Triduum Planned To St. Cabrini

New Orleans — (NC) — Preparatory to observance of the first feast day of St. Frances Xavier Cabrini, first U. S. citizen-Saint, a triduum will be held in St. Louis Cathedral, within the parish where she founded one of the two New Orleans houses of her community. Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans, will offer a Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral on her feast day, December 22.

Priest-Brothers Assist At Nun's Jubilee

Lafayette, La. — (NC)—Msgr. Lucien J. Caillouet, vicar general of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, offered the Mass at which his sister, Rev. Mother Delores of the Passion, celebrated the silver jubilee of her profession in the Order of the Discalced Carmelites. Another brother, the Very Rev. Abel Caillouet of Baton Rouge, assisted.

Origin of Crib

The Christmas crib of today was originated by St. Francis of Assisi early in the 13th Century.

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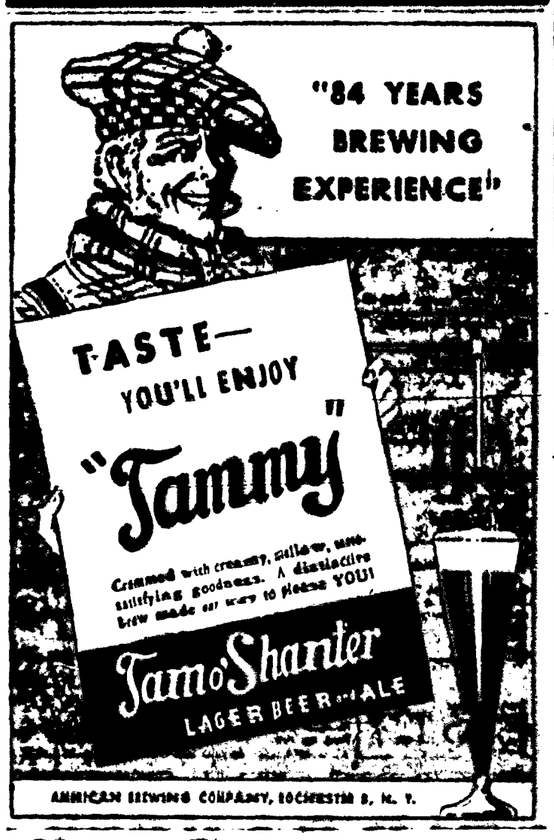

Near East Missions

Francis Cardinal Spellman, President
Very Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, S.T.D., National Secretary
Rev. Andrew H. Rapaich, S.T.L., Assistant Secretary

Must These Starve?

We beg your help for our neediest at Christmas. We beg it in the sweet names of Jesus and Mary and Joseph. Your smallest stringless gift will help us to raise seven hundred dollars, still much needed.

HERE IS A NEEDIEST CASE

You know what has happened to Greece, and the days since the war have not improved its sorry state. So we are publishing before Christmas, this little note from the Jesuit Father Voutsinos, pastor of the Church of the Sacred Heart in Athens.

"If you could only be present at our nine o'clock Mass on Sundays! We have a hundred little children at it. What a sight!

"The poor little kiddies have barely the strength to sing the hymns. Tuberculosis is written all over their scrawny, emaciated bodies.

"At home they have no food. A piece of bread costs a fortune. We are doing what we can, but that is not enough. I beg all the help you can give us."

This sad story speaks for itself. We won't even quote a figure needed. It seems there is no end to starvation in our missions. Consider that each of these little ones represents the Christ Child, and try to answer Him with a gift, large or small: "I was hungry and you gave Me to eat"

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LAST CALL

Have you put off sending in for our beautiful Christmas Gift Card, which tells beloved friends that Mass has been offered for them or a sacred article has been given to a needy mission chapel? We shall rush it to them, if you write now.

— • —

NO ROOM?

A little homeless child will beg for shelter at the Dominican orphanage in Mosul, Iraq. Sister Corman says that one hundred and twenty dollars will provide this child of Christ with a whole year's lodging. Delight the angels by this charity.

