Catholic Activities Increase in Germany

By MAX JORDAN

Berlin — (NC) — Catholic activities throughout Germany are gaining momentum constantly, in spite of extraordinary hardships caused by famine, disturbed communications and lack of other essential facilities.

A recent meeting at Stuttgart was attended by representatives from Catholic Action groups in 40 West Zone cities. The keynote address was delivered by Father Dirlam, distinguished Catholic journalist.

Intense interest is being evidenced in all parts of the country by Catholic discussion clubs and public lectures, all of which are splendidly attended. In Berlin, the group was inaugurated by Conrad Cardinal von Preysing.

In the field of youth activities the outlook is also encouraging. Bishop Albert Stohr of Mainz, who is in charge of this field of Catholic activity, has presided over a gathering of diocesan youth leaders who agreed on basic policies. Implementing these plans, Msgr. Ludwig Wolker is used as speaker at numerous meetings in various parts of Germany. Father Franz J. Stock, formerly of Dachau, is engaged in the training of 1,000 youth leaders at Haus Altenberg, the Catholic youth center of Cologne. In Munich a Catholic youth gathering was attended by 4,000 young men and women.

Helping Destitute Active

The Kolping societies, too, which concentrate their efforts on Catholic apprentices are strongly revived. Their national organization still has over 100,000 members. The ninetieth birthday of Father Adolf Kolping, the founder, was observed on May 17.

Remarkable progress can also be reported in the field of Catholic publishing. The firm of Herder in Freiburg has just released a leaflet listing 40 titles of books and pamphlets published, or about to be published, since the war — a noteworthy achievement considering the fact that the building of this firm was almost totally destroyed in air raids.

Msgr. Johann Neuhausler, of Munich, at one time a prisoner at Dachau, has published a remarkable volume entitled Kreuz und Auferstehung ("Cross and Resurrection"), produced by Cardinal Faulhaber which reviews the struggle of the Church against Nazi paganism.

Catholic Papers Harassed

New Catholic papers are being licensed by the military authorities almost every week. The Bavaria hitherto suppressed 404 Catholic newspapers and magazines with a total circulation of 31 million copies—more than twice as many as the combined circulation of all American Catholic publications. There is still a long way to go before the lost ground is regained, but German Catholic publishers and editors are forging ahead.

Catholic libraries are coming back to life so fast that the "Borromaeus Verein" of Bonn, an the Rhine, long a center of Catholic library work, has reopened its school for Catholic librarians.

Much remains to be done in many areas where churches destroyed by the war. In the Diocese of Freiburg, 33 churches, 16 chapels, 30 parish houses and 50 church institutions are in ruins. Elsewhere, rebuilding has started in many places. Thus, the cathedrals of Passau and Worms—the cathedral church of Rottenburg, Baden, and various churches of Wurzburg, Westphalia, are being restored by men and women who put in several hours per week of manual labor to clear the debris and carry building material.

In Munich, it is hoped that the famous Frauenkirche, Cardinal Faulhaber's cathedral church, can be rebuilt within a decade with the help of volunteers. In clearing up debris valuable art work is often found that had been given up as lost.

The most pressing task facing German Catholics remains the relief required by the thousands of refugees pouring in from the Eastern provinces. Over one million of them have arrived in Bavaria so far, and almost twice as many are expected before the end of this year.

Reich Prisoners Get Prayerbooks

New York — (NC) — Thousands of copies of the New Testament and prayer books in the German language are being printed by War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference here for distribution to German prisoners of war still held in Europe.

This activity is part of the organization's religious program inaugurated during the war for prisoners in this country. With the return of most of the prisoners to Europe it will be continued there. In France alone there are more than a million prisoners.

Besides such religious articles as hymn books, medals and rosaries, War Relief Service—N. C. W. C. has supplied German prisoner of war camps in the United States with items such as tobacco, games and books.

The results of this project are praised in a letter received from the chaplain of a large prisoner of war camp, who says that "by means of literature and entertainment, War Relief Services—N. C. W. C. has immeasurably helped the morale and spiritual reconstruction of the prisoners. The men are going home closer to God than when they arrived, thanks to all who helped."

Lurid Magazines Seen Cause of Delinquency

Washington — (NC) — Lurid magazines, ranging from the dime "pulp" to the more costly "slick," contribute heavily to the wave of juvenile delinquency throughout the nation, Representative J. M. Coombs of Texas asserted in advocating here a campaign to clean the "filth" from the nation's newsstands.

