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# Pope Urges Relief For Europe's DPs

Lafayette, La. — (RNS) — In a message to the National Catholic Rural Life Conference holding its 38th national convention here, Pope Pius XII expressed hope that "relief for the multitudes of uprooted, displaced peoples of Europe may be brought nearer through understanding cooperation by men and governments of good will."

The Pontiff praised the Rural Life Conference for its response to "the call of Christian charity in providing resettlement possibilities for displaced refugees," and declared:

"The dedication of so important a work of Catholic action is in accord with sound Catholic principles of the preservation of the Christian family and of the wider extension of private ownership of individual farms, and is most praiseworthy."

Pope Pius's message was read at a civic reception, honoring Francis Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago.

Cardinal Stritch told those attending the reception that "perhaps the greatest failure in Western culture has been the attempt to carry on the age-old countryside tradition in a very new manner."

Expressing criticisms of those "who would have the Church restrict its teachings to religion," the Cardinal asserted that "Christ did not hesitate to show the right application of His doctrines to specific human needs."

BABYLON, CARDINAL Spellman presided at a Solemn High Mass which was celebrated by Bishop Julius B. Jeanmard of Lafayette. The Most Rev. Joseph F. Rummel, Archbishop of New Orleans, gave the sermon.

Archbishop Rummel said religion offered adequate compensation for the hardships of rural life. He deplored a tendency among farmers' sons and daughters to become restless, embarrassed and even ashamed of their rural life.

President Truman also addressed a message to the Conference.

"The roots of our country population," the Chief Executive stated, "must be sunk deep into the soil. Farm dwellers must not be transitory occupants of the land, who will succumb easily to the lure of urban life. It is our duty to do everything in our power to make rural life attractive.

"The church and the school, these twin institutions of strength, must be easily accessible to farm dwellings. The farm wife has a right also to household equipment equal to the machines which now lighten the burden of labor in the field."

# Six Sons, Daughters, 50 Years

Over fifty members of the immediate family of Mr. and Mrs. Casper J. Fechtel were with them on their fifth wedding anniversary. The day-long family reunion began with a Solemn High Mass at Immaculate Conception Church, Jacksonville, Fla., celebrated by Mr. Fechtel's brother, the Rev. August F. Fechtel of St. Louis, Mo. Four of their 25 grandchildren served as altar boys on the occasion and now the jubilarians renew their marriage vows. Mr. and Mrs. Fechtel are shown with their six sons and six daughters. (No Photos)

# Cabinet Without Catholic For First Time Since 1933

Washington — (NC) — The resignation of Robert E. Hannigan as Postmaster General of the United States marks the first time since 1933 that there has not been a Catholic in the Presidential cabinet.

Nine Catholics have served in Presidential cabinets, and a tenth was named but died before taking the oath of office. Three of these were appointed by Republican Presidents and seven by Democratic Presidents.

Five Catholics have served in the office of Postmaster General: James Campbell, 1853-57; Robert J. Wynne, 1904-05; James A. Farley, 1933-40; Frank C. Walker, 1940-45, and Robert E. Hannigan, 1945-47. Other Catholics who have served in the cabinets of the Chief Executive of the United States were: Roger Brooke Taney, attorney general, 1831-1833 and secretary of the treasury, ad interim, 1833-34; Joseph McKenna, attorney general, 1897-98; Charles J. Bonaparte, secretary of the navy, 1905-06, and attorney general, 1906-09; Frank Murphy, attorney general, 1939-40.

Senator Thomas J. Walsh of Montana was named attorney general by President Franklin D. Roosevelt, but died before taking the oath of office. His appointment in March, 1933, along with Mr. Farley, was the first instance of a President appointing two Catholics to his cabinet at the same time. President Theodore Roosevelt was the first President to appoint two Catholics to cabinet posts during his term as President, but they did not serve simultaneously. The first two Catholics actually to serve simultaneously as cabinet members were Mr. Farley and Mr. Murphy in 1939-40.