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HOLY HANDS

"How great is the dignity of priests, to whose hands, as in the womb of the Virgin, the Word of God is again made flesh" So said St. Augustine. "Give us worthy priests, and we shall convert the world," wrote Pope Pius X. Adopt a Near East boy and make him your own worthy priest. Six hundred dollars will defray his expenses. Or why not make your Christmas Club the CHRYSOSTOMS to which you give a dollar monthly?

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FOND WISH

How we wish everyone could be home at Christmas, and we pray that our soldier boys still abroad will be close to Bethlehem. Why not enroll a boy beloved and have your share in 15,000 Masses offered yearly by missionaries? One dollar a year, twenty perpetually

— • —

HE KEPT SHEEP

Like the heralds of Christ at Bethlehem, Father Damien, leper priest, tended sheep in his boyhood. Then he became Christ's shepherd for lonely lepers. Your gift to the DAMIEN LEPER FUND will go this month to the Sisters of the Institute in Sherrallaj, India. Make Christmas a little glad for them

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BREAK AND BROKEN

"What bread men break is broken to them again." So it will be with your gift for "ORPHAN'S BREAD," to fill many hungry little mouths in this very cold world.

— • —

SHOWCASE

The shop windows are full of gifts now. The Monstrance, used at Benediction, shows us our Great Gift—God Himself. We are anxious to send a special monstrance to Father Hakim in far off Baghdad. It will cost seventy-five dollars. Can you make this your Christmas gift?

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LANTERN GLOW

Candles on the altar are like the lantern glow in the stable of Bethlehem. Twenty-five dollars will insure a Near East mission chapel of a year's supply and the sanctuary lamp, lighting the way to Christ.

— • —

WILL THERE BE?

Is this our last Christmas on earth? Have you ever taken out insurance for eternity? Write for information on our suspense card, whereby the Gregorian Masses are offered immediately after your death.

— • —

GOD IS NIGH

Even though is half the world, the Church is persecuted. God is nigh. Bow down before His Crib in humble prayer that His Kingdom will ever spread.

Send all communications to

Catholic Near East Welfare Association
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

Advance Seen For Leftists In Italy Vote

Rome — (NC) — The administrative elections in the major Italian cities witnessed a noticeable setback to the Christian Democrat Party. The Social Communists advanced especially in the north and the parties of the right in the south.

Christian Democracy lost many votes, either through the failure of many to vote, which at times, as in Palermo, totaled more than 60 per cent of the electorate, or through the swing of many of the voters to the left.

Is it permissible to speak of a crisis of Christian Democracy? One can answer that in Italy there really is a crisis, but it is in connection with democracy itself and not simply a political party. To understand it, it is sufficient to consider the situation as it is.

On the left the political forces are tending to center themselves around Marxian communism, which, it is unnecessary to say, is totalitarianism. The pact of united action which the Socialists concluded with the Communists leaves to the Italian Socialist party a formal independence, but in practice, gives it complete solidarity with the Communist Party which proceeds by steps but most certainly toward its objective, which is the dictatorship of the proletariat.

Negative Attitude

At the same time, on the right, political forces are being organized which are assuming a critical attitude which is completely negative, and which, by this stand, are gathering to themselves an increasing number of malcontents.

It is the "Uomo Qualunque" (Common Man) movement to which the old liberal conservatives and certain monarchists are coming nearer and nearer. Other monarchists, however, are tending to organize themselves into a new political party. Its enemies say that the "Uomo Qualunque" movement is a rebirth of fascism, at present it is only a movement of negative criticism, very active, without clear ideas.

For the moment it claims to be the Catholic party. As a matter of fact on the occasion of the administrative elections its leader, Mr. Giannini, spoke words of profound respect for Catholicism, the Church, and the Pope. This does not exclude, however, that this movement without clear ideas, would tend toward intolerance and represents a serious unknown quantity also from the spiritual point of view.

Reds Would Influence

The present government headed by the Christian Democrat De-Gasperi is founded on the collaboration of the three major parties: Christian Democrats, Socialists and Communists. In this tripartite combination, the Communists with the practical support of the Socialists, participate in the benefits of the government without renouncing the advantages of the opposition.

