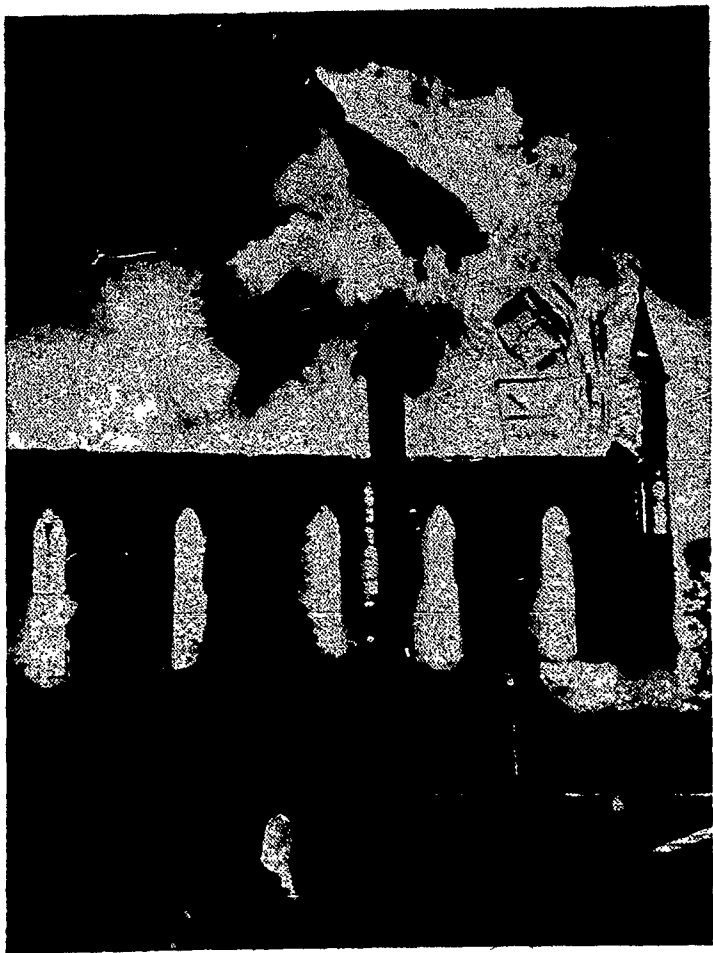


## A Steeple Topples



The steeple of St. Joseph's Catholic Church, Brimfield, Ill., toppling into the burning structure during the disastrous fire which completely destroyed the church. Rev. Thomas C. Harrison, pastor, was able to remove the Blessed Sacrament. Some of the Mass vestments and furnishings were saved. AP. (NC Photos.)

## 'Stop Secularism Tide' Nazareth Told

Only an awareness of the dangers in the current "secularist philosophy" and a "reinvigoration of the religious bases of democracy" will stem the onrushing tide of totalitarianism in America, the Rev. Allen P. Farrell, S. J., associate editor of "America," national Catholic weekly, warned 80 graduates of Nazareth College at commencement exercises in the college gymnasium Wednesday afternoon.

(Other Story on Page 1)

Speaking on "Who Will Educate Your Children?" the well-known Jesuit editor asserted: "If the trend toward secularism in this country continues its march toward totalitarianism, your children and the children of America will become wards of the state within the next generation. If totalitarianism comes to this country, it will come not by way of Communism as much as by way of a secularism which is being erected into a religion and a way of life.

"The inevitable result," Father Farrell continued, "will be a declaration that religious education and religious schools are unconstitutional—thus destroying freedom of education. Shortly thereafter will come the destruction of freedom of religion and other democratic freedoms."

FIVE "GREAT CAUSES" of increasing secularism were listed by the priest, as follows:

1. The absolute secularists, for whom secularism itself is a religion, who deny all dogma except their own dogma of naturalism and call all others "authoritarian and antidemocratic." Among such adherents he mentioned John Dewey, Sidney Hook, Horace Kallen and the ethical culture groups headed by W. T. Thayer.

