Pope Marks 71st Birthday And Election Anniversary

Vatican City — (Radio, NC) — A double anniversary — his 71st birthday and the eighth anniversary of his election as Pope — has been observed here by His Holiness Pope Pius XII despite reports in Rome newspapers that the Pontiff had suffered an ankle injury the day before.

The newspaper reports said the Holy Father had injured his ankle during a walk through the Vatican gardens. There was no confirmation from the Vatican, and audiences were reduced but not suspended altogether.

Marking the jubilee day, Papal banners flew almost everywhere in Vatican City. A Solemn Mass was offered in honor of His Holiness in the Basilica of St. John Lateran, the Pontiff's church as Bishop of Rome.

His Holiness was besieged with cablegrams, telegrams and other messages from all parts of the world, offering felicitations on the double anniversary day.

The Holy Father offered his usual daily Mass and later in the day received in audiences Bishop John Theodore Suhr, O. S. B., Vicar Apostolic of Denmark, and Eugenio Zolli, the former Chief Rabbi of Rome who was converted to the Catholic faith.

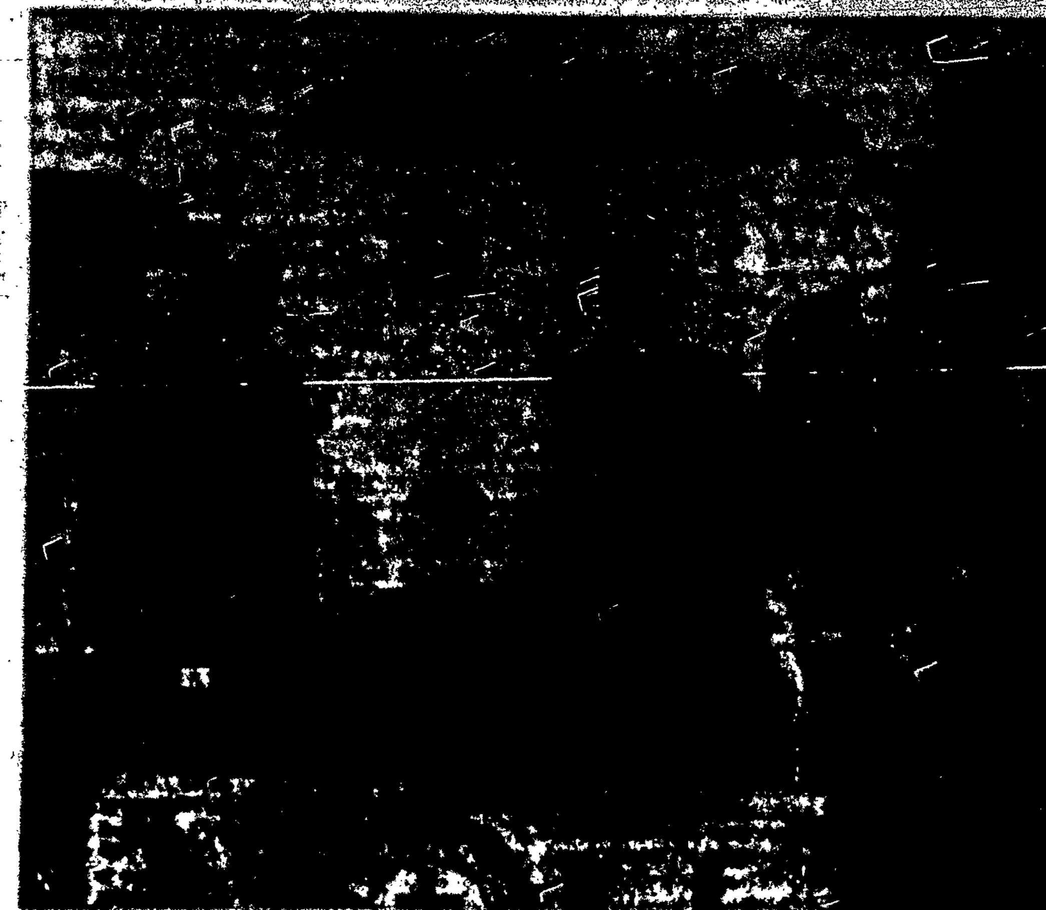
Good Counsel President Dies

White Plains — (NC) — Msgr. Joseph A. Breslin, dean of the Catholic clergy of Westchester County and pastor of the Church of St. John the Evangelist of this city, died March 7, 1947 at the age of 59 of a heart attack. He was the president of Good Counsel College, White Plains, and a trustee of Iona College, New Rochelle, and Marymount College at Tarrytown.

Msgr. Breslin studied at St. Charles College, Catonsville, Md. and was ordained a priest at the American College in Rome in 1913. In 1918 he went to France as a chaplain of infantry, and he remained with the Army of Occupation in Germany until 1920. In 1925 Msgr. Breslin was appointed vice rector of the American College in Rome, a post he held for eleven years, until his appointment in White Plains.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. James E. Kearney, Bishop of Rochester preached the funeral sermon.

POPE INSPECTS A GREAT WORK OF CHARTY



His Holiness Pope Pius XII inspects a shipment of clothing, received in Rome from War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference. Pictured with the Holy Father are Bishop Aloisius J. Muench, of Fargo, N. D., Apostolic Visitator to Germany who has returned to Germany following an audience with the Pope; Monsignor Andrew P. Landi, of Brooklyn (left), and Monsignor Thomas F. Markham, of Lowell, Mass., representatives in Italy for War Relief Services. His Holiness has sent a special message to the Catholics of America who will be asked to contribute to the Bishops' Relief Campaign for Victims of War, which opens on Laetare Sunday, March 16. (NC Photos)

