

Mother LeClerc Beatified at Rites in Rome

Rome (AP)—More than 4,000 pilgrims from France, Belgium, The Netherlands, Britain, Brazil, Indo China and the Belgian Congo attended the rites marking the beatification of St. Peter's Basilica of Mother Alex LeClerc, French nun who founded the Regular Canonesses of St. Augustine of the Congregation of Our Lady.

The apostle Peter took the French pilgrims, including many Bishops and Sisters of the Blessed's congregation to Rome.

At beatification in the afternoon, His Holiness Pope Pius XII was attended by His Eminence Joseph Ernest Cardinal Van Roey, Archbishop of Malines, Belgium, and His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. The beatification was given by Bishop Marcel Fleury of Nancy, France.

Body Missing

His Holiness received a mosaic portrait of Mother Alex in place of the traditional relics, since the Blessed's present burial place is unknown.

Her body was hidden to save it from desecration during the anti-religious excesses of the French Revolution and never discovered. His Holiness also received the Holy Cards, the copies of biographies and the mass of flowers that accompanied the beatification ceremony.

The Pope afterward gave his blessing to the crowd in the square from a window of his study.

The morning Mass was offered by Bishop John Smith, Canon of St. Peter's Basilica and the Declaration of Beatification was read by Monsignor Guido Ambrosini.

Series of Visions

Born in Remunant, France, in 1778, Alex LeClerc never indicated any intention of entering religious life until a book on the Confession was brought to her attention during the illness of a relative. Shortly afterward she took a vow of virginity and this was followed by a series of visions of the Blessed Virgin and the Child Jesus with the commission "Take the Child and live for its growth." The result was the foundation of the congregation, which was approved by the Holy See in 1828.

It was suppressed in France during the revolution and in Bavaria during the Napoleonic era but was reestablished in Bavaria as the School Sisters of Notre Dame. It has institutions in Europe, Africa, North and South America.

Prelate Calms Crowd After Sicily Riots

Rome (Radio, NC)—Immediately on hearing of the rioting and bloodshed in May Day demonstrations in Sicily, which resulted in the death of several persons, His Eminence Ernesto Cardinal Hirth, Archbishop of Palermo, Sicily, flew from Rome to Palermo, where he arrived and preached a sermon designed to calm the crowd gathered at the cathedral. Afterwards he visited the injured and the families of the slain and been killed.

St. Patrick's Shrine

St. Patrick's, N. Y.—Archbishop John Dwyer of Armagh, Primate of All Ireland has added his name to the formidable list of patrons for the erection of a National Shrine to St. Patrick here. Others on the list are Premier Eamonn De Valera and Sir Shane Leslie, noted Irish writer.

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Diocesans Pray for Russia at Outdoor Shrines



Typical of scenes in front of many churches in Rochester diocese is this recitation of prayers for Russia at Holy Redeemer Church, Rochester, on May Day. Rev. F. William Stauffer, pastor, leads the Rosary in accordance with His Excellency, Bishop Kearney's request.

Public tribute to the Blessed Mother of God marked May day observances throughout the Rochester diocese when thousands of Catholics gathered outside their churches in compliance with the request of Bishop James E. Kearney to pray for the conversion of Russia.

The prayers of the Rosary and the Litany of the Blessed Virgin were recited on masses with the parish priests leading.

At 5:30 p. m. all the church bells were rung calling the faithful to join with those of the entire United States, Canada and Hawaii in a prayerful plea for a Russian change of heart.

Throughout the city of Rochester, Catholics paused on their way home from work to take part in the mass demonstration in honor of Our Lady.

At many churches shrines were erected outside and decked with spring flowers.

Simultaneously similar services were attracting Catholics in Elmira, Auburn, Hornell, Corning, Geneva and in every village and town within the diocese.

His Excellency Bishop Kearney

Ex-GI Fireman Turns Trappist

New York (AP)—Thomas R. J. Walsh, a New York fireman and war veteran, will be the benefactor of the "GI Bill of Rights" to study in a Trappist monastery.

The Brooklyn-born veteran has been granted by the Benedictine monks of the monastery of the Holy Cross of the Cistercian order, Abbot, to be a monk. The monks will give him the name of Brother Thomas.

