

Dutch Bishops Say:

Catholic Faith Is Only Way of Unity

Amsterdam — (NC) — The following is first half of text of the pastoral letter of the Dutch Hierarchy which was read in all Catholic churches of Holland on the day on which the World Council of Churches meeting opened here.

Many non-Catholic Christians are uneasy with regard to religious dissensions among Christians. They conceive that dissension is in contradiction with the Lord's mandate and is certain to have fatal consequences on the well-being of mankind.

FROM THE UNBORNNESS sprang the ecumenical movement, which seeks a new religious unity of all who acknowledged Christ as God and Savior. This movement took shape shortly before the recent World War, as a result of the foundation of the World Council of Churches, and the American Congress will be the first biennial meeting.

There is no participation, dear brethren, by the Catholic Church, though the Church more than anyone else, desires the religious dissensions of Christians and to allow the fatal consequences.

The Church is ready to admit that this striving after a new religious unity is animated by the good purpose of many. Nevertheless she feels it necessary to remain aloof from participation in the Amsterdam Congress. This decision is not based on a fear of being prestige nor on any other tactical consideration; the attitude arises solely from the Church's realization that she must remain unflexibly loyal to the task Christ imposed upon her.

THE CHURCH is one, holy, catholic and apostolic, founded by Christ that the work of salvation would be continued by her until the end of the world. The Church is Christ's Mystical Body and she is indestructible. This unity exists in her, for Christ promised that the gates of hell would not prevail against her.

Therefore, the end way to bring the dissension of Christians to an end is to return to the Church and to the unity always kept in her.

Suppose the Church were to participate in endeavors to create a new religious unity and on a feeling of equality at that. It would be an admission that the unity ordered by Christ is not to be found in her and that the Church is not His true Church. The Church can never admit that, for it is not Christ's only Holy Church, one Mystical Body and one Bride.

THE CHURCH, by the very

Belgian Girls Aid China Lame

Nanking, China — (NC) — Although during most of the week they are looking out for new words in the Chinese language, several young women from Belgium spend three afternoons a week looking out for the lame and the ailing in Nanking's streets.

The girls, members of a youthful Catholic missionary group called the Lay Auxiliaries of the Mission, last April opened their "Dispensary of True Charity" in conjunction with their language school. Two of the Auxiliaries are nurses. A physician attends the dispensary. The equipment at the start consisted of some medicines the girls had brought from Belgium and a poster at the door.

In three months 4,000 patients have come to the dispensary.

alcoholism, goes on teaching that the unity willed by Christ has been preserved in her and that in her this unity remains accessible to all.

Besides, a real unity required a unity of faith. This is seen more clearly now by many of the ecumenical movement. In Christ, He has commissioned Peter and the other Apostles and their successors to preach the Gospel in His name and with His authority. He that hears His word, hears Me. He has promised them the assistance of the Holy Ghost. By the power of the Holy Ghost, as successors of Peter and the other Apostles, kept inviolate the revealed truth and preached it with unfailing authority.

They will do this until the Lord returns. Whoever accepts their word accepts the word of Christ and thus enters into a unity of faith. How could the Pope and Bishops discuss together with others whether they have misunderstood the word of God's revelation and have announced human inventions as Divine truth?

This would be on the same footing as disbeliever in the promise of Christ or doubt in the power of the Holy Ghost. No, they must go Christ with unfailing authority and so keep the unity of faith.

Prelate Tried



Msgr. Sigismund Mihalovics, central director of Hungarian Catholic Action, has been subjected to a summary trial by a so-called People's Court in Budapest, even though he was not present to be brought before the court. A sentence of 19 years imprisonment and other penalties were ordered in what is interpreted as a drive to crush Catholic Action in Hungary (NC Photo.)

Motorcade Escorts 'Pilgrim Virgin'

St. Meinrad, Ind. — (NC) — A ten-mile-long motorcade of 800 cars escorted the "Pilgrim Virgin" duplicate of the original Fatima statue, on its 33-mile trip from West Baden, Ind., to St. Meinrad's Abbey here for the Fatima Week celebrations. The ceremonies will end August 30.

Thousands of people viewed the statue as it passed through various cities, carried on a special float depicting the original scene at Fatima in which the Blessed Virgin appeared to three Portuguese children. About 8,000 people greeted the statue on its arrival.

