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Bing Crosby Honored By Anti-Divorce Group... (NC) — Honored because of their outstanding family life records in the Hollywood movie colony. Rosalind Russell and Bing Crosby have been awarded the first annual Letters of Commendation by the Motion Picture Research Society, Inc., which was formed to combat the divorce evils in the movie colony.

Pope Receives NCCW Leaders

Vatican City — (Radio, NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII manifested the deepest interest in the work of the National Council of Catholic Women when he granted a private audience to the official delegation from that organization to the Congress of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues.

The Pope's reception of the American delegation is considered a particular and most unusual honor, in view of the fact that all delegates to the Congress had been previously received in a general audience.

Mrs. Henry Mannix, president of the National Council of Catholic Women, was first received in the Holy Father's private study and she, in turn, introduced the other members of the delegation, explaining their position and particular field of activity, within the N. C. C. W.

In a lengthy conversation with the members of the delegation, who were seated around the Holy Father's desk, he inquired about the progress made in the work of N. C. C. W. and its participation in deliberations of the Congress. He requested that N. C. C. W. officers and members throughout the country be informed of his deep appreciation of their work and their generous support of the charitable activities of the Vatican. At the end of the audience, the Holy Father imparted his special blessing to Mrs. Mannix, the members of the Board and staff of N. C. C. W., and their families.

AT WORLD MEET OF WOMEN



Among the delegation from the United States attending the Congress of the International Union of Catholic Women's Leagues in Rome, are the following, pictured on a frame-work Airlines: Left to right: Mrs. Joseph Bolin, Clarksville, Tenn., second vice-president; Miss Ruth Craven, Washington, executive secretary, and Mrs. Henry Mannix, Brooklyn, president, National Council of Catholic Women; Miss Nancy Miguosen, New York, and Miss Patricia Skakel, Greenwich, Conn., observers at the Youth Congress sponsored by the Youth Bureau of the I.U.C. W. L. (NC Photos)

Catholic Areas More Tolerant Bishop Says

Huntington, Ind. — (NC) — In cities where Catholics predominate "perfect cooperation" prevails between Catholics and non-Catholics, but in communities where Protestants prevail there is a feeling that is more "anti-Catholic than pro-Protestant."

This is among the observations in the "Right or Wrong" column prepared for the forthcoming issue of Our Sunday Visitor. Written by Bishop John P. Noll of Fort Wayne, the column comments on an article, "Whose Country Is This?" which appeared in the fall issue of Christendom, quarterly published in New York by the American Committee of the World Council of Churches.

The suggestion by the author of the Christendom article, the Rev. William Johnson, Protestant clergyman and program director of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, that Protestant and Catholic leaders meet in an effort to reach an understanding on a "common platform looking to some relationship between religion and education" is characterized by Bishop Noll as a "good recommendation, not chiefly for either Protestants or Catholics, but for the nation as a whole."

"DR. JOHNSON remarks the idea that the policies of the Roman Catholic Church have a legitimate place in the social arena of the United States is relatively new and seems never to have been accepted by many people," Bishop Noll wrote. "We wonder just what policies they are. Is one the policy of regarding marriage as indissoluble? Our own memory goes back to the day when a divorcee was ostracized in the 'social arena' when no minister would think of assisting at the marriage of a divorced person whose husband or wife was still alive. It is Protestantism and not Catholicism which has changed here."

"Could it possibly be the Church's policy in relation to education? That policy prevailed in all the original colonies, most of which were Protestant. Every American school until the year 1840 was a religious school, and the largest universities of our land, including Harvard, Yale, Princeton, Chicago, Northwestern and numerous others, had a religious origin and a religious motive. Catholics simply kept up the original American policy in adding religious instruction to secular education."

"Who have departed from American principles in relation to un-American and subversive activities the Catholic or the Protestant churches?" Bishop Noll asks.

