Nuncio Felicitates Auriol

Paris — (NC) — Archbishop Angelo Roncalli, Papal Nuncio to France, as dean of the diplomatic corps, acted as spokesman for the diplomats in expressing to President Vincent Auriol congratulations and best wishes on his election to the highest office of France.

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Diocesan Council of Catholic Women

A Leader's Requisite

—By Rev. Albert J. Shamon, Director—

Everyone will concede that the world today needs leaders. But in training leaders the question is, "What do leaders need?"

* * *

First, a leader needs to know WHERE he or she is going. For if the blind lead the blind, both will fall into the pit.

Secondly, knowing the goal, the leader needs to know **How to get there.**

The first requisite concerns itself with the END; the second with the MEANS to the end.

* * *

What is the end of Catholic leadership? To what goal should Catholic leaders lead their followers?

Catholic Women of the National Council participate in the apostolate of the Hierarchy. The Hierarchy aims at restoring all things in Christ. The restoration of Christ in social life, both public and private, therefore, should be the end also of Catholic Women Leaders.

* * *

"Where are you going Catholic Leaders?"

The answer should be: "I am going to seek the restoration of Christ's kingdom on earth. Daily I pray 'Thy Kingdom come' now I am going to do something about it."

* * *

But How are Catholic leaders going to achieve this, to do something about it?

Christ has already given us the answer.

He came to earth for the express purpose of establishing His kingdom and of thus bringing His salvation to man. How this kingdom was to be established, He himself outlined in His incomparable parables.

* * *

You remember His parables. I am sure. Many a Sunday you were delighted as you heard them read -- for everybody loves a story, and His parables were but short stories taken from everyday life. You thrilled as you listened to priests unravel their meaning -- for there is deep satisfaction in getting the point of a story, and Christ's parables always had a point hidden deep within them, like a pearl wrapped in a shell buried deep in the sea.

Well, one day in November, Our Divine Lord unsaid His plain talk. To conceal His truths from bewildered Pharisees and thus render them less responsible for their sins and to reveal them to good-willed disciples, Christ began to speak in parables.

The place was the harp-shaped Lake of Genesareth. Christ's pulpit was Peter's bark. The semi-circular Galilean hills sloping to the shelving shores of the Lake formed the grandstand. A farmer sowing seed in the distance occasioned the Parable.

* * *

"A sower went out to sow his seed . . . " You know the story. Some of the seed fell by the wayside, some upon rocky soil, some among thorns, and other some fell upon good ground and brought forth fruit thirty, sixty, and a hundredfold.

The story is obvious; but not the point. The Apostles didn't get it. Christ had to tell them the story behind the story.

Simply it was this: As the germination of the seed depends on the soil, to the foundation of Christ's kingdom on earth depends on men's hearts. God who created us without our consent, will not save us without our consent.

* * *

What has that got to do with leaders? Plenty.

If the sowers don't sow, then how shall the ground receive the seed? If the ground receives not the seed, how then shall there be any harvest, even a small one?

That is the first step necessary for the establishing of Christ's kingdom -- the sowing of His seed of His Gospel. But a danger threatened the sowers - discouragement!

If the sowers succumbed to discouragement and stopped sowing the seed of Christ's Gospel, what would have become of the world?

* * *

Today the danger is the same. Nothing so dampens ardor, zeal, enthusiasm, as discouragement. How many sowers have ceased to sow because the harvest may have been so meagre! Yet what matter if if the returns to exhausting effort be almost nothing! Think of it - only one-fourth of the seed fell on good ground; and of that fourth only one-third brought forth fruit a hundredfold. Christ struck no better average, yet He did not for that reason cease to sow.

This first lesson Christ taught His leaders in the establishing of His kingdom, viz.

No discouragement,
No faintheartedness,
No pessimism.

If your efforts fail, the fail is to blame—not you. Therefore you shall have your reward.

But if you fail . . . You can't. Because, then everyone fails.

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Calendar of Feast Days

Sunday, Feb. 22 — St. Peter Damain was born in 988 and achieved great distinction at the University of Parma. He deserted the world and eventually became head of the monks of Fonte-Avellanie. Seven Popes in succession made him their constant adviser and he was at last created Cardinal Bishop of Ostia. He labored in defense of Alexander III against the Antipope, whom he forced to yield and seek his pardon.

