgr. Dowling offered a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving at which Bishop John M. McNamara, Auxiliary Bishop of Baltimore and of Washington, presided.

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HEALTH BILL IS OPPOSED

Milwaukee — (NC) — Opposition to what he termed "one of the most revolutionary proposals on health" before the present session of Congress was expressed by Msgr. Maurice F. Griffin, first vice-president of the Catholic Hospital Association, at one of the meetings of its convention here.

"There is before Congress proposed legislation, he said, "that would provide medical, dental, nursing and hospital care, even social service, for every future citizen, rich or poor alike. This service would be entirely free, with the government paying all the expense beginning with prenatal care and extending to the last year. The most ardent advocate of State medicine could ask no more."

Questioning the necessity of such a program, Msgr. Griffin stated that "we have been enjoying the best medical and hospital service any people has ever had. We have more and better trained doctors per unit of population than any other country. Our people voluntarily have provided themselves with more and better hospitals, for rich and poor alike, than can be found anywhere else."

"Therefore a man was considered a creature of God, not a chattel of the State," Msgr. Griffin declared, "and each creature had a moral obligation to care for the life his Creator had given him to the best of his ability. Now we are to make that obligation a formal government obligation sanctioned by a tax on his wages and by tax on industry which gives employment."

Rites to Honor Heroic French Charity Sister

Paris — (NC) — Impelling ceremonies will mark the return to Metz of the body of Sister Helene, French patriot nun, who died in Clermont Ferrand, where she had taken refuge from the Gestapo after organizing an escape route for French prisoners from Germany. Sister Helene, who belonged to the Sisters of St. Vincent de Paul, died shortly before the liberation.

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CHINESE HIERARCHY PRECEDENTS CITED

Rome — (NC) — The recent raising of the Church in China from mission status to that of a fully-constituted national Church with its own resident hierarchy presents an analogy with prior actions in India, Japan, and colonial territories in Africa, "since" Catholic mission service, recalls in a report here.

When India acquired its hierarchy in 1855, it had but 1,500,000 Catholics compared to China's present-day 4,000,000, and at the same time the hierarchy was constituted in Japan in 1859 there were but 40,000 Catholics in that country, sides points out.

The Catholic Church in China in this century, points to the April 11 decree which set up the Ecclesiastical Hierarchy, was organized into one diocese, one vicariate, the Byzantine Rite Ordinariate of Harbin for Russian Catholics in China and Manchuria, 63 Vicariates Apostolic, 23 Prefectures Apostolic, and one mission, at Urga, Mongolia. However, there had been an Archbishop at Peking as far back as 1822, with several vicariates diocesan — this in the time of John of Monte Corvino, whose evangelized works brought at least 3,000 Chinese into the Church. But this Church, in Urga that was not known to history, died out at the end of the 14th century. Again in 1693 following major missionary efforts by Francis Xavier, Francis, and others, the two Dioceses of Peking and Nanking were set up, and remained as such until 1859, when the Holy See split them into Vicariates.

Thus, the 200-year-old city in which His Eminence Thomas Cavalari, N.S.P.C., will direct the affairs of the Archdiocese of Peking, sees itself honored for the first time as a residential See. Before has been called the "City of the Great Altar" at the center of the missionary efforts of the Holy See, it occupied a strategic position.



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