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Fr. Sullivan Tours Italy On 'Friendship Train'

By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN

(Father Sullivan of Rochester, N. Y., who was present when the first Friendship Train arrived in Naples, has accompanied a train loading food collected in the United States to various cities in north and south Italy.)

Foggia, Italy — Things are different in southern Italy. The country is different, more open and rolling, but it's poorer. The people, too, are poorer.

Not that there was any great evidence of wealth along the northern station platforms, but these folk are definitely in greater need. We could see it from the windows before the Friendship Train had rolled to a stop. These clothes were mighty poor.

These people are farmers; they live from the land, or else. And the land we had seen from the train didn't look too good—more stones than anything else in the fields.

Fr. Sullivan

THEIR WAS the sturdy, weathery look of the farmer about the people. But there were other things which should not have been — anxiety had wrinkling creeping through their smiles.

The children, too, were different. Oh, yes, they were orphans just as the other thousands in the other places; but they didn't have uniforms as the others did, to mark them as such. They were dressed as well as they might be, whatever they were.

Reconstruction takes longer here; no varied industries with their wages; commerce and trade don't easily find such places — they are off the beaten track.

But the reception? Nothing wrong with that! If it was different, it was because it was more fervent. It would be bad taste in major comparisons about such finely human things as these receptions have been everywhere, but, somehow, when these poor people smiled and waved that shouted, "Grazie, America!" it sounded just a bit better and stronger than in some other places.

THESE FOLKS would have to know that they have known and liked Americans long before the Friendship Train. Many worked for Americans at their bases during the war. A couple of lads were positive they had known me at the base a couple of years ago and could hardly believe I had never been there.

The Boy Scouts who ushered us through the crowd hoagged that their troop had been founded by GI's three years ago and was still going strong. But — a little doubtful here — did we know any way in which we could help them get some decent uniforms? We surely wished we could.

The toughest moment for us was after the ceremonies. "Will we get any of the food, a package; who will get it? It has been so hard for so long! Will we, can we, get some?" They crowded around to put their questions. It was hard to tell them there wasn't enough for all and that, therefore, the food would go to the neediest, the children and the old folks in institutions.

Native Chinese Bishops Up to 22

Shanghai— (NC) —China's native-born Catholic Bishops are increased to 22 with the appointment of the Most Rev. Peter Wang to the See of Suanhwa in the northern province of Chahar. The new Bishop, aged 44, a native of Chahar and graduate of historic Chala Seminary in Peiping, has worked as a missionary and later as seminary professor in the diocese over which the Holy See has now placed him.

He will be the fourth Chinese bishop in Suanhwa. The first, the late Bishop Chao, was one of six Chinese prelates consecrated by Pope Pius XI in Rome in 1926. He died a year later.

Two Chinese Prefects Apostolic bring the total number of native prelates in China to 24.

Suanhwa Diocese, staffed by Chinese diocesan priests, has suffered heavily from the current Communist persecution. The Trappist monastery of Yangkiping, which the Reds destroyed last August, taking the monks into a penal captivity in which 30 have died, lies within the diocese.

English Church Would Publicize

London— (NC) —A religious-sponsored daily newspaper and the use of modern publicity methods, including films, is recommended in the report issued by a publicity commission appointed by the Church of England. The report, which runs along the lines of many past unofficial Catholic suggestions for bringing the nation back to religion, has caused considerable Catholic interest.

The commission, however, declared that an officially-sponsored daily newspaper could not be published at present, with paper rationing, austerity conditions and the urgent calls of essential industry. It recommended the setting up of a Church Information Board to meet immediate needs, at a cost of £14,000 ($56,000). At least £1,000,000 ($4,000,000) would be needed to begin a national daily.

The commission criticized the attitude of the press, especially the national newspapers, toward religion and the "undue and unfair emphasis on incidents of a nature equally likely to arise in other walks of life."

British Cardinal Says Warship Mass

London —(NC)— His Eminence Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, offered Mass on a British battleship, H.M.S. Anson, off Portland in the English Channel this week. The Cardinal had spent the night aboard and the previous evening had been guest of honor at the ship's officers.