Monday, Feb. 24 — St. Matthias, Apostle. Matthias was selected, after prayer, to fill the vacancy among the Apostles left by the betrayal of Judas. He was above all remarkable for his mortification of the flesh.

Tuesday, Feb. 25 — St. Tarasius was born at Constantinople about the middle of the eighth century, of a noble family. He was made consul and afterward first minister to the Emperor Constantine and the Empress Irene, his mother. In the midst of the court he led a religious life and was chosen unanimously to be the successor of Paul, Patriarch of Constantinople.

Wednesday, Feb. 26 — St. Porphyry, Bishop. At the age of 25, Porphyry, a rich citizen of Thessalonica, left the world for one of the great religious houses in the desert of Scete. He followed Christ's counsel by selling all of his possessions and distributing the returns to the poor. He was ordained in 393 and three years later, much against his will, was made Bishop of Gaza, presiding over that diocese for 27 years. He died in 420.

Thursday, Feb. 27 — St. Leander, Bishop, one of the glories of the Spanish Church, was the eldest of five brothers. He entered a monastery when very young and in time his virtue and learning led to his elevation to the See of Seville, when Spain was in the possession of the Visigoths. He became the instrument of converting the nation to the Faith. He died about the year 596.

Friday, Feb. 28 — SS. Romanus and Lupicinus, Abbots. Romanus retired from the world at the age of 33 and eventually established himself in the forests of Mount Jura, whither came Lupicinus, his brother, in the company of others. The brothers governed the monks jointly and in great harmony. St. Romanus died about the year 460 and St. Lupicinus survived him by 26 years.

Saturday, March 1—St. David, Bishop, son of Sant, Prince of Cardigan, was born in the fifth century and from his earliest years was devoted to the service of God. He preached against heresy, was elected Bishop of Caerleon, founded a dozen monasteries, and lived to the age of 80 year, dying on March 1, 561.

Nation-Wide Wedding Vow Renewal Hailed

Washington — (NC) — "A mighty chorus of voices was the land, renewing their marriage pledges . . . should constitute a most heartening and wholesome contrast to the actions of those in our midst who . . . by divorce, fully dragging the matrimonial bonds in the dust."

This sentiment was expressed by Miss V. Babcock, president of the National Council of Catholic Women, in a statement on the wide renewal of marriage pledges now scheduled in connection with the National Catholic Conference on Family Life in Chicago from March 30 to 12. As part of the conference activities there will be a public renewal of marriage vows in Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral.

Expressing the hope that the practice of periodically renewing the nuptial bond, which already has received the enthusiastic approval of members of the Hierarchy and clergy, will be adopted in every parish throughout the land, the Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., director of the Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, which is sponsoring the conference, said reaction by the laity to the idea has been "universally favorable, and wholesome."

From NCCW Head

Mr. Babcock's acclaim of the proposal was typical of sentiment expressed in many other letters received from Catholic lay leaders by the Family Life Bureau.

Mrs. Henry Mannix, president of the National Council of Catholic Women said: "In these days when marriage is looked upon so lightly by many, I feel confident that such a nation-wide observance will be a striking reminder to our lay people of the Catholic ideal of marriage, for it will be the occasion when the renewal of marriage promises will take place in every parish," Mrs. William H. Barry, the American Mother for the year 1948, said.

SELF-SURRENDER BRINGS MARRIAGE UNITY—FR. CALKINS

Washington — (NC) — "The real thing that makes a wedding so important is invisible. You don't see the self-surrender that makes the wedding a union of two human lives. That self-surrender is spiritual, invisible, but intensely real. That self-surrender is a pledge of unity. It promises a union of souls," the Rev. Hugh Calkins, of the Servite Fathers, declared today on Faith in Our Time program.

"It's tragic reality, all over America that married couples put too much stress upon the physical union their fusion in marriage and too little stress upon the soul union, they owe each other," Father Calkins stated.

