

## Victory on Vatican Concordat Assayed

By FIDELIO ALEXANDRINI  
(Special for N.Y. News Service)

On March 26 the Italian Constitutional Assembly approved by a vote of 650 to 149 Article 7 of the new constitution which reads: "The State and the Church are each in their own order independent and sovereign. Their relations are governed by the Lateran pacts. Any modification whatsoever of the pacts, which are part of the constitutional system, shall require a constitutional revision."

The interesting phenomenon of the March 26 vote was the support of the constitutionalists who had been in the majority at the time when they saw that it would be approved anyway. But this surprising communist support cannot be properly understood without some explanation of the animated discussions.

The factions opposing Article 7 formed themselves into a united bloc, made up of certain sections of the Liberal Party close to Senator Benito Croce and to the communists; the Italian Protestants; and some small leftist parties such as the republican actionists.

None of the opposition spokesmen stated openly that he wanted to bring into discussion the Lateran pacts. They merely opposed for the constitution an article affirming that the relations between the State and Church should be regulated in terms of a concordat. But by opposing to the very and constitutional approval of the pacts of 1929 on which relations between the Church and State are founded to day, they revealed a hostility which could easily take concrete form on the first possible occasion.

The Lateran pacts are divided into two parts: one a political treaty ending the conflict between the Catholic Church and the Italian State which derived from the 1870 occupation of Rome, then part of the Papal States; secondly, a Concordat which defines the Church's spiritual position.

Immediately after the conclusion between Italy and the Holy See in 1929, Pope Pius XI stated that the pacts were a political point of view. The Church had made many concessions, but she was satisfied with a very small State just large enough to symbolize the political sovereignty of the Pope. However, he added that he considered the Concordat a spiritual complement to these concessions, and declared that there is an unbreakable bond between the treaty and the Concordat. "Simul stabunt, simul cadent," he asserted. "They will either stand or fall together."

In the discussions preceding the March 26 vote, the anticlericalists endeavored to separate these two agreements, accepting the treaty, but objecting to discussing the Concordat.

Strong objections were raised to Article 7 of the treaty which, according to the constitution of 1946, affirms that the Catholic religion is the sole religion of the State. Such a declaration, the opposition charged, was intolerable because it gave a confessional character to the State. These delegates failed to remember that despite the fact that Catholicism was the State religion under the constitution of 1929, it did not make the Italian Government subject to the Church and in fact did not prevent them from uniting against the Church and invading the Papal States.

The opposition was much more persistent in its criticism of the Concordat. Among the articles which the laterals attacked were those regarding the right to have Catholic schools, religious instruction in State schools, the general tone of public instruction, and the regulations on marriage.

According to the wording of the Concordat itself, eventual difficulties between the two contracting parties should be resolved in a friendly manner. This clause opening the way to a revision of the agreements might have eliminated all difficulties. However, it did not satisfy the leftist group. While they did not openly request abrogation of the Concordat they wished to retain the possibility of abrogating it more easily later.

Italian Catholics fought from the very beginning to defend the Concordat. Perhaps their motives will not be so well understood in America but one must remember the peculiar political situation in Europe over which hovers the constant menace of communism.

## New Auxiliaries



Mag. Wright



Mag. Cody



Fr. Klenowski

Pope Pius XII has elevated four American priests to the rank of auxiliary bishops. They are: Mag. John J. Wright, Secretary to Archbishop Cushing of Boston; Mag. Henry J. Klenowski, pastor of the Church of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary, Scranton, Pa.; Mag. Patrick Cody, Chancellor of Archdiocese of St. Louis; and Mag. Joseph J. Wright, Secretary to Archbishop Cushing of Boston.

## Priest Sees New Law Harmful to Farmers

Washington (NC) Vigorous opposition to amendments to the Reclamation Act of 1902, that would provide irrigation for the large land-holders of the West, by abolishing the present limitation of water for 160 acres, was voiced here before the subcommittee on Irrigation and Reclamation of the Senate Committee on Public Lands, by the Rev. William J. Gibbons, S.J., associate editor of America, and a member of the board of directors of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

Father Gibbons declared that the removal of acreage limitation of the Reclamation Act would favor the land monopolies at the expense of the small family farmer and pointed out that large-scale farming, "the corporate and semi-feudal patterns of farming," had resulted in many abuses that had caused concern to federal, state and local governments.

## Spanish Girl Reports New Apparitions of Mary

Madrid—(NC)—Thousands of pilgrims have been flocking to a small village in Caceres, Extremadura province, where a seven-year-old girl is reported to have seen apparitions of the Virgin Mary.

The girl, Mercedes Trejo Medina, told her mother, a landowner, that she first saw the vision while playing in the ruins of an old building. She was shown a picture of Our Lady of the Pill and said it resembled the apparition.

Twice a day the girl goes to the site of the alleged miraculous appearance, kneels down, and talks as if to a living presence, while crowds gathered about recite prayers. The girl appears to be quite normal, and shows no signs of mental disturbance. She asserts that the Virgin has promised shortly to perform a miracle.

Local church authorities have so far made no move to confirm or deny the authenticity of the supposed miraculous apparitions.

## Communist Conspiracy

(Continued from Page 5)

ist affiliation, for conspiracies do not leave many cards on the table. The method of exposure is again to know what he is doing and to acquaint others, over and over again, with that information.