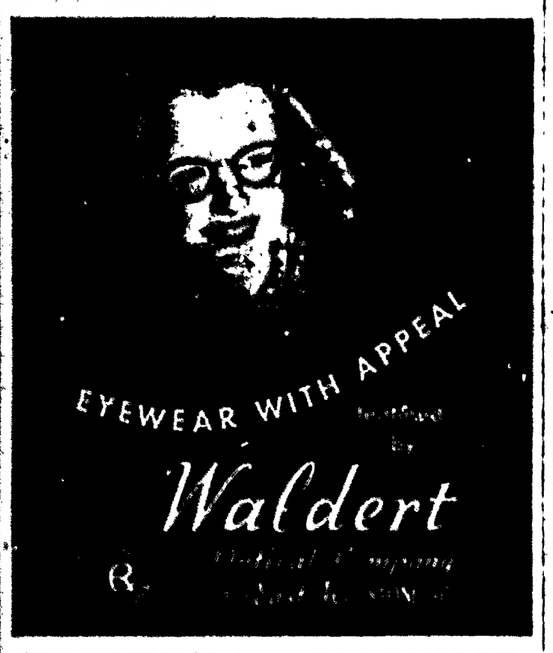
The Cardinal was paying an informal visit to the British Navy, a training squadron, accompanied by the Rev. Michael Barry, the squadron chaplain. His Eminence visited the other ships of the squadron, including the battleship Howe and the aircraft carrier Victorious, inspecting the Catholic facilities and addressing the Catholic members of the crews.

Youth Work

Rev. Dr. Joseph E. Schinder, a priest of the Diocese of Buffalo, who has been named Director of the Youth Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, according to an announcement by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, episcopal Chairman of the department. Ordained in 1936, Father Schinder had had wide experience in the youth field. (NC Photos)

French Head Would Bar Indecent Movies

Paris—The President of France has announced that he will ask the Council of Ministers to seek legislation prohibiting publication of indecent literature and portrayal of indecency in motion pictures, in an effort to cope with the growth of delinquency and criminality among youth. The French President expressed the belief that indecency in literature and films is an important contributing cause to the perversion of youth.



ANNOUNCEMENT

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Communism in DPs Fought by KC

Cornwall, Ont.— (NC) —State Deputy J. Morris King of the Ontario State Board of the Knights of Columbus has announced that the Knights of Columbus has set up a committee to organize work among displaced persons arriving in Canada and to protect these persons from Communist influences.

The committee, which includes Bishop R. H. Dignan of Sault Ste. Marie, state chaplain; State Deputy King and W. J. Sheedy, state publicity director, will work to combat any subversive activities which may be started among the displaced persons by Communists in Canada.

From the moment of their arrival in Canada many displaced persons have been pestered with Communist propaganda, forced on them at various railway stops while enroute to their new homes. Not long ago one group of Ukrainian miners, fed up with the Communist tactics, beat up the Communist propagandists and literally threw them off the train before its arrival at North Bay, Ont.

The Montreal Star, commenting on this action, said: "They (the Ukrainian miners in question) bring with them a technique which, while perhaps abrupt and not, it may be, even strictly legal is at least effective. Their leader's terse summing up of the reason for their summary action might well be noted by the rest of us. 'Was no good, we didn't like' is an excellent answer to Communist activities, direct or indirect."

Vatican Radio Offer

Geneva, Switzerland (NC)— The Holy See has offered the services of Radio Vatican to the Preparatory Commission of the International Refugee Organization for its task of tracing persons lost during the war.

Berlin Inter-faith Group

Berlin —(RNS)— An inter-faith German youth council, comprising Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish young people, has been formed here. It is believed to be the first ever organized in this country for the intergroup relations.

No Danger

Rome —(RNS)— Rumors that the dome of St. Peter's Basilica is in a precarious condition and may endanger pilgrims coming to Rome for the Holy Year of 1950 have been contradicted by Monsignor Ludwig Kaas, who is charged with upkeep of the ancient church.

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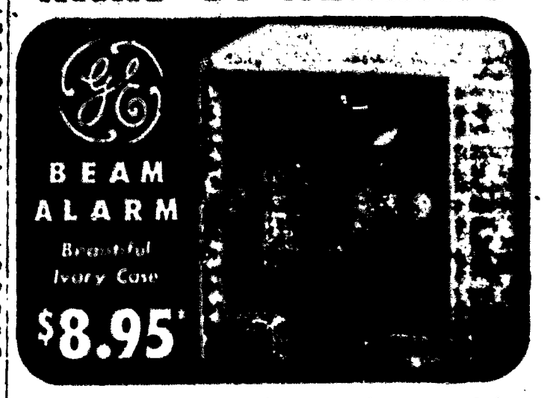

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Very Rev. Thomas J. McMahon, S.T.D., National Secretary
Rev. Andrew H. Rogosh, S.T.L., Assistant Secretary

Rome Is East

Proudly do we announce a new pamphlet entitled "ROME AND THE EASTERN CHURCHES" by Father Andrew Rogosh, our Assistant Secretary. Twenty-five cents for the missions will bring it to you.

