

# India's Bishops See Hope in New Rule

Bangalore, India—(NC)—In a statement entitled "The Catholic Church and the Independence of India" the bishops of that vast country express joy that "freedom has been won without recourse to violence," appeal to Catholics "to serve as a bond of union among sections which may be kept from one another by suspicion or discord," assure the new rulers of the cooperation of the church "in all measures intended to promote the well being of society" and ask Catholics all over the world to pray that India may rise "to greatness and prosperity with all the vigor, enthusiasm and idealism of youth."

The statement was issued by the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India through the Archbishop of Madras, its acting chairman, and Bishop Thomas Polakaram of Bangalore, General Secretary of the Conference.

The bishops declare that they "look to the future in a spirit of hopefulness and optimism." They point out that India's Catholics, though small in number, "have made a notable contribution to the material and moral progress of their motherland, chiefly by means of their charitable and educational institutions," adding "They stand united with the more numerous elements of their countrymen in the effort and determination to render India a great and thriving land worthy of her ancient culture and her glorious past."

Each nation or race may have its own characteristics, aptitudes and special gifts," the statement continues. "It is by cultivating all that is true, good and noble that a nation is enriched and attains to high virtue."

In a section dealing with the subject of "patriotism," the statement explains that, according to Catholic teaching, "patriotism is both a virtue and a duty," and that all citizens should honor and respect their rulers and be prepared to make sacrifices for the common good.

"Cooperate With Rulers"—The church conceives the spirit of nationality by encouraging what is just, noble and heroic," the bishops declare. "For children, loyalty and obedience to constituted authority is a religious duty founded on obedience to God. The rulers of the country can rest assured that the church and her children will readily cooperate with them in all measures intended to promote the well-being of society and the happiness and prosperity of the people."

While "the Catholic Church is not directly concerned with political changes," the bishops declare in a reference to the passing of the British Parliament, "she is not and cannot be unmindful of the temporal needs and welfare of mankind. In all

## Fate of India's Christians Up

London—(NC)—The fate of India's 1,000,000 Christians, they minority among that nation's 300,000,000 people, is being left entirely to the hands of the British Empire's new self-governing dominions—British India and Muslim Pakistan—when the separate prince states when Britain ends her rule in India on August 15.

British Prime Minister Clement Attlee, told the House of Commons that it was impossible to do otherwise, to secure some agreed protection of the Christian minorities, in the Indian Independence Act now approved and signed.

legitimate endeavors of the government to promote social and economic welfare, peace, contentment, health and education, our national leaders will find in her a sympathizer, friend and supporter, within the sphere of her own competency."

The bishops remind that the country faces tremendous difficulties arising from food shortages and the poverty of the masses as well as from the political strife among rival groups. They "pray and hope fervently that these sufferings may cease and peace and good understanding prevail among all sections of our country's inhabitants."

