

Strife In The Holy Land Scars Church Property

(This is the second of three articles depicting the strife in the Holy Land by Brother Anthony, who lays emphasis on how the present strife and its prospects affect Christian life.)

By BROTHER ANTHONY BRUYA, O. F. M.
(Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Jerusalem — Thus far Christian interests in the Holy Land have suffered a number of what might be termed minor troubles, compared with a possible future situation. The Holy Shrines themselves have been affected only indirectly, and no more perhaps than they were during past disturbances.

The midnight services at the Holy Sepulchre, customarily held on Saturdays during Lent had to be restricted, since it is hazardous to be on the streets after dusk—even to go to or from the Tomb of Christ.

An Arab seminarian, for example, was wounded when a public bus in which he and a number of others were returning from the Holy Sepulchre was attacked on the Bethlehem Road.

There has been considerable, though minor, damage to church property from bullets, bomb blasts, and in a few instances direct bombing of church-owned property on one or another pretext. Shot and shell have fallen on religious property, notably at the Benedictine Abbey of the Dormition of the Blessed Virgin on Mount Zion, near the Holy Cenacle of the Last Supper, and at the Assumptionists' Hospice of Notre Dame.

Nor have Sisters' communities been without their troubles. The customary novena of the Reparation cloistered nuns could not be held publicly this year, as it has been unsafe to leave the doors of their chapel open.

The Franciscan Missionary Sisters of Egypt, a part of whose convent in the modern part of Jerusalem called Taleh has been occupied by the Army's military courts, where many terrorists have been tried and sentenced, have twice had to vacate their convent, the last time "for keeps."

Recently terrorist gangs shot a Christian guard and forced their way into the wing of the convent used by the courts, where bombs were placed. By mere chance the Sisters learned of another and more powerful bomb in time to inform those who could dismantle it before their whole convent was blown up and themselves killed.

Bravely returning to their slightly damaged home, they underwent another attack the same night, this time aimed at their part of the building. Although the attackers were fought off by the Trans-Jordan soldiers put on guard there after the first assault, the Sisters were urged to leave their cherished convent school and have joined the other refugees in the Casa Nova in the Old City.

An anonymous note was handed to the Sisters of St. Joseph, most of whom are French, telling them that their four British nuns, mentioned by name, must leave the place at once, else it would be destroyed. Under the circumstances, there was no other course open to save their girls' boarding school and the lives of the other Religious. An Arab Sister stationed there fled to a safer part of Jerusalem.

with the four English nuns. Even the cloistered Poor Clares have not escaped annoyance at their perpetual adoration convent, located not far from the High Commissioner's residence, and overlooking the Allenby Military Barracks and the Bethlehem Road. Not long ago a man, representing himself to be a policeman "looking for Arabs supposed to be sheltered by the Sisters," insisted upon exploring the convent.

After such outrages as the Damascus Gate massacre around Christmas, the corridors of the French Sisters' Hospital, the only Catholic one now open in Jerusalem, have been filled with the wounded, dead and dying.

Not even the representatives of foreign powers have been immune from the current reign of terror. When the small Semiramis Hotel was blown up with a score of fatalities, one of those whose life was lost was the Spanish Vice-Consul.

The mortar-bombs shot into the Old City some days ago did more than endanger two nearby Catholic schools and their pupils; they did more than shatter a few windows and wound a few Arabs; more than shatter the pleasant delusion that the Walled City was safe. They shattered a tradition which even the British under General Allenby observed when he wrested Jerusalem from the Turks in 1917. He did not shell the Holy City of Jerusalem.

At the end of this litany of outrages, there is the affair of the statue of the Blessed Virgin which long adorned the school for Jewish boys conducted by the fathers of Zion. Not long ago it was pulled down from its lofty niche which faced the modern Jewish residential section of Rehavia, and smashed to bits. When the Fathers protested, they were informed that "it must have been done by children."

(Next week Brother Anthony will discuss preparations of Britain to relinquish its mandate and prospects awaiting the Holy Land.)

St. Joseph's Workshop Church Gets New Murals

Jerusalem — (NC) — Three graceful mural paintings have recently been placed above the altars in St. Joseph's Church in Nazareth, generally called "St. Joseph's Workshop."