"Juvenile delinquency," said the Congressman, a former Juvenile Court Judge, "is fostered principally by stunted moral development. Many a youth has become a delinquent because he had no moral tendencies — either good or bad — to begin with. Then some influence — perhaps lurid magazine literature, perhaps a bad association — has tipped the scales against him."

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For the Family Rosary Crusade

To aid in his work of rendering daily family prayers in America, students of Seton Hill College, Greensburg, Pa., present a $4,200 check to the Rev. Patrick Peyton, C. S. C., of Albany, founder of the Family Rosary Crusade. Some of the students contributed their graduation gifts to the fund. The college is conducted by the Sisters of Charity of Mother Seton. Shown watching the presentation are, left to right: Sister Miriam Joseph, Clare Fitzgerald (holding check), Anna Marie Chirico, Louise Di Pompeo and Father Peyton. Photo courtesy of Pittsburgh Sun-Telegraph. (NC Photos)

TRINIDAD BIRTH CONTROL SCORED

London — (NC) — Archbishop Patrick Finbarr Ryan, O.P., of the Port of Spain, Trinidad, visiting London to discuss educational problems in the British West Indies with the British Colonial Office, condemned current British Government recommendations that birth control be taught to colonial peoples.

Speaking to reporters, the Archbishop said that the bearing of children is regarded as an honor by his people to the extent that a girl in Trinidad does not regard herself as a complete person until she becomes a mother. Archbishop Ryan also expressed disapproval of British proposals for state controlled education. He described the suggestion that the Christian Church should help to spread birth control propaganda as "outrageous."

The Irish-born prelate told his interviewers that his See, on the islands of Trinidad, Grenada, St. Vincent and St. Lucia, a mixed community of 750,000 whites, Negroes, East Indians, Syrians and even Chinese, has a standard of education, founded on Church establishments, which is said to be higher than that of Britain or Ireland. American lawyers visiting this territory had told him, he said, that the standard among lawyers there is as high as anywhere in the world.

Rabbis Asks Russia Ease Religious Laws

Chicago — (RNS) — A request that the Soviet Union give Jews and other religious groups in Russia greater freedom of religious instruction was embodied in a series of resolutions on international social and economic problems adopted by the Central Conference of American Rabbis at its 57th annual convention here. The conference was presided over by Dr. Abba Hillel Silver, president of the organization, and was attended by some 400 Reform rabbis.

Addressed to the Soviet Ambassador in Washington, the convention's request called for "larger opportunities to secure religious instruction and to develop religious institutions" in Russia and urged the Soviet government to revoke all laws prohibiting religious instruction to people under 18 years of age, and to permit the opening of religious seminaries for the training of rabbis and religious teachers."

Sodality Schedules Social Institutes

Montreal, Que. — (NC) — Three-day institutes on social problems will be held at 90 cities in the United States and Canada during the coming year under the auspices of the central office of the Sodality of Our Lady and its Institute of Social Order.

This was announced at a session of the Summer School of Catholic Action here by the Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J., national promoter of the Sodality and national executive director of the Institute of Social Order. A staff of 15 priests will conduct the institutes, which are to begin next October.

Missioner Dies on Vacation

Lewiston, Me. — (NC) — The Rev. Adrien Arthur Clouthier, Maryknoll missioner, who spent all his nine priestly years in the foreign missions died of a paralytic stroke while vacationing with his parents here. He was 33 years old.

Boy [illegible] Mayor

Boys Town, Neb. — (NC) — Leonard Kroll, 18-year-old senior in Boys Town High School, was elected Mayor of Boys Town in a spirited election battle. The 16-year-old Kroll will enter the University of Iowa.

Father Magee Answers Attack on Our Schools

(Continued from page 1)

expense of the taxpayer. Those costs have now been assessed upon the whole world."

After this crudely erroneous explanation of the rise of Nazism, Clark concludes with another theory equally as crude and erroneous. He writes:

"When I was a lad many of my friends and schoolmates were Catholics. We attended our separate churches on Sunday and played together on week days forming friendships that have lasted a lifetime. Then came the movement for parochial schools with the natural and inevitable result. After one Not it became necessary for the authorities to forbid the arranging of athletic games between public and parochial schools. Are we treading in the footsteps of Germany?"