The Socialists, as we have said, are joined up with the Communists, and the Christian Democrats even though they have a greater number of deputies in the Constituent Assembly, have no means to prevent the Marxist obstructionism.

It would be possible to align themselves with the rightists and to set up with them a government marked as conservative, but in doing this it would be necessary to renounce, at least in great part, the social program to which it aspires. On the other hand, would it be better, in the present situation, to send the Marxist parties to the opposition? They now control the unions more and more firmly and thus they would be able to hinder any program by permanent social agitation. One should not forget that Italy is a conquered nation, bound by the severe clauses of the armistice, that she has no efficient police force; that the army is practically non-existent; that the state officials, underpaid and not insensible to the Marxist propaganda, are not always faithful. Under such conditions, how could a conservative government, even if it could be formed, which seems unlikely, withstand the social-communist opposition and their war-mongering opposition?

These diverse considerations have, for a long time, induced Christian Democracy to see in the tri-partite government a lesser evil. It has sought to check Marxism while it has tried, in every way, in spite of opposition, to strengthen the structure of the state.

A Radio Tip

New York — (NC) — Walter Kiernan, informal news commentator, wind up his radio program every Friday evening by urging his listeners "to set aside an hour this week end to attend church," explains that he began the practice during the war and has continued it in the belief that "the least people can do is to take out an hour each week end and spend it with God." Mr. Kiernan, who does a daily column for King Features, titled "One Man's Opinion," is a member of St. Joseph's parish, Garden City, L.I., N. Y.

Chaplain

Rev. Ben Mc Kay, S.J., of Loyola University, New Orleans, who was named National Chaplain of ARMYTA, at the fourth day convention of the veterans' organization, just held in St. Louis. Father Kay succeeds the Rev. Joseph T. O'Callahan, S. J., of Worcester, Mass. (NC Photos)

Catholics Tricked By French Reds

(Continued from page 1)

warned their priests of a general interdiction against their participation in politics.

In one place the communists invited the local chatelaine to take over the presidency of the Union of French Women. After that, behind a false front, they introduced into the union their a representative of the prisoners, who was, as if by chance, a communist; a representative of the railway workers, who also turned out to be a communist, and a representative of other workers, who likewise would turn up a communist. Through such maneuvers they succeeded in gathering to themselves a large number of the mayoralities in France which they still hold.

Vote Propaganda

And nothing was neglected by the communists in their endeavor to beguile and delude the Catholics. The manifestos of communist propaganda prominently displayed the names and titles of eminent religious or lay personalities, who during the resistance had learned sympathetically toward the national front. For instance, the communists printed passages from speeches of Father Philippe, Carmelite provincial and a member of the provisional general assembly, which they tried to twist into recommending a vote for communists.

Ably camouflaged lists of communist candidates endeavored to show support from chaplains and Catholic officers of the Maquis. Communist officers with their decorative scarfs could be seen in attendance at a Te Deum for victory. They affirmed their desire to maintain the subsidies granted by the municipalities to Catholic activities.

In order to dress themselves up still more, the communists' lists at the elections were entitled of "republican and patriotic unity." When some young men of the aristocracy, for snobbish reasons, lofted their names as candidates of the extreme left-wing, they were welcomed with marked favor instead of being rejected, as they surely would have been in pre-war days.

The communists sought to penetrate into all associations and activities. They drew better class young men into a "Patriotic Union of the French Youth," which later revealed itself as a satellite organ of communist propaganda. To recruit young women, they founded the "Union of Young Women of France," and for older women they formed the "Union of French Women." They infiltrated into the Red Cross and into the French "Entr'aide." In the past, they had boycotted the family movement, but they created in each commune an association of family defense linked with the Union of French Women.

Unions Deluded

They equally deluded the workers unions, the sports associations as they sought the youth and organized everywhere dances, concerts, bicycle trips and fishing excursions. They organized camping trips. They had recruits in young peoples' taverns. They showed films gratuitously. They invited elderly people for periodic meals, which were paid for by the municipalities in communes where a communist held the mayor's office.