2. The statist, who hold to one public school system, declaring that private and parochial schools are "unnecessary duplication of public school efforts and (2) a divisive factor in American democracy." This group, he added, "confuses unity with uniformity—the latter a totalitarian ideal."

3. Those Protestants who, until the recent Champaign decision, were all for public schools only, in which thousands of Protestant ministers teach, in which the Protestant Bible is taught and which Protestants by and large control. This group, Father Farrell contended, "now is facing the dilemma of finding an antidote for the secularism in public schools."

4. "Public school people who fear that public school education will lose dominance and that they will lose their jobs or be forced to accept private school employment at smaller salaries."

5. "So-called Catholics, who not only don't send their children to parochial schools when there is room for them, but call the parochial school system divisive and inferior."

AGAINST THESE efforts of "secularists in education" the Jesuit educator listed four required objectives:

1. A realization by Catholics of the extent of secularism and therefore an awareness of its dangers to themselves.

2. A restoration and reinvigoration of the religious bases of democracy—a recognition that

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## Primate Hits Terror Rule In Hungary

(Other Story on Page 3)

Budapest — (NC) — Arraigning the Hungarian Government for misrepresentation of the Catholic attitude concerning current problems of the nation, His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, has issued a pastoral warning the faithful of misrepresentation of the Church in government news, papers and radio broadcasts.

"To the bitter disgrace of this country," the Cardinal said, "falsehood, deceit and terror were never greater in the course of its history."

Conflict in Hungary at present centers in the proposed plan of the government to nationalize all the Catholic schools of the nation. Cardinal Mindszenty recently issued a pastoral on this question, expressing unalterable opposition of the Church to deprivation of the right of parents to educate their children in schools of their choice and the plan to deprive them of Church schools.

DURING A DEBATE in parliament on the proposed plan, a leftist deputy made a personal attack on His Holiness Pope Pius XII, shouting in the assembly: "He is not the representative of Jesus, but of the capitalists!"

Commenting on the incident, New Mass organ of Hungarian Catholic Action, called it "the cause of great consternation for the Hungarian Catholic public." The paper relates that "only hours afterwards was an indignant reprimand audible from the seat of the chairman."

THE MINISTRY of the Interior has blamed the Church in its opposition to the plan to establish a state monopoly of education for an outbreak of rioting which it said, occurred in the village of Jocsopet. The Ministry of the Interior said a policeman had been killed in the affray.

In his latest pastoral (Cardinal Mindszenty stated that the bishops of Hungary are united in their efforts to defend the rights of religion.

## BOYS TOWN HAILS TRUMAN

Boys Town, Neb. (NC) — President Harry S. Truman honored Boys Town with a one-hour visit Saturday. It was the first time a President of the United States has ever visited Boys Town.

President Truman placed a wreath on the sarcophagus of Father Flanagan in the Dowd Memorial Chapel after hearing a special sacred concert by the Boys Town Choral Choir.

The President was given a rousing welcome upon his arrival. With the Boys Town Band playing "Hail to the Chief," and the boys holding placards and banners of welcome, some of the boys who work on the farm here rode two Missouri mules as signs of welcome. The President got a chuckle out of this.

Speaking to the boys, President Truman urged them to take advantage of their opportunities at Boys Town, so that they may be prepared for the opportunities which await them in later life. The Chief Executive paid high tribute to the memory of Boys Town's founder.

## Japanese Bishops Plan Charities Unit

Tokyo — (NC) — Prominent among decisions reached at the recent annual meeting of the Japanese Hierarchy here was the creation of a National Charities Association which will be known as "Caritas" and will serve to coordinate the work of all the charitable and social agencies directed by the Church throughout the nation.

Of international significance are the plans for the celebration of the fourth centenary of St. Francis Xavier's arrival in Japan, next year. A special sub-committee is being established within the National Catholic Committee to arrange the program for a nationwide observance of the centenary and it is expected that, conditions permitting, a large number of pilgrims from Europe and America will take part in the ceremonies.