On the Feast of the Assumption more than 25,000 visitors came to the abbey to view the "Pilgrim Virgin" and pray for the conversion of Russia and for world peace. More than 100 buses — every available one within a radius of 100 miles — was chartered by various groups to visit the abbey.

U. S. Chaplain's Rome Seminary Slayer Spared Death Penalty

Tokyo, Japan — (NC) — There seems to be an element of doubt among Tokyo's citizenry, policed by the United States occupational forces, since Army Pfc. William C. Manis, 20, of Church Hill, Tenn., was spared from the death sentence and ordered to life imprisonment by a military commission which tried him for the murder last April 5 of the Rev. John A. Ryan, of Albany, N. Y., Army chaplain with the rank of Captain.

The sentence is subject to revision by higher authority. But, apart from the question of the soldier's guilt—the nature of the evidence produced at the trial, details of which were published in the local press, coupled with knowledge of Father Ryan's vigorous drive for clean living by the occupation forces has convinced many Japanese that he died a martyr-like death defending the angelic virtue.

Testimony at the trial disclosed that the soldier shot the chaplain three times, while they engaged in an argument outside Sugamo Prison, during which the priest insisted that the soldier cease his attentions to a Japanese girl. The girl, Reiko Mano, told the story of the shooting and identified Private Manis as the slayer.

The need for the campaign for clean living among the U. S. occupation forces, upon which Father Ryan was so insistent, is evident in a home for babies, visited three days ago. Nearly 300 babies, whose features brand them as aliens in any country, were here received at this home within little more than a year.

The prosecution's chief witness, Reiko Mano, admitted at the trial that she made her living associating with Allied personnel. She testified that she is the mother of a "GI baby" and said that Father Ryan furnished canned milk for her offspring. The evidence was reminiscent of complaints which have been made by some young American soldiers, who declared they had been subjected to ridicule because they refused to have illicit relations with Japanese girls.

The whole picture seems a sad commentary on the failure of American families to instill moral discipline in their children, destined to become the future leaders of the United States, and on the danger of sending "teen-age soldiers abroad in peacetime."

Bicycles Blessed in Quebec. Reversal, Que. (NC) — In an annual ceremony the Rev. Antonin Simard, parish priest, blessed 200 bicycles in the street before the church here.

Rome Seminary Transferred To U. S. Hierarchy

Rome — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Plus XII has transferred the Orsini Palace, which has housed the North American College since its start in 1859, to the American Bishops. The building is now being modernized at a cost of more than half a million dollars.

In 1859 Pope Plus IX granted the use of this building to the Bishops of the United States for training American students for the priesthood. Now as a result of the decision of the Holy Father, published in a Rescript of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, the ownership of this valuable property in the Via Dell' Umiltà passes from the Holy See to the American Hierarchy.

"UP TO THE present we have enjoyed the use of the building," Bishop Martin J. O'Connor, Rector, said in an interview today, "but we did not own it because the full legal title was vested in the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith."

"In view of the fact," he continued, "that the Bishops are renovating the College at a cost of more than half a million dollars, through the Board of Trustees of which Cardinal Dougherty is chairman they petitioned the Holy Father for transfer of the title."

Bishop O'Connor then added that the U. S. Bishops offered to the Propagation Congregation their rights to the use and ownership of portions of land on the Janiculum Hill now used or occupied by the Congregation for its Urban College.

"THE HOLY FATHER," he said, "was favorably impressed by the petition and he immediately granted it."

The Rector pointed out the significance of the Holy Father's action in this matter. "It is clear," he said, "from this and many other acts that His Holiness has great affection for the United States, and that in this decision so important to the College His Holiness is pleased to show his appreciation of the loyalty and generosity of the American Bishops, clergy and faithful."

Boy Scouts Jamboree In Africa



Lord Rowallan, Chief Scout of the British Commonwealth was among those attending the first Scout Jamboree in British West Africa, held recently on the grounds of St. Gregory's College, Lagos, capital of Nigeria. Among the 1,200 Scouts were contingents from Sierra Leone, the Gold Coast and Bornu, one thousand miles away. In the photo, the Guard of Honor is shown kissing the ring of Archbishop Matew, Apostolic Delegate, following a service in Holy Cross Cathedral, Lagos. (NC Photos.)

Polish Reds Start New Clergy Trials

The Polish Communist regime has initiated a new series of arrests and trials of Catholic priests. This time, however, only a few