This church, built in 1914, stands on the site of a Crusader-period church of the 11th-12th centuries, which in turn was erected over the ruins of a still more ancient Byzantine chapel of the 5th century, called the "Church of the Nutrition," since it was built, in the words of Arculf, a Saxon pilgrim of the year 670, "at the spot where of old stood the house in which Our Lord and Saviour was brought up."

EX-RED ENTERS CHURCH



Pictured with his daughter Rowena, at their home in Wiggleton, England, is Douglas A. Hyde, news editor of the London "Daily Worker," who, with his wife have renounced their membership in the Communist Party and will join the Catholic Church. Mr. Hyde has been a Communist for 20 of his 38 years. His action recalls that of Louis F. Budenz, who resigned as editor of the New York "Daily Worker" in 1945 to return to the Catholic Church. AP. (NC Photos)

Released Time Off School Property Allowed In Oregon

Salem, Ore. — (RNS) — Religious instruction on a "released-time" basis, off school property, is permissible for Oregon public schools, according to a ruling by Attorney General George Neuner. In some communities, principally Portland, such a program had been in effect, but in others the classes were conducted in school buildings.

Another ruling, by Rex Putnam, state superintendent of public instruction, declared that nothing in the recent U. S. Supreme Court opinion banning religious training on public school property would prevent public school classes in parochial schools "so long as religious training is not given to pupils during school hours."

Dr. Chester Hamblin, president of the Oregon Council of Churches, urged churches participating in such instruction to comply with the "released-time" ruling and called for the re-emphasis of Christian education in the home and church.

Nazis Forced Priests To Build Gas Chambers

Nuremberg — (NC) — Polish priests interned in Dachau concentration camp during the war were forced to build the camp gas chambers where thousands of racial and political persecutees were gassed to death by the Nazis. This was the testimony of a Catholic priest and former Dachau inmate heard before an American court at the war crimes trials here.

The Rev. Niczyslaw Suldzinski, 40, of Bromberg, Poland, testified as a prosecution witness in the trial of 21 former diplomats and leaders in Nazi government, and in German banking, propaganda, and industrial circles. They are charged with various war crimes and crimes against peace and humanity.

McCollum Decision Concerns U.S. Units

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Apprehension continues in some branches of the government over what the ultimate effect of the Supreme Court's Champaign case decision may be.

The 8-1 decision of the high court banned religion instruction in school buildings but left unclear whether released-time religious education programs conducted off school premises were affected.

Religious activities of the chaplaincy, at federal prisons and at West Point and Annapolis are viewed here as possible targets for attack.

Rear Admiral William M. Thomas, Chief of Navy Chaplains, was quoted as saying that "we aren't going to do anything about it—just sit tight and see what happens. We have been wondering, however, where the decision will end and if it will touch us."

Describing the work of prison chaplains as a "very wonderful service," the Justice Department expressed the view that the Court's ban would not interfere with religious activities there.

However, Major General Thomas H. Green, Army Adjutant General, admitted that the decision is being studied carefully. At West Point and Annapolis, where care and mishapmen attend compulsory chapel services conducted by government-financed chaplains in government-owned chapels, the situation was regarded as "definitely open to attack."

Most optimistic were Agriculture Department school lunch officials who declared they were confident the Court's decision would not interfere with their distribution of federal funds to Catholic schools.

It was pointed out that the school lunch law requires that funds be distributed to all non-profit schools "regardless of race, color or creed."

On one point most spokesmen here agree—that the Supreme Court's opinion has added more to the general confusion than it has to the answering of the many questions currently arising.

Christian Culture Award To Dr. Pattee

Windsor, Ont. — (NC) — Dr. Richard Pattee, director of the Inter-American Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, has been awarded the 1948 Christian Culture Award Medal given annually "to some outstanding lay exponent of Christian ideals." It was announced here today by Assumption College, bestower of the award.

Dr. Pattee will be presented the medal here on May 2. Previous recipients include Sigrid Undstad, Jacques-Maritain, Philip Murray, Frank J. Sheel, Arnold M. Walter, Henry Ford II and Dr. George Sperli.

