

Fr. Lombardi Italy's 'Man Of God,' Article Contends

Father Lombardi, whose "Crusade of Love" has engulfed all Italy, is a messenger of God who has communicated his enthusiasm for God's cause to millions of Italians and has drawn the attention of the whole world to the renovation he is working in Italy.

That is the secret of the Italian people's great success, says James T. Griffin, E.J., in an article appearing in the August issue of "The Messenger of the Sacred Heart."

"When Father Lombardi speaks a nation listens," writes Father Griffin. "His fragile dark figure and round expressive face are familiar to Italians. He is impassioned, sincere, rich in sympathy and sure of himself."

"STRANGELY ENOUGH, Father is not an orator in the usual sense. His voice, tone and gesture are modest. He possesses no flare for a phrase or a glowing period. But he is a profound thinker and an ardent patriot. His books are proof of the first truth: his words mirror a warm, deep love of his country."

Father Griffin continues: "But his surprising success is due to more than these two natural gifts of his."

thought and patriotism. It might be summed up in the spontaneous comment made by a group of students who were reading the story of how St. Stephen seemed like an angel to his listeners. Simply, the young people blurted out, "Just like Father Lombardi."

"This unwearying priest is a man of faith, of hope and of charity in marked degree," Father Griffin asserts. "He is also a man of penance and poverty, who does not worry about the morrow, thinking neither of his mode of transportation up and down the Italian boot nor of his food. Yet, he usually arrives on time, a rare virtue in Italy, and he talks for long stretches many times a week."

"ABOVE ALL, Father Lombardi is a man of prayer. When he travels, whether by train or plane, he usually is preoccupied with mental prayer, spending as long as six hours in this interior labor of love on his frequent trips from Milan to Rome. In a word, he is a man of God, dedicated to God and commonly believed to be dedicated by God to a great work."

Father Griffin reports on a revealing conversation he had with a horny-handed laborer after Father Lombardi spoke in Rome: "Italy needed a man like Father Lombardi," the laborer said, and "God gave him to us. I can only say 'Grazie!'"

Like this laborer, adds Father Griffin, millions of Italians are giving thanks for Father Lombardi.

School Problem Still Unsolved In Hungary

Budapest—(NC)—Denying erroneous reports in the entire Hungarian press that negotiations are being carried on between Catholic authorities and the Minister of Public Instruction, Julius Ortutay, on the school issue, the Hungarian Courier, Catholic news service, states that no Bishop has seen Ortutay and that only several heads of teaching Orders have discussed with him questions not yet clarified in connection with the recent order nationalizing their schools.

"NO ONE MEMBER of the Board of Bishops is negotiating with the Minister," the Courier states. "Some leaders of teaching Orders, Abbot Endreasy of the Benedictines, the Rev. Alexander Sik, Piarist Provincial, and the Rev. Borbely, Jesuit Provincial, led by Menezert Kurth, former director of Catholic schools, visited the Minister only to discuss certain as yet unclarified questions in connection with the nationalization of their schools. One nun was present. Nothing else was discussed."

Arrest of three priests, Father Paul Nemeth, pastor of Ordasoh, Father Anthony Boles, pastor of Orogovany, and Father Lewis Varsal, pastor of Rad, and of Odon Lomard, educator and secretary of the cultural section of Catholic Action, has been announced by the newspaper, Free People.

It is stated these arrests have been made under the law enacted in 1946 for defense of the republic and that the accused have been taken into custody "on account of anti-democratic attitudes."

THE NEWSPAPER further states that investigations have shown that Lenard published several circulars and pamphlets opposing nationalization of schools and that these writings "seriously slandered our democratic order of the State." The three priests, also accused of "inciting against democracy," were taken before the people's attorney before being placed in prison.

The newspaper Hirly reports that the people's attorney has issued a formal accusation against Dr. Lewis Mezgar, Papi Chamberlain and pastor of Budapest, a town near Budapest, accusing him also of "anti-democratic crimes."

In the absence of Magr. Mihalovics, director of Hungarian Catholic Action, and of Lenard, the administration of Catholic Action is being carried on by the Rev. John Eard.

Gala Pope's Portrait Tokyo—(NC)—The rev. Joseph Hajos, a leading figure in Japanese social work, presented an autographed photograph of Pope Pius XII to the Emperor and Empress of Japan during an hour-long audience granted him by Their Majesties.

At Franciscan Educational Meeting



Some of the foreign delegates to the 29th meeting of the Franciscan Educational Conference, held at St. Joseph's Seminary, Westmont, Ill., are welcomed by the officers. Left to right: Rev. Iraneus Herscher, O.F.M., St. Bonaventure, N. Y., treasurer; Rev. Basil Heiser, O.F.M. Con, Carey, Ohio, vice-president; Rev. John Kraffle, S.T.D., Jugoslavia; Rev. Plus Barin, O.F.M. Cap., Washington, secretary, and Rev. Louis Caldera, O.F.M., Mexico. (NC Photos.)

U. S. Catholic Youth Leaders To Join London Conference

Washington—(NC)—Seven American Catholic youth leaders will travel to London this summer to attend the world youth conference sponsored by the British Council of Social Service. Along with delegates from the YMCA, YWCA, National Jewish Welfare Board, 4-H clubs and other organizations, they will represent the United States in conferences with young people from 30 nations.