## Dionne Quints Mark 14th Birthday at Mass

Corbelle, Ont. (NC) — The Dionne Quintuplets observed their 14th birthday with a family party after attending Mass offered by Archbishop Alexandre Vachon of Ottawa in the private chapel, during which the Quints and their companion students sang. The family all received Holy Communion.

The Quints have been busily studying for their entrance into high school next year. They will continue their schooling under the Sisters of the Assumption.

## POPE PROCLAIMS HOLY YEAR IN '50

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has told the Sacred College of Cardinals and "the whole Catholic universe" that "in the year 1950 the 25th Holy Year in the history of the Church will be celebrated, if so pleases the Lord, according to the prescriptions sanctioned by sacred tradition."

With this announcement Pope Pius brought to a close his address to the members of the Sacred College of Cardinals who had gathered to offer him their well wishes on his name-day, the Feast of St. Eugene, who was Pope I and occupied the Chair of Peter from 654 to 657.

It was a ringing discourse that called for "just and necessary social reforms" to be put into effect.

Full text of Pope's speech on Page 11.

fect in the world in order to overcome the problems brought on by "the ruin and revolution of the war and its aftermath."

In proclaiming the Holy Year, Pope Pius expressed the hope that "after the sad times that have just passed, filled to the cup brim with sorrow and anguish, may this really Holy Year, by the grace of the Most High, and through the intercession of the august Mother of God, the Prince of the Apostles and of all the Saints, be for the human family a harbinger of a new era of peace, prosperity and progress."

"May the days of the Holy Year," the Holy Father continued, "be a time when we shall be able to pray with a single heart pastor and flock, Rome and the Catholic world, address to God: 'Give us joy for the days in which Thou hast humbled us, for the years in which we have suffered misfortunes.'"

## Vatican Note Backs Envoy

Nuremberg — (NC) — A letter by Vatican authorities figures prominently in the defense of Baron Ernst von Weizsaecker, former German Ambassador to the Holy See, who is on trial here before an International Military Tribunal on war crimes charges.

Together with a number of affidavits given by priests and religious which are said to support the contention of the defense that von Weizsaecker assisted the Pope in saving Rome from destruction and that he helped to save many persecuted persons from death, the Vatican document is included in a 106-page volume that has been prepared by the defense for introduction as evidence.

The Vatican letter, dated February 18, 1948, states that von Weizsaecker:

"(1) Took an active part in the negotiations to make the demilitarization of Rome an actual fact and to get certain places, such as for instance Siena, Assisi and Chieti, recognized as hospital cities;

"(2) Assisted the direct efforts to bring to places of safety historical, bibliographical and artistic prints and documents especially in the region of the province of Lazio;

"(3) Used his endeavors to get several death sentences pronounced by the German military tribunals commuted and to induce the German military authorities to issue protective documents to the religious institutions in Rome to the personnel of the Pontifical departments and to the members of the Palatine Guard."

## Nazis Planned to Remove Pope From Rome in 1944

Nuremberg — (NC) — Plans of Nazi henchmen for the forcible evacuation of the Pope to Germany or some neutral country, like Liechtenstein, after Rome became an open city in 1944 were thwarted by Baron Ernst von Weizsaecker, according to testimony of the former German elite guard General Karl Wolff in the trial of the former German diplomat to the Vatican.

G. Hoffmann Guenther, former chief of the Vatican division in the German foreign office, testified that the evacuation of Rome by the Germans was achieved only against strong opposition of Nazi leaders who argued that "if Berlin is being destroyed why should Rome fare better?"

Other evidence introduced at the trial purported to show that the bombing raid over Vatican City territory, late in 1943, was engineered by Alberto Farinacci, then secretary general of the Italian Fascist party. At the time, Vatican authorities identified the bombs as being of British origin. Farinacci had tried to blame the Allies for the violation of Vatican neutrality.