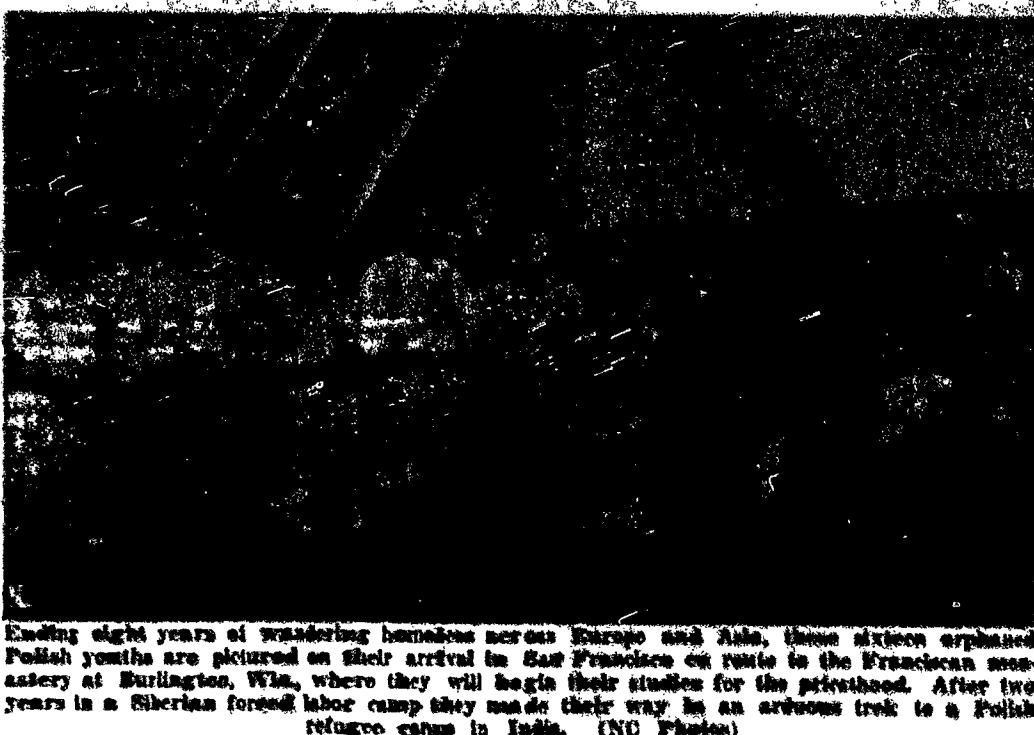
## Georgetown U. Opens Hospital

Washington (NC)—Georgetown University's new \$3,600,000 hospital was opened here with the reception of its first patients. The Rev. John Collins, S.M., 87, year old priest who had been a patient at the old Georgetown Hospital for several years, was the first patient to be admitted to the new institution. He was transferred from the old hospital in an ambulance.

The new hospital was built with \$2,850,000 of Federal Works Agency grants and \$750,000 contributed in the university's drive for funds. The university also provided the large tract of valuable land. It contains 407 beds and 123 bassinets, 13 operating rooms, six delivery and labor rooms and a nursery. Its construction took 31 months.

The new structure rises seven stories in its center portion, surrounded by a machinery room. The building is adorned at its highest point with a great cross standing in relief against the masonry. It will continue the work of the old hospital erected 50 years ago at the cost of \$27,000 and with facilities to accommodate 24 patients, which after several additions attained a peak capacity for 265 patients.

## Survived Siberian Slave Labor Camps



Ending eight years of wandering homeless across Europe and Asia, these sixteen orphaned Polish youths are pictured on their arrival in San Francisco en route to the Franciscan monastery at Burlington, Wis., where they will begin their studies for the priesthood. After two years in a Siberian forced labor camp they made their way in an arduous trek to a Polish refugee camp in India. (NC Photos)

## St. Anne's Rites Draw 35,000

St. Anne de Beaupre, Que.—(NC)—Thirty-five thousand devout pilgrims from Canada, the United States and other countries attended the ceremonies here on the feast of St. Anne, marking the close of the novena at this internationally known shrine.

Nine bishops and 200 priests offered Masses at the shrine during the day. Fifteen thousand persons received Holy Communion.

So great was the crowd which assembled in this village on the eve of the feast that the great Basilica remained open all night in order to accommodate many who were unable to find shelter elsewhere.

The closing exercises included Solemn Pontifical Mass offered by His Eminence James Cardinal McGowan, Archbishop of Toronto.

Blessing of the sick during the afternoon, at which ceremony Archbishop Maurice Roy of Quebec officiated, and the traditional procession on the mountainside and solemn Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament at which the officiating priest was Archbishop Francis J. L. Beckman, retired Dubuque prelate.

Other members of the hierarchy who took part in the ceremonies included Archbishop Lidebrand, Apostolic Delegate of Canada and Newfoundland, and Archbishop Alexander Vachon of Ottawa.

While the shrine authorities make no pronouncement in such cases until there has been irrefutable proof, there have been reported a number of cases where pilgrims obtained both spiritual and temporal favors.

Revisits Shrine 25 Years After Cure—St. Anne de Beaupre, Que.—(NC)—Mr. and Mrs. Andrew Ahern occupied places of honor in the sanctuary at a special Mass of Thanksgiving at the shrine of St. Anne de Beaupre here on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of Mr. Ahern's cure. Following an accident in 1915, Mr. Ahern was afflicted with convulsions for a year and thereafter had to use crutches to get around. Accompanying a pilgrimage from Holyoke in 1925, 112 cost of his journey being paid by friends, he was cured that year.

## 16 Polish Boys End Trail Of Sorrow at U.S. Monastery

Burlington, Wis.—(NC)—Sixteen orphaned Polish youths arrived here today to be received into the community at St. Francis Monastery and to begin their studies for the priesthood in the Franciscan Order. For them, it was the end of a trail of hardships and sorrows which they endured for almost eight years and which took them half way round the world.

Their saga of sorrow began back in 1939 when they were hardly more than children. The Nazi forces poured into their homeland from the west, the Soviet troops streamed in from the east, and soon the youngsters with their families and a large number of their neighbors found themselves in slave labor camps in Siberia.

The candidates for priesthood, who range in age from 15 to 18, can recall almost unbelievable cruelties, hardships and sorrows in the Siberian camps. They saw their parents, brothers and sisters die, some from exhaustion, some from starvation. Others just disappeared.

When Germany turned on Russia, an amnesty was effected, the 16, along with a number of survivors of the slave labor camps, made their way through Siberia, across Iran and on to a Polish refugee camp near Bombay in India. Through the efforts of the Franciscan Fathers of the Assumption Province, who have headquarters at Pulaski, Wis., and the Polish Relief Society in Bombay, arrangements were made to bring the 16 youths to the United States.