Astounding and baffling is the vast reservoir of propaganda which the communists have tapped and which, plainly, involves great expense. Everywhere communist newspapers spring up and are sold on the streets by large groups of newspapers. At communists' disposal are illustrated propaganda magazines. They have leased the best outdoor display boards for their publicity. A traveler arriving in Paris steps from a train and cannot miss seeing these advertising boards. Advertisements in buses and other means of public transportation also display communist propaganda.

In the Paris telephone book only one political party is listed with a telephone — the Communist Party.

As one reads a membership list one wonders. How can they afford such expensive propaganda with such a membership.

Divorces Threaten U. S.—Abp. Cushing

(Continued from page 1)

these such courts operate in other parts of the country. They are staffed by psychiatrists who endeavor to mend marriages which are beginning to "come up."

Like others, I have myself considered the possibility of establishing such courts in connection with the present reorganization of our Diocesan Marriage Tribunal but have completely. But I do not believe that any marriage Relations Court is going to succeed in cutting down the divorce figures in the United States. The reason is that most of the marriages which end in divorce do not "come up" because of conditions which arise after the marriage. Most unsuccessful marriages were entered from the start, and I am convinced that the time to prevent divorce is before the marriage takes place rather than after.

Frequently there are offer pitiable arguments for divorce appeal to the example of unfortunate marriages which they say should never have taken place. Their argument that divorce and remarriage should be permitted in such cases is completely false, but their assertion that the marriage should never have taken place is all too often true.

There is needed throughout this land and in all social and religious groups a vigorous crusade of education against inconsiderate, hasty and otherwise bad marriages.

The most effective way to stop wholesale divorce is to anticipate the conditions which make married people seek divorce. That can only be done by an intelligent preparation for marriage on the part of those who intend to make marriage their vocation.

Look to Church, School, Home

The Canon Law of the Catholic Church and the pre-nuptial requirements of the Church are designed to anticipate, so far as Church legislation can, the conditions which make for unhappy marriage. Admittedly, even these are not enough. There is needed positive instruction in churches, schools and families with regard to what marriage is, what it demands of those who enter upon it, what should be the spiritual, intellectual and physical preparation of those who pronounce its vows.

This work of education and the Christian philosophy on which it is based should enjoy the favor of the law and the support of all those agencies in the community which influence social thinking.

At the present time, such is not the case. The Church teaches, and generally speaking, fathers and mothers try to supplement the teaching of the Church.

But, and here is the real root of the evil, almost every other agency in the community is pitted against the Church and the family in our effort to create a sane philosophy of marriage in our young people. The civil law itself is too often written with a false emphasis on misleading RIGHTS and without a due emphasis on personal and social DUTIES; without intention, the law frequently favors the principle of divorce more than it reinforces the claims of the marriage contract.

Harmful Factors Exploited

As a consequence, the courts, far from being guardians of the marriage contract as they should be of every contract, become accomplices to the crimes against marriage. The theater, the movies and the press pander to cynical, perverse concepts of marriage, and, rather than fostering a noble philosophy of marriage, these great influences align themselves against the Church and the family by exploiting the evil fortunes of the marriages which fail.

One place to begin the battle against divorce and the defense of Christian marriage would be in the columns of our newspapers. It is ridiculous to editorialize about the growth of divorce to long as newspapers devote entire columns to the sensational presentation of the arguments advanced by those who are seeking divorces on flimsy and fictitious grounds. Such extravagant publicity contributes to the contagious spread of the divorce evil.

It may be that in a secular state the principle of divorce will always find a place in legislation. Surely, however, the monstrous evil worked by this principle when it is used and judges to limit its exercise.

Please God, they will decide to cut down the number of grounds for divorce, will protect the law against fraudulent exploitation of the existing grounds and will interpret divorce legislation strictly, paying at least as much attention to the good of the community as is paid to the vaunted rights of those who cannot make successes of their marriages.

Calls for New Legal Controls

Perhaps our lawmakers, if they can do nothing else, will be willing to seek some controls on the undisciplined use of the divorce courts by the unprincipled who are using them to escape from their marriages. Of course, they may be unwilling. If this be so, there remains the problem of divorce, or at least some of its effects, the misery for divorce minors, some of the innocent victims, who are not responsible for the divorce decree which [illegible] disorganized.