50 Orphan Girls Here from India

New York — (NC) — Fifty Polish war orphans, ranging in age from 13 to 18, have arrived here from Karachi, India, a city on the outskirts of Bombay. When the Soviets invaded Poland in 1939 they were sent from their homes into Russia where they were forced into slave labor camps. When Russia joined the Allies the youngsters were permitted to go to a convent at Karachi conducted under the supervision of the Bernardine Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. Most of their fathers had been killed fighting Nazis and when asked what happened to their mothers they answer vaguely: "We don't know."

Exhausted but very happy after their long journey, the girls had breakfast at the Grand Central station where the War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference played host. Four members of the Bernardine Order met them at San Francisco and accompanied them here.

Churches Desecrated

Vienna — (RNS) — The Most Rev. Joseph C. Fliesser, Catholic Bishop of Linz, has appealed to civilian authorities to increase security measures in light of several recent crimes in the Linz diocese. The bishop said thieves had forced open the tabernacles in some churches, stolen chalices and desecrated the Sacred Hosts.

Nations Must Yield Some Rights for Peace, Pope Says

(Continued from Page 1)

civilization with the fundamental principles of Christianity.

No Improvement Seen

Asked if the events of the last year had tended to dissipate uncertainty and anxiety over the prospects of a just and lasting peace, the Holy Father replied that he could not see any marked improvement during the last year in this direction, despite diligent and determined efforts by certain statesmen.

He stated further that he fears this unfortunate condition will continue so long as the peace of Europe and the world is considered solely under the light of what each State demands for its own individual security, and in the existing precarious circumstances one State is allowed to increase its strategic positions and present its neighbor with accomplished facts.

As yet positive and constructive ideas have not entered into the building of world peace, he added, and said he hopes that the United Nations Organization soon may be placed in an effective position to assume guarantees for the security of all.

The two American newsmen described their reception as without ostentation, and said the Pontiff spoke freely in answer to their questions. The scene of the meeting was the red and gold Papal library, and the Holy Father was at "his big uncluttered desk, with its gold telephone convenient to his hand."