This nature stands in stark contrast the physical side of marriage, and too easily be subordinate the spiritual side of marriage put forth as primary by the woman, he continued. "Both of them might easily forget, especially if they don't keep God in the picture, that proper spiritual union is always added physical union," he stressed.

[illegible] marriages for two fundamental purposes, Father Calkins [illegible] said. First, to continue the [illegible] of the human race, and second to aid [illegible] companionship to [illegible] and happiness for man and woman. God intended marriage should really work as a way of life, and He therefore made man and woman adaptable to each other in body and, he said, Father Calkins said.

[illegible] that spiritual adaptation [illegible] even in the characteristics of men and women. Father Calkins emphasized. "A good husband's principal virtue will be consideration. The virtue to help him with everything. A good wife's principal virtue will be humility, her willingness to sacrifice herself to make her husband happy. This virtue will help him cure his greatest problem, discouragement."

The spiritual adaptation between husband and wife arises from the husband's desire to feel that he is king in my own home and the wife's desire to feel "I've got the greatest husband in the world for my companion in life," Father Calkins declared. The wife must be respected and wanted as a companion, the husband's self-sacrifice that makes him considerate of his wife's desire for companionship will cure his discouragement.

"It would be a wise practice for married partners occasionally to renew the vows they made in the sight of God on their wedding day."

'47 SUMMER SCHOOLS SLATED

St. Louis — (NC) — The seventeenth annual Summer School of Catholic Action, to be held in nine American cities and in Montreal this summer, will be enlarged to seven six-week sessions for the first time, it has been announced by the Rev. Loyd F. Hatrel, S. J., of the central office of the Sodality of Our Lady, who is in charge of the promotion of the traveling school. One New York convent already has made reservations for ninety delegates to the session to be held at Fordham University.

Forty-nine courses, all developing the central theme of the 1947 SSCA season, "Mary, Marriage, the Family and Your Life's Work," will be given by a faculty of twenty-one Jesuit priests and six laywomen. The Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S. J., founder and dean of the traveling school, stated the theme was selected because the institutions involved are attacked most frequently. The season will open at St. Louis University, on June 15, and will close in Chicago on August 30. Other sessions will open in Boston, June 22; Montreal, June 30; St. Paul, July 6; San Antonio, July 27; and New York, August 17.

Anti-Euthanasia Pamphlet

New York — (NC) — An address and a sermon by Msgr. Robert E. McCormick, presiding judge of the New York Archdiocesan Tribunal, assailing the basic immorality of "mercy killing" and exposing its legal consequences have been published in pamphlet form by the Catholic Information Center.

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Social Question Said Moral Issue

Santiago, Chile — (NC) — "Believe me, the social question is a moral question and the moral question is a religious question," the Rev. Andre G. Pinson, S.J., French Croix de Guerre winner for his work with the Maquis during the war, said here in an interview with the Chilean press. Father Pinson is on his way to Colombia, to resume studies interrupted by the war.

"When principles are involved," he declared, "it is not possible to further a collaboration in any way between Christians who are with God and Soviet communism, the latter being the inspirers of a totalitarian system which preaches atheism and the class struggle."

(Father Pinson's remarks have a special emphasis in Chile, where the government of President Gilberto Gonzalez Videla was elected with the help of the Communist Party, and the communists have been rewarded with three important positions in the cabinet.)

"All political parties who desire — some more than others — to represent Christian civilization," the French priest stressed, "must unite themselves in the struggle against neo-paganism and Soviet materialistic communism."

Founder of Holy Cross Communities is Honored

Holy Cross, Ind. — (NC) — A two-day program honoring the late Father Basil Anthony Moreau, founder and first superior general of the Holy Cross Sisters, has been held at St. Mary's Convent, mother house of the community, here.

Father Moreau, whose cause for beatification was introduced in Rome last fall, established the Congregation of Holy Cross Fathers in 1835, and founded the Sisters of the Holy Cross in 1841.

New Villanova Advisers

Villanova — (NC) — Three new members have been appointed to the General Advisory Council of Villanova College. They are: Cyril J. Burke, Detroit construction engineer, Edward P. Hughes, Brooklyn, industrialist, and Frank M. Folsom, Philadelphia, an RCA executive.

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