It seems idiotic anything that the divorce consideration [illegible] is followed in the wake of broken marriages, minor children are children. Every social worker knows that the child is the primary victim of divorce and every Catholic person will agree that the rights of the child to a home with his own parents and to the maternal support and affection of his own parents should take precedence over any pseudo-rights of the disintegrated system to terminate one set of obligations and embark on romantic escapades leading to new obligations which leave their children "out in the cold."

Public money spent on education and on other efforts to make homemakers citizens out of our young people in money wasted so long as the laws of the land makes possible and even protects this outrageous procedure on the part of divorcees.

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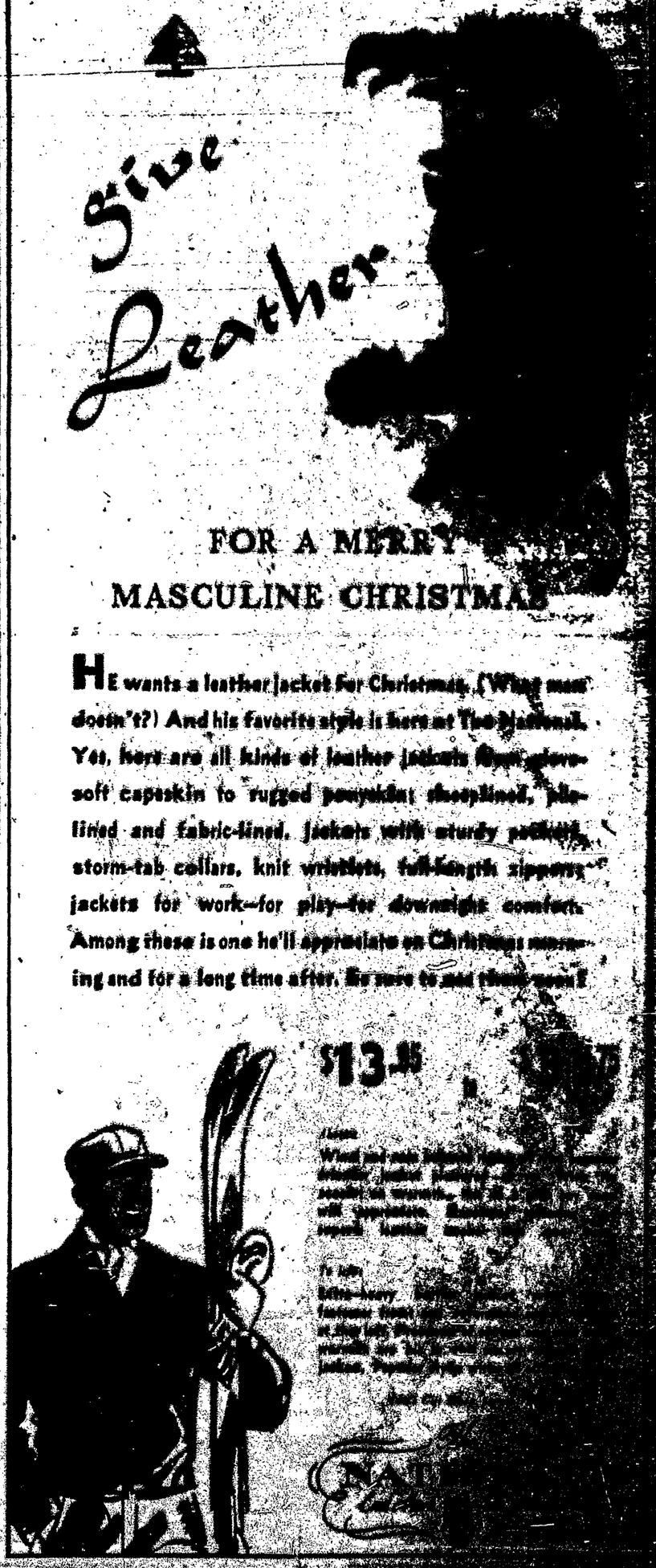
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