Clark's bigoted attempt to calumniate religious schools, particularly Catholic schools, was refuted conclusively in last week's issue of The Star (July 4th) by Father Magee.

The editor of The Star presented Father Magee's detailed rebuttal of Clark's allegations against Catholic schools in the same front page column in which Clark's letter had appeared, previously.

Expressing surprise that anyone with Mr. Clark's educational background would indulge in intolerance, Father Magee states that his letter is prompted "lest silence be interpreted as acquiescence" in Clark's serious indictment of Catholic, Protestant and Jewish leaders.

The novel charge that Nazism began in the religious schools of Germany is easily exploded by by Father Magee who points out the well known fact that Germany's religious leaders constituted the strongest bulwark of opposition to the spread of Hitlerism.

The complete text of Father Magee's letter reads:

Editor, Spencerport Star
Spencerport, N. Y.

Dear Sir:

Intolerance is always to be deplored no matter by whom committed. In most cases it is the child of ignorance who is to be more pitied than censured and therefore should be ignored. However, the unjustified allegations of Ernest Clark (in last week's issue of the Star under the title of "Communications") coming as they do from a man who, by reason of his educational background, should know better and since they are a serious indictment of the leaders of three great religious bodies, prompt me, lest silence be interpreted as acquiescence, to brand them for what they are, absurd and utterly false, and for the following reasons:

1. As every intelligent person knows, Nazism had its rise in Germany not because of the "confessional schools" but in spite of them. From the very beginning ministers, priests and rabbis in the classroom, pulpit and press condemned the false philosophy of Nazism as being as crooked as the cross that symbolized it. It was the opposition that sent so many of them to the concentration camps. Furthermore, it was precisely because so many Germans failed to heed the warnings of their religious leaders that Nazism flourished. No, it was not the religious schools that brought about the "cataclysm" but rather the irreligious schools where Hitler was substituted for God and the State for the Church. Einstein the noted Jewish scientist, has this to say: "Only the Church stood squarely across the path of Hitler's campaign for suppressing truth. I never had any special interest in the Church before, but now I felt a great affection and admiration because the Church alone has had the courage and persistence to stand for intellectual truth and moral freedom. I am forced thus to confess that what I once despised I now praise unreservedly."

2. While I do not attempt to speak for my Protestant and Jewish brethren of the cloth, yet I refuse to believe that they, either here or abroad, taught or teach their people to hate anybody, the assertions of Ernest Clark notwithstanding.

But as a Catholic priest I can say that, whether in Germany or elsewhere, our children are taught from the first grade on that hatred is a serious sin against the Fifth Commandment, and is a violation of the Law of Christ: "I say to you, love your enemies; do good to them that hate you; pray for them that persecute and calumniate you." They are reminded likewise of the words of St. John the Evangelist: "If any man say I love God and hateth his brother, he is a liar. For he that loveth not his brother whom he sees, how can he love God Whom he sees not". And among other things, they are also taught the Eighth Commandment which Ernest Clark seems to have forgotten: "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor."

3. The only reason for a parochial school is to teach children over and above the natural sciences, the two-fold supernatural law of charity—to love God above all things for His own sake and to love our neighbor as ourself for the love of God.

If there have been cases of Catholic intolerance, in spite of this teaching, the parochial school is no more to be blamed than the public school that produced an Ernest Clark.

4. "Are we treading in the footsteps of Germany?" asks Mr. Clark. Answer: Not if our children and our people harken to the warnings of American ministers, priests and rabbis who are constantly pointing to Germany as a sorry example of a nation that rendered to Caesar the things that are Gods.

Finally, if appears evident that neither Christian charity nor a desire for truth and justice prompted Mr. Clark to make his allegations. If Ernest Clark had been earnest he never would have made them. But whether earnest or not he is assured of a place in my prayers for we must pray for those who calumniate us.

(Rev.) EMMETT E. MAGEE

Archbishop Blesses Fleets

Gloucester, Mass. — (NC) — Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston blessed the fishing fleet at the General Sea Foods Wharf here, highlighting the three-day observance of the feast of St. Peter, patron of firehermen. A procession of 600 fishermen accompanied by five bands bore the statue of St. Peter through the streets of the town to St. Ann's Church.