If he does all that a Red would do in a similar position and under similar circumstances, what difference does it make whether there is a card involved or not?

There are cases, of course, where a specific Red acts obviously under instructions from the party. He conceals his purposes in part until he can muster enough strength to be effective in the particular group in which he is operating. What should be done then by the active anti-Communist, to bring the Red's loyalties to the surface?

For light in that matter we can examine how the Communists who were under cover pretense to discover actual or potential friends. They cannot announce openly their own tendencies or affiliations, and that would seem to be a handicap in conveying their ideas to others. But this they do through resolutions.

If these Reds are operating in a trade union, they bring in a resolution (generally at first of a mild character) on something the Communist Party wants pushed. After the discussion in the union on the matter, they meet secretly and go over the debate. They sift out those who were mildly for them and those who were strongly for the resolution.

It is by resolutions, too, that the Red can be discovered. Those who want seriously to make sure who is a Communist within their ranks, can do so by a series of such anti-Communist resolutions, introduced in union or other organization over a period of time.

Suggestions as to the contents of these resolutions, as they are introduced in turn, will be taken up in our next installment. This method, though, is of much more vital importance than merely for the discovery of Reds.

It constitutes a responsibility today in the work of actually combating Communism. Unless a wide educational campaign, on the ground floor, in unions, civic groups, community organizations and the like is carried on, the anti-Communist cause is faced with defeat.

No one has indicated this more definitely than Pius XI, when he said of Communist propaganda: "Little by little it penetrates all classes of the people and even reaches the better-minded groups of the community, with the result that few are aware of the poison which increasingly pervades their minds and hearts." They can be made conscious of this poison in one major way, by that education which challenges Communism right where it operates.

## RELIGIONS HAIL MAC ARTHUR

Maryknoll—(NC)—The Japanese press has carried a letter to Gen. Douglas MacArthur commending him for his work in Japan, and signed by leaders of the four major Japanese Christian bodies, according to a report received at Maryknoll headquarters here.

The letter, expressing the appreciation and gratitude of the Japanese people, was signed by Archbishop Peler Doi of Tokyo for the Catholic Church in Japan; Bishop T. Sugai for the Episcopal Church; Michio Kozumi for the Church of Christ; and Masaki Imatsumi, chairman of the All Japan Christian Union.

Declaring that General MacArthur's announcement that the Japanese people would not be allowed to starve as long as he was in command, has "moved us and the members of our families to tears," the letter states: "We are especially grateful to your excellency for your sympathetic and timely aid in helping us to solve both our spiritual crisis and our problem of food shortage."

## Bishop, Friend of U.S. Troops, Dies at 64

Algiers—(NC)—Bishop Joseph M. Birraux, Superior General of the White Fathers (Society of Missionaries of Africa) since 1936, has died at Maison Carree, the motherhouse of his community here. He was 64.

Bishop Birraux was well known to the American soldiers who participated in the North African campaign. He was the celebrant of many special Masses for them, confirmed several groups of American G.I.s, and made his headquarters one of the stops on their sightseeing trips. At the invitation of American chaplains, he offered a Mass of Thanksgiving shortly after the American occupation of Algiers.

## ON GUARD!

(Continued from Page 1)

ing around the tracks and squeezed between factories in southside Chicago. Elsewhere along the route the same dismal picture was in evidence—so many unlighted and worn-out dwellings, some almost shack-like in appearance and hardly any improvement on the filthy tenements of the Indians who once roamed these areas.

The ideas of Christian marriage and the Christian family, as presented by the pulpit and the press, are very attractive. In real life, however, you don't find a family in the pages of a book and when those four walls fall to provide enough room for the laughter of little children, there is something terribly wrong. There is spiritual as well as economic danger present when a decent home is beyond the pocket book of the family wage earner.

Christian marriage can easily fall short of the idealism of a sermon on marriage when it is forced to exist amid the roar of trains and the blackness of factory smoke. A good house with some green grass around it is as important to the Christian family as an inspiring sermon.

## Administer Picked For Archdioceses

Baltimore—(NC)—Bishop John M. McNamara, Auxiliary to the late Archbishop Michael J. Curley since December, 1927, has been elected administrator of the Archdioceses of Baltimore and of Washington at a meeting of the archdiocesan consultors here.

Bishop McNamara, 60, is a native of Baltimore and a graduate of Loyola College and of St. Mary's Seminary here. He has been pastor of St. Gabriel's Church in Washington for the past 27 years.

Faithful Book Selected  
New York—(NC)—The Catholic Book Club has named "Our Lady of Fatima," by William Thomas Walsh, as its current selection.

Sign Picks "Cyrano"  
Union City, N. J.—(NC)—The sixth annual award of The Sign, national Catholic monthly magazine, for the outstanding play of the year goes to "Cyrano De Bergerac" Previous Sign Awards went to "State of the Union," "The Glass Menagerie," "Othello," "The Patriots" and "Spring Again."

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Cardinal To Visit Poland  
London—(NC)—Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, will visit Poland in June.



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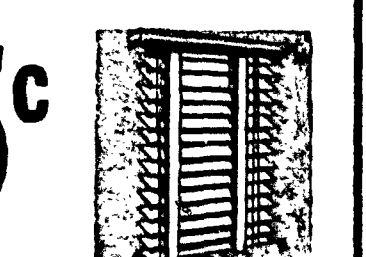
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