The Trappist monks, who live in the solitude of the Holy Cross, are a member of the St. Francis of Assisi Order.

ITALIAN BAR SCHOOL AID

Rome (AP)—Catholicism one of the bitterest debates in Italian Parliamentary history, the Chamber of Deputies voted today to aid the Italian Bar School in its efforts to establish a state university in Rome.

With little opposition voting today against the proposal, the Assembly overwhelmingly voted the right of the Catholic Church or other religious bodies to maintain their own schools, but made it clear that these schools will not be given any state aid and must be entirely self-supporting.

A small number of private or confessional schools have heretofore been given limited aid by the government. Most Italian children attend public schools, where they may be given religious instruction if parents wish, but are not given any academic credits for this study.

May Day Crowds Overflow Cathedral

New York (AP)—While an overflow crowd of 1,000 knelt in the streets nearby, 6,000 persons thronged St. Patrick's Cathedral here and led by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, prayed for the conversion of Russia.

As spokesman for the Catholics, who have taken a prominent part in the program to "Give May Day Back to Mary," the Rev. James Keller declared that "for centuries it has been dedicated to honoring Mary, the Mother of Christ," and urged that Catholics always maintain it so.

Father Keller gave the theme of the special prayer, written by the Christophers and approved by Cardinal Spellman, as "Savior of the World, Mary, Queen of Peace."

Obituary: Name Canadian as New General

Ottawa (AP)—The Rev. Les Macdonald, O.M.I., Provincial of the Canadian Province, has been elected Superior General of the Order of the Most Holy Sacrament, the first North American-born priest to hold the office. His election follows that of St. John's.

Macdonald, 55, is a member of the Holy Trinity, Ontario, who became the first American-born priest to hold the position of Superior General of the Order of the Most Holy Sacrament.

At the general chapter last year, Father Macdonald was elected Provincial of the Order of the Most Holy Sacrament, the first North American-born priest to hold the office.

Macdonald was born in 1892 in St. John's, Newfoundland, and was ordained a priest in 1915. He has served in various capacities in the Order, including Provincial of the Order of the Most Holy Sacrament in 1944.

The new General succeeds the Very Rev. Theodore Labaree, O.M.I., who was elected in 1944 and died in 1946. Though born in France, the late General spent most of his life in Canada.

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Prayer Day for World Peace in Capital



More than 45,000 persons participated in the Prayer Day for World Peace, held on May Day on the grounds of the Washington National Monument. Msgr. John J. Kelly, Director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, led the gathering in Prayers for Peace.

Communism, Fascism Exposes Get Awards

New York (AP)—Authors of articles which exposed the infiltration of Communism and Fascism in the United States were among the eight Pulitzer prize winners announced here.

The award for "a distinguished example of a reporter's work" went to Frederick Wolfman of the New York World Telegram for his article on "The Infiltration of Communism Into the United States." To Edward T. Heilard, White House reporter for The Washington Post, went the award for "a distinguished example of telegraphic reporting on national affairs" for his series of articles on the Communists in Mexico.



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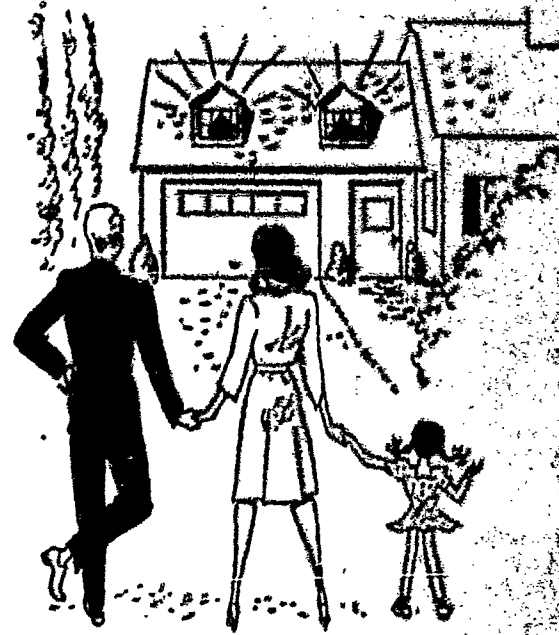
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