## Seven Children of Bormann, No. 1 Hitler Aide, Enter Church

By MAX JORDAN

Ingolstadt, Bavaria — (NC) — Seven of the eight children of the man who was Adolf Hitler's deputy and one of the bitterest foes of the Church in Germany have become Catholics. That is the amazing story I was told by one of the sons of Martin Bormann, 18-year-old Adolf Martin Bormann, when I interviewed him at the "Carlsruhe Konvikt" here, a Catholic boys' high school.

Young Bormann was in a Nazi school in Bavaria when the war was close to its end. With a group of SS troops he escaped to Austria, but the soldiers left him behind on a Tyrolean farm.

"One day," he told me, "I picked up a booklet in my host's living room. It was a Catholic pamphlet and I read it just because there wasn't anything else to read. It aroused by interest. One of the maid servants of the farm had brought the booklet from the church book rack, and now I wondered whether all I had been taught about Catholicism wasn't a distortion of the facts. The shock of Germany's sudden collapse may have added to my bewilderment."

YOUNG BORMANN sat there in the principal's study and talked quietly. Perhaps, he looked a bit too serious for a lad of his age, yet he was entirely at ease and willing to answer all questions. Father Henry Hofbeck in charge of the school had told me before that the boy had become a convert to the Church a year ago and was now one of the most zealous among the pupils.

"Frequently we find him in the chapel as early as five o'clock in the morning, and often as late as 10 o'clock at night. He prays for hours at a time, and it seems that he has a subconscious desire to atone for the evils his father and so many of his associates are responsible for," the priest said.

"How did you happen to become a Catholic?" I asked young Bormann.

"Well," he answered, "after I had read that booklet I happened to visit a nearby pilgrimage center of the Missionary Fathers of the Sacred Heart. There I had

an opportunity to talk to the Fathers and soon I decided that I wanted to become of their faith."

"WHAT DID your family say when they heard of it?"

"With the exception of one brother who is still non-religious, all became Catholics, too."

"You mean to say all your brothers and sisters came into the Church with you?"

"No, they came in on their own."

It seemed incredible. Of Martin Bormann's ten children, eight remain alive, four girls and four boys. What prompted them to discard their allegiance to the Nazi tenets, of which their father was so prominent and fanatical a proponent? Young Bormann has the whole story. His mother had sought refuge in a summer home of the Bormann family

near Meran, Tyrol, at the end of the war. She fell ill, was taken to a German army hospital in that Austrian city and became acquainted with the Rev. Theodor Schmidt, the Catholic chaplain. He is now a parish priest in the Berlin suburb of Neukölln.

"Father Schmidt was very kind to mother," related young Bormann. "There was a Protestant chaplain, too, but when my mother's condition became serious she asked to see the Catholic priest even though nominally she was a Protestant. On her deathbed she begged Father Schmidt to look after her children."

"MY MOTHER DIED," young Bormann continued, "and my three brothers and four sisters came to be very close to Father Schmidt who was kind and helpful to them even though he never made any effort to win them over to his faith. Eventually, as I said, all except one of my brothers asked to be received into the Church. Two of my sisters now are studying in the Meran convent of the 'English Ladies' and hope to become teachers."

"And what happened to yourself?"

"The Missionary Fathers of the Sacred Heart took me to their home near Salzburg when I expressed the desire to finish my high school studies. From there I was sent to this school here where several boys are preparing to become seminarians of that order."

"It has been reported," I said, "that you yourself want to become a priest."

"That is correct," answered young Bormann. "I hope to become a missionary."

Of his father young Bormann seems to know nothing. He assumes that he is dead, but doesn't know for sure.

"Wouldn't it be an outstanding manifestation of Divine providence," said one of the priest teachers, "if the very man who was one of the bitterest foes of the Catholic Church in Germany were to leave behind children who now accept the very faith their father despised and if one of them even were to become a priest?"

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