MR. JOHNSON'S article asserts that Protestants must accept the fact of a strong Roman Catholic institution as part of the American political, social scene and asserted that U. S. Catholics should "take to heart the plea of the Pope for cooperation of all men of good will in building a society of respect for human dignity."

Bishop Noll, commenting on a statement of Mr. Johnson that "most people will admit that Catholics and the Catholic Church have a right in the U. S. A.," points out that Catholics came here with Columbus' discovered the Pacific Ocean, the Mississippi River, the Gulf of St. Lawrence and Lake Champlain, labored among savage Indians and some were martyred for their efforts, and that the names of Joseph, Corpus Christi, Los Angeles, Santa Fe, San Francisco and many others, are proof that they were named by Catholics.

Mr. Johnson's article urged Protestants to look upon Catholics as Christian allies, not de-signing or scheming competitors, and declared the current controversy over free textbooks for parochial schools and school bus transportation should be rationalized by an appeal to principle "but essentially Protestants are resisting change and Catholics are seeking change."

Bishop Noll observes that in very few States are Catholics seeking free textbooks, but adds that "if Catholic children be compelled by law to attend school and be permitted by law to attend the school of their choice, the State should do for their children what it does for all other children." He says this principle should apply also to the school bus transportation problem.

Redemptorist Church To Mark Centennial

New York — (NC) — The "Little Church on Thompson Street," one of the most famous Catholic edifices in New York, will celebrate its centenary Oct. 5. The Church of St. Alphonsus, conducted by the Redemptorist Fathers, was started in 1847 by Bishop John Hughes, who later became first Archbishop of New York, to care for the Germans settled on the lower West Side.

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will preside at the Centenary Mass, which will be offered by Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, newly consecrated Auxiliary of New York.

First Irish Film Dublin — (RNS) — First production of the newly-established Irish Film Company will be a movie based on the life of St. Francis of Assisi.

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Prelate Tells Of School Stand

(Continued from Page 1) were taken at these meetings to enjoin the Ordinary from accepting Negroes into Church schools through civil action. His Excellency felt in duty bound to send a letter to all the pastors in the St. Louis and in St. Louis County to be read at all Masses on Sunday, Sept. 21.

The purpose of this letter was two-fold: to encourage the Catholics of the archdiocese who had become embarrassed through the agitation of the small minority and, perhaps, to forestall the threatened mistake of this minority by informing them of their duties as Catholics. It was considered that knowledge of the penalty which they might incur through having recourse to civil action would happily deter them from a step they would later regret.

IN THE LETTER referred to in the statement, which was read in the churches Sunday, Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter said "It has come to our attention that a small group of individuals have signified their purpose of taking civil action to restrain us from carrying out a policy which we consider our right and duty as chief pastor of the faithful of this archdiocese, regardless of race or nationality."

"We realize that many of these good people are being gravely misled. Consequently we take the occasion to remind them of their filial obligation as Catholics to cooperate with their Bishop and clergy and their fellow Catholics in issues which are fundamental in our Holy Catholic Faith, namely not only the equality of every soul before Almighty God, but also obedience to ecclesiastical authority."

"After mature deliberation and fully confident of the loyalty of the faithful, we now deem it opportune to caution them publicly. By the general law of the Church, there is the serious penalty of excommunication, which can be removed only by the Holy See. This penalty is incurred automatically should an individual or group of individuals, without permission, in violation of Canon 241, presume that is, after full and appropriate administrative office of their Bishop by having recourse to any authority outside the Church."

Subsequently, John Barrett, chairman of the dissenting group to which Archbishop Ritter's letter referred, said he was undecided about future active participation in the group, but that "personally will not take any action that will jeopardize my religion or that of anyone else." It was reported that the dissenting group has decided to drop plans for civil court action.

Vienna Cardinal Gets Painting Vienna — (RNS) — American Army authorities attended the presentation to Theodore Cardinal Innitzer, Archbishop of Vienna, of a large-size painting of Christ's Descent from the Cross which will be hung in St. Stephen's Cathedral here. The painting was executed by U. S. Major Frederick C. Shady.

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