They came on ship by way of Colombo, Singapore, Hong Kong and Shanghai. Just about a week ago they landed in San Francisco. Upon arrival at the monastery here, one of the first things the 16 refugees did was to take part in a service in the monastery's replica of the Grotto of Lourdes—a thanksgiving to the Madonna of Czestochowa, the Patroness of Poland.

Alexei Envoy's Mission Hit—New York—(NC)—Speculation over the success of the mission of Orthodox Archbishop Gregory, Metropolitan of Leningrad and Novgorod, who recently arrived here to "unite spiritually" the Russian churches in the United States with the mother church in Moscow recalls the statement of Orthodox Archbishop Vitaly of New York, who declared that "the true American Orthodox Church was not and is not subject to the Moscow Patriarch."

Archbishop Vitaly made the statement on first hearing of Archbishop Gregory's proposed visit several months ago. At the same time he criticized the action of his church's ecclesiastical sobor (general assembly) of clergy and lay delegates) which action in recognizing Patriarch Alexei of Moscow as its spiritual leader is said to have occasioned Archbishop Gregory's visit. The sobor, which was held in Cleveland in November, 1946, approved a proposal formally to recognize Patriarch Alexei as spiritual head of the Russian Orthodox Church in North America, provided administrative autonomy was granted the church here.

It was in response to this proposal that the patriarch sent Metropolitan Gregory to work out an agreement on the degree of autonomy.

## 3,000 in Village, 57 in Religion

Paris—(NC)—Priests, seven seminarians, twelve Brothers of the Christian Schools and 22 nuns from different congregations gathered in the church of their native town of Grandchamp to witness the ordination of five other natives of this town, who celebrated simultaneously the following morning, their first Masses in this church where, as children, they were baptized.

In recognition of the magnificent contribution made to the diocesan clergy by the people of this town, who number fewer than 3,000 souls, Bishop Joseph Le Bellec of Vannes, Brittany, came personally to officiate at the ordination ceremony. One of the priests attending the ceremony had come from Africa; another from India.

Benedictine Tours Europe—Lille, Ill.—(NC)—The Rev. Ernest Zikst, O.S.B., former army chaplain and priest of St. Procopius Abbey here, has left for a three-month lecture tour in European countries.

## Food Crisis Looms In Reich, Says Priest

New York—(NC)—The food situation in Germany is more serious than at any time since the end of the war, according to the Rev. Erwin Klaus, O.F.M., of War Relief Service—National Catholic Welfare Conference, who has just returned from a 14-month mission to that country.

"This condition is due principally to the fact that the cereal grain and staple foodstuffs which had been stored up in Germany at the cessation of hostilities are now fully exhausted," Father Klaus explained.

Noting that America has supplied 80 per cent of the relief materials delivered to the indigenous population of the U. S. zone in Germany, Father Klaus stated that the British, who are solely in need of food in their homeland, have been unable to supply a like sum to their zone, "in the French zone," he added, "the situation is far worse because France is in no position to contribute any sizable sum in the wake of five years of occupation."

"Consequently," Father Klaus continued, "we have been allocating large shipments to the British and French zones during the past few months. It was coincidental that, with the return of Cardinal Conrad Von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, from a tour of the United States, War Relief Service—NCWC gifts were permitted into the city of Berlin."

Germany is looking forward to a fairly good harvest but much of this must be delivered to the British zone in order to stimulate the mining of coal in the Ruhr district. Hence, a cold, bleak winter lies ahead for the German people. They vividly recall the tragic days of last winter when the temperature at times registered 72 degrees below and all industry ceased due to the bitter cold.

"In a desperate effort to meet this situation every man, woman and child who can possibly do so are carrying the famous Starbuck See highway into Munich with every kind of cart and bicycle, with ingenious contraptions attached, laden down with apples, roots of trees, twigs, and branches to be used as fuel during the coming winter."

One of the major problems confronting the German people is that of obtaining necessary clothing and linens as there are no textiles of any sort have been manufactured in that country within the past two years it is imperative that this crisis be met by continued relief from America, otherwise the utmost distress will be experienced.

Children Face Fight With Scarcity—(NC)—The Children's Conservative Party, which is maintaining its social-Christian status and to continue its efforts in favor of religious education and against Communism, at its convention, which brought together 1,500 delegates from all parts of Chile, here.

## Germany Needs Spiritual Aid Prelates Find

Washington—(NC)—The spiritual and moral condition of Germany's population must help American Catholics meet the work of today's emergency situation, according to the Rev. Erwin Klaus, O.F.M., of War Relief Service—National Catholic Welfare Conference, who has just returned from a 14-month mission to that country.

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