Much Better Health

At last year's audience, the AP men recalled, "the Pope showed the strain of Consistory week and the ravages of the cold," but this time "he was bright, cheerful, animated, obviously much better in health. His eyes sparkled behind their rimless spectacles. He smiled often. He spoke quickly, eagerly. In short, he looked fit."

They reported that "the ankle he twisted last week while strolling in the Vatican gardens — he confessed he was reading as he walked—was entirely well, he said, even though he had resisted his physician's efforts to put him in bed, and kept on with his 18-hour working day. There was too much to be done for him to rest, the Pope said."

What are your aspirations for the continued advancement of the Church and for the greater well-being of mankind? the Holy Father was asked.

The Holy See, he replied, is the center of the Universal Church. The end for which Christ established that Church is the ultimate goal of all that the Pope does, hopes and prays for. That end is in the spiritual order, is supernatural. It is to bring the knowledge of Christ to all men and to communicate to their souls the grace of salvation which Christ purchased for them on the cross of Golgotha.

To attain that end, he emphasized, the Church requires freedom of action in every region of the world, and one must be constantly intent on defending and protecting that freedom.

Freedom of Holy See

But at the present moment, he continued, his efforts are directed chiefly toward vindicating the freedom of the Holy See, of Bishops and of Catholic associations, of Christian charity and indeed of all Catholics throughout the world, to come to the assistance of those in need, to provide them with food and clothing, to arrange for the homeless, wandering millions an orderly emigration to some country where with proper safeguards to their religious and social needs they may begin anew the life of an honorable Christian family, that essentially vital cell of human society.

The American correspondents, noting that the world was gravely concerned over the threat to civilization contained in an uninhibited use of recently developed highly destructive weapons, asked for the Pontiff's comment on the ethical conditions involved in the use of such weapons.

Pope Pius, responding, pointed out that the question touched only one element of a general problem.

The development of modern weapons of war, he said, is bound to go forward with the constant development being made in the technical field, and just as surely is bound also to lead to total war — that is, a war in which the distinction between combatants and non-combatants is quickly robbed of all meaning. What this promised to the civilized world, he noted, has been amply and sadly demonstrated in the recent war.

Most certainly herein is found an added argument, he continued, if such were needed, to persuade the leaders of nations that in conscience they are obliged to reach agreements that will insure to the world a peace for which they in honor may assume responsibility and which all peoples may find bearable, even though those agreements mean the curtailing to some degree of their several sovereign rights.

NEW LOURDES BISHOP A HERO

Paris — During the German occupation the Most Rev. Pierre Marie Theas, the newly appointed, 53-year-old Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes proved himself a tower of strength and a source of inspiration throughout France. In fact, his vigorous protests against cruelties by the Nazis landed him, at length, in a concentration camp.

In his new assignment, Bishop Theas succeeds the late Bishop George Choquet. Since 1940, Bishop Theas had served as Bishop of Montauban and it was there that he won undying fame as a courageous Churchman and a patriot.

Bishop Theas, who has been decorated with the Legion of Honor by France, began his courageous stand against the Nazis early in the occupation of France. He ordered a letter read in all churches and chapels in his diocese, protesting against Nazi persecutions of the Jews. A bit later, he spoke his mind in no uncertain terms about the deportation of France's young manhood to Germany.

Reprisals followed. In May, 1944, in the town of Montpezat, not far from Montauban, the parish rectory was set afire and the two priests of the parish as well as townsfolk, were prevented from salvaging any of the furnishings, linens or sacred vessels. Bishop Theas addressed a sternly-worded protest to the German commander at Montauban. Later at Aucanville, petty officers who occupied the town rectory, used a painting of Christ on the Cross for target practice and destroyed it with pistol shots. They turned the rectory into a virtual brothel.

Bishop Theas spared no words in his protest of these desecrations and this landed him in a concentration camp where he was prohibited from offering Mass in the camp chapel because he attracted too large a congregation.

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