### Visit by Emperor's Kin

Tokyo — (NC) — Two more Catholic institutions in Japan have been visited in recent weeks by Prince Takamatsu, younger brother of the emperor. First of these was the orphanage established last year by the Rev. Francis Drouet in the city of Yawata in Fukuoka Diocese, where 102 children are now being cared for. The second was the orphanage conducted by the Daughters of the Sacred Heart in Niigata.

# Author Explains Palestine Report

Washington — (NC) — Bartley C. Crum, author of the book "Behind the Silken Curtain," has informed Brother Anthony Bruya, O.F.M., that certain remarks attributed to him in the book are not to be taken "in any sense verbatim" and that "what I said in my book" was not intended "to be a complete report of a long evening's conversation."

The conversation during which these remarks were said to have been made took place at Terra Sancta College in Jerusalem, a Franciscan institution. Mr. Crum visited the college last year while in Palestine as an American member of the Anglo-American Committee of Inquiry on Palestine. Brother Anthony is quoted in the book as having told Mr. Crum that "as an American citizen, whose ancestors fought in the Revolution, I sympathize with the Jews in their struggle for freedom."

"I understand absolutely the neutrality of Terra Sancta," Mr. Crum wrote in response to Brother Anthony's request for an amplification and clarification . . . "You made it quite clear that Terra Sancta does occupy a completely neutral position and also that you believed that independence for the Jews did not mean that it should be achieved at the expense of the Arabs."

# Assumption Dogma Definition Asked

New Rochelle — (NC) — Twelve hundred delegates from 28 Catholic colleges met in an all-day Marian Congress here at the College of New Rochelle. The delegates signed a petition to Pope Pius XII asking for an early dogmatic definition of the doctrine of the Assumption.

Bishop Stephen J. Donahue, Auxiliary of New York, representing His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, presided at the afternoon session of the Congress, which was sponsored by the Mariology Commission of the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

# Parishioners Build Rectory

Dubuque — (NC) — Members of the 70 families in St. John's parish, Delhi, with a population of 400, are rushing to complete a rectory for the Rev. Vincent Hoveman, a World War II chaplain, who has been named first resident pastor of St. John's.

To date, more than 3,000 man hours of labor have been contributed to the project by members of the church and friends, and they hope to have the new building completed by Christmas for Father Hoveman. A modern one-story brick building, the rectory is connected to the church by an enclosed walk. The basement will be equipped as a parish hall.

# Vatican Denies New Charge by Moscow

Rome — (NC) — Osservatore Romano has taken sharp issue with an article published in the Moscow weekly, New Times, and broadcast over the Soviet Radio, which stated that the Vatican is among those trying to draw a distinction between eastern and western civilization.

The Vatican has never admitted an antithesis or contrast among the children of one redemption, the Vatican City daily commented, adding that those who profess the Christian name and faith cannot be placed opposite one another as civilized and barbarian, since the very Catholicity of the Church signifies union and abhors divisions.

Noting that Christian civilization or that of other peoples of Asia, Africa or Europe went forth to the four points of the compass and was assimilated by all nations, Osservatore stated that Christian civilization can be called world civilization.

According to reports issued in this country by the Foreign Broadcast Information Branch, the article cited by Osservatore Romano was written by the Soviet publicist Ilya Ehrenburg. The broadcast version, in French, attributes the following remarks to the author:

"French school children are taught that ancient Greece was the cradle of European civilization. What about Russian civilization, did it not inherit, too, the spiritual treasures of Hellas? For all I know the Greek Parthenon did inspire Eastern and Western architects alike. I do not include America, where there have been a good many builders but up to now not a single architect.

"No — we do not reject Western civilization . . . So far from turning our backs on European civilization we are, on the contrary, the most disinterested trustee and the most faithful guardians of its spiritual riches."

### DP'S in Belgian Mines

Brussels — (NC) — Thousands of Ukrainians, most of them Catholics, are now working in the mines of Limburg and Hainaut after being brought to Belgium from DP camps in Germany. Several Redemptorist Fathers, who were engaged in missionary work in the Ukraine before the war, are tending to their spiritual needs.

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