Jesuit Martyrs' Site Will Be Excavated

Midlands, Ont. — Three centuries of dirt and erosion will be scraped aside by archaeologists this August when excavations begin at the old Huron village of St. Ignace II near here where the Jesuit missionaries, St. John de Brebeuf and St. Gabriel Lalemant, were martyred by the Iroquois.

This announcement was made by Sherwood Fox, president of the University of Western Ontario, which will conduct the excavations. The site of the village was found in 1938 as a result of research sponsored by the university. The Jesuit Fathers had been searching for the site for the past hundred years.

Catholics Back Schools Against Hungary Law

By DEZSOE JAMBOR

Budapest — (NC) — The Hungarian Minister of Public Education has announced here that Catholic schools will be supervised by committees appointed by the government, thus ending the autonomy of teaching and administration which Catholic schools were granted by Hungarian law in 1934.

This latest maneuver in the struggle over the continuation of Catholic education in this country comes at a time when responsible Church education officials, seeking to correct erroneous impressions that have characterized most of the public discussions on the subject, have prepared a statement on the nature and extent of Catholic schools in Hungary.

They describe as one example of methods of attacking Church schools the wide-spread publication in the leftist press of insinuations of "conspiracies" in these institutions. Upon legal investigation every one of these accusations has so far been found to be without basis in fact, they point out.

Schools Listed

Leading with the comment that "the number of schools of Catholic character in Hungary is extraordinarily large," the statement of the school authorities lists Catholic schools within the pre-war boundaries of the nation as follows:

"Gymnasia for boy and girl students, 51; commercial middle schools, 17; lycees and teacher training schools, 32; middle schools, 63; technical schools, 15; elementary schools, 2,634 (as of 1933)."

These schools, it is stated, are supported partly by the Church and partly by the State. All of them, up to 1934, were under the jurisdiction of the State in administrative and curricular matters, but in personnel and financial questions were dependent directly on ecclesiastical authority. In that year Catholic schools were given educational and administrative autonomy.

Hungarian parents have always been highly appreciative of the work of Catholic schools, the statement continues, mentioning that parents who profess other religions have sent their children to schools conducted by the monastic teaching communities, even where they had access to schools of their own denomination supported by the State.

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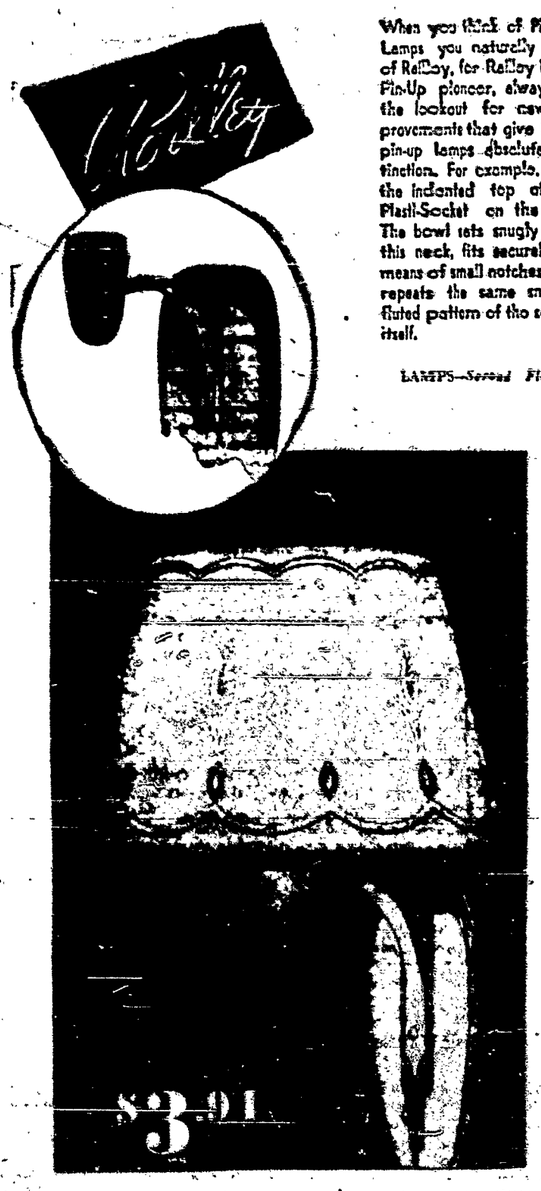

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