It is hoped that a continuing organization will be formed at the London meeting, which will be held from August 12 to 19. The principal all-embracing international youth group in existence today is the World Federation of Democratic Youth, widely criticized for its leftist policy.

ONE OF THE leading British supporters of the London conference is His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster. Several of the sectional meetings will be held under the chairmanship of British Catholic youth leaders. The American Catholic delegation, which sails from New York on the "youth ship" S. S. Marine Tiger 24 under the leader-

Chilean Cardinal Backs Labor Rights

Santiago de Chile—(CIP)—Freedom for the labor unions, better wages, and an adequate housing program for persons with low incomes were the outstanding demands made by Jose Maria Cardinal Caro Rodriguez in a written statement given the press. Addressed to people of Chile, the Cardinal's message applied the principles which Pope Pius XII had emphasized in his Address to the College of Cardinals (June 2) to conditions in Chile. The Cardinal's statement is of particular significance in view of the restrictive measures taken by the Chilean Government against labor unions as a result of Communist inspired strikes.

"It is just," the Cardinal declared, "that those who are directly affected by living conditions jeopardizing their human dignity should have the right to defend themselves and to work for the improvement of their living standards. The Pope therefore, have pointed out that workers have the right, under natural law, to establish their defense and the moral as well as the material improvement of their members. . . . The State must not and may not, in justice—oppose the labor unions because their existence is based on a natural right of the human person."

Establishment of diplomatic relations between the Vatican and India was announced several weeks ago. The Apostolic Nunciature will be established at Delhi, India. The Apostolic Delegation was located at Bangalore, Mysore, India India's representation at the Vatican will have the rank of a Legation.

Indian Embassy officials in Washington, D. C., stated that Dhirajlal B. Desai, present Indian Minister to Switzerland, will also serve as India's envoy at that country's newly established legation at the Vatican. A Hindu and a native of Bombay, the new envoy will maintain his residence in Switzerland and visit his office at the Vatican at intervals, embassy officials said.

New Delhi, India—(NC) Both the Catholic and secular press in this new nation are hailing the establishment of diplomatic relations between India and the Vatican as a forward step that will benefit both.

The Hindu, a non-Christian daily of Madras, declares that the "India Government will find the Papal Nunciature a support for their endeavors in the matter of creating communal harmony, ensuring social welfare and sowing the seeds of world peace."

ON GUARD

(Continued from Pg. 1) the vital rail center and the church in which the famed Pope Pius IX is entombed. The American press took great pains to defend the bombing of the Eternal City and heaped praise on the scrupulous efforts of Allied airmen to avoid hitting any of the city's sacred institutions.

Like New York Times correspondent Herbert Matthews, who was on the raid, the American press argued that Rome, hitherto inviolate because it was the sacred city of Catholicism and all Christendom, could no longer be ignored in the military strategy of the war. It was the chief bottleneck for supplies from Germany and northern Italy.

American editorial writers argued, too, that Rome was not only the Eternal City but also the world capital of Fascism. It was a city seized and held hostage by unprincipled adventurers. It was the center of the Fascist system which had declared war to the death against our democratic way of life.

Perhaps the Allied bombing of Rome was a military necessity. Later on someone may come forth to condemn the military necessity of the venture. For the present we can only accept the wartime testimony of Allied leaders and the assurances of American war reporters.

THE DAY THAT the Allies bombed Rome was also the day that Pontiff Pius XII wept in her ancient and hallowed streets. Precedent was shattered when the noble and white-rasped figure of the Holy Father appeared in Rome's streets in the early evening of the day that the city was bombed.

At five o'clock the Pontiff appeared, accompanied solely by Monsignor Montini, his aide, and without escort or cortege. He walked directly to the bombed Basilica of San Lorenzo where he knelt for a few moments in prayer.

On foot he continued through the bombed district, one of the most populated in Rome, consoling and blessing his people. Mussolini, Italy's Fascist leader, did not walk in the streets of Rome that night. Only Pius XII walked with his people through the shadows of evening and the debris of a war-torn Rome.

That is what the war correspondents aboard the Allied bombers did not see. The Pope of Rome standing courageously in the City's wrecked streets—a symbol of the imperishability of the Eternal City. Pius XII's dramatic appearance among his frightened people spoke an eloquent truth—Rome will always be the City of the Pope. Neither bombs or war can change that. Rome is the Pope!

100 Priests to Tour Britain In Conversion Campaign

London—(NC)—More than 100 priests from many parts of Britain and Ireland will sacrifice their vacation this summer to become roving home missionaries in rural Oxfordshire in a conversion campaign without precedent in this country.

They will rove through the picturesque villages and hamlets scattered over the country's 750 square miles, living where they can, in cottages, inns, tents, carrying the Mass with them as they go, preaching the faith through areas for many centuries forgotten to the Catholic religion.

During the next two months these missionaries of the byways intend to make a house-to-house canvass of every dwelling in Oxfordshire, outside the university town of Oxford. Mass will be said in houses or in the open air. Sermons will be preached in village streets. Confessions will be heard, if necessary in the people's own homes.

In many places Mass will be offered for the first time since the Reformation of 400 years ago. Old abandoned Mass centers will be revived.

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