Good Friday Law Proposed

Washington — (RNS) — A bill to make Good Friday a legal holiday throughout the United States was introduced by Rep. Lansdale G. Sasser of Maryland.

Pointing out that already 15 states observe the day either by legislation or proclamation, Sasser said there was "marked, progressive increase in the observance of Good Friday in this country."

Of all the large "Christian countries" of the world, Sasser said, the United States is the only one not recognizing Good Friday as a legal holiday.

Irish Partition Seen Peace Curb

Dublin — (NC) — The continued partition of Ireland weakens "the defenses of western civilization," said Prime Minister John Costello in a broadcast.

"While partition persists," he said, "the sympathy of our race in the United States and in the other great countries to which I speak, cannot be expected to be fully directed toward the task of helping European recovery ..."

The world cannot afford to let the unnatural partition of our country distract the generous sympathies of the Irish race from the task of contributing toward European recovery.

Similar views are reported here to have been expressed by Eamon de Valera during his American tour, by Sean MacBride, Irish Minister for External Affairs when he attended the Paris conference on European aid under the Marshall Plan, and by Irish speakers at many St. Patrick's Day celebrations in Great Britain.

An anti-partition demonstration planned for St. Patrick's Day in Derry, Northern Ireland, was banned by the Belfast authorities.

Gold Coast



Sister Margaret Mary



Sister Raphael

Bound for a convent and a dispensary on a site given to them by the native chief at Berekuin, Gold Coast, West Africa, are these four Medical Mission Sisters from their motherhouse at Fox Chase, Philadelphia, Pa.: Sister Margaret Mary Van Armatel, of Hart, Mich.; Sister Marcella De Brui, M. D., Cincinnati; Sister Raphael Devane, Chicago, and Sister Paula D'Ercole, Franklin, Mass. (NC Photos)

Drive For Cradles Nets 77,000 Cribbs

Paris — A total of 77,000 cradles and many thousands of layettes and other material for babies were received during the "Campaign of the Cradles" conducted throughout France by the Secours Catholique, national Catholic charities organization.

The most beautiful of the cradles were placed on exhibition in one of the large stores on the famous Champs Elysees, among them several made by students at the School of Fine Arts. A magnificent cradle, copied from an 18th century model, was sent by cabinet-makers of Verdun.

Italian Priest Preaches To Stem Red Tide

Varese City — (NC) — To call the people of Italy to Catholic principles and to the service of Catholic Doctrine, that is the sole aim of a remarkable spiritual apostolate of the Rev. Riccardo Lombardi, 37, an excellent orator and an outstanding priest who, particularly in these fearful weeks, attracts tens of thousands of listeners all over the country.

Father Lombardi, who is held in highest regard here, has been engaged in his spiritual apostolate for years past and he is now engaged in political propaganda of some variety in the present press campaign to imply the people work is of a purely religious nature.

If there are any political implications in Father Lombardi's apostolate they are merely indirect ones, arising from the fact that Communism and Communist teaching is a form of religion, and that the Jesuit priest never ceases to emphasize the incompatibility of Catholicism with atheism in any form whatsoever. By recalling the Catholicism to the practice of his religion, he at least indirectly weakens Communist strength.

The tremendous crowds attracted everywhere by Father Lombardi's sermons are a clear indication of the lively interest his appeal has for the Italian masses and serve to counteract the Communist propaganda line that good Catholics can also be Communists.

Although it is difficult to judge at present the concrete, indirect effect of Father Lombardi's apostolate on the outcome of the April 18 elections, his effect of reviving the practice of Catholic teaching among those who are indifferent, confused or misinstructed are regarded as generally beneficial, particularly under the present circumstances.

Passed On to be Remembered — New Orleans — (NC) — The pairing of historic St. Joseph Chapel, built in fulfillment of a promise made by 7 priest when the parishioners were agitated during the devastating yellow fever and cholera epidemic of 1817, has been sanctioned by Archbishop Joseph F. Ruffini of New Orleans.

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VERY DREAMY, white rayon crepe with ruffled capelet accented with run lace beading. 32-38.

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