YES, WE LAUGHED TOO!

Perhaps we should not have laughed, when we received a letter from such a high personage as Archbishop Arata, assistant to Cardinal Tisserant. The good Archbishop, who has just returned from a visit to our missions in the Near East, wrote to ask us for four donkeys!

But really his request was not so funny. Listen to him: "I spent some days admiring the wonderful work of the Sisters of Perpetual Help in the hill towns of Lebanon.

"There are no real roads there, so even if the Sisters could afford an automobile to carry them on their errands of mercy, this would be out of the question. So they walk and walk, mile after mile, to teach our children and heal our sick poor.

"There is only one solution, a very simple one used once by Our Lord Himself. Can you ask our Near East friends for a hundred dollars to buy a donkey? The Sisters will need four of these faithful beasts."

After you have had your laugh, won't you help these poor Sisters? They will bring the Lord with them on the animal He loved so much.

— • —

GOOD NEWS!

Bishop Khidane of Ethiopia writes to inform us that he has sent eleven seminarians to the Ethiopian College in Rome to complete their studies for the priesthood. Six hundred dollars will pay for the course of one. Can you adopt one? He will study in Vatican City, very near to the Holy Father.

— • —

O LOVELY CHILD!

"O Lovely Child, how beautiful the rose fell blown for fatal day!" Have you written for our beautiful folder and picture "The Unpetalled Rose?" We send it to all who give a mite for our Shrine Chapel of St. Therese the Little Flower, which will rise in Lebanon for the conversion of Russia.

— • —

SACRISTY A SCHOOL?

A kind Near East friend built a chapel at Sarih, just beyond the River Jordan where Our Lord was baptized. Now Bishop Salman writes: "The sacristy where the priest vests has to do double duty as a school, to the detriment of all." Can you build a modest little school for $750?

— • —

BRIEFER MENTION

Write for our leaflet "HOW CAN I HELP?" which describes so many needs, for which we have not space to appeal.

SIMONETTE

Simonette Kandalaft is a young lady of twenty six. Born in Aleppo, Syria, she is now a novice of the Sisters of the Immaculate Conception at Rome, and she will go back to her country as a missionary. Can you adopt her and give three hundred dollars for her two years' training? Even a deposit in "MARY'S BANK" will help.

— • —

NINETEEN DOLLARS

Do you know that this will provide enough cloth for the making of two camocks, the priest's black vestment? We must send this to many priests in the Holy Land. Even ten dollars for a food package will help them very much.

— • —

TURN THEM AWAY?

Father Joseph Kulkara writes from our leper asylum in Shertallay, India: "Do not forget my poor lepers. Otherwise I must turn them away." In your mercy remember our DAMIEN LEPER FUND during Lent.

— • —

AWFUL LONELY

Who is more lonely than the most abandoned soul in Purgatory, with no one on earth to pray for him? Why not have Masses said for the "Anima Sola", the loneliest soul, by Near East missionaries?

— • —

ROUGE BOUQUET

For the sorrowful days of Lent, why not give a rouge bouquet to a poor Near East mission chapel—the crucifix on the altar, Stations of the Cross, and a picture of Our Lady of Sorrows? This will cost sixty-seven dollars.

— • —

AFTER DEATH, WHAT?

Please God, a favorable judgment. Beware for eternity. Write for information on our suspense card and the Gregorian Masses.

— • —

DURING FEBRUARY

During this Catholic Press Month write for our pamphlets. Twenty-five cents for the missions will bring them to you. Have you read "EAST MEETS WEST" by Monsignor Sheen on Our Lady of Fátima?

— • —

MITE BOX

Less than five cents a day adds up to a dollar monthly. During Lent, won't you join one of our dollar clubs: the CHRYSOSTOMS, to educate priests, the BASILIANS, for our poor schools; the MONICA GUILD, to supply vestments for needy missionaries?

Send all communications to

Catholic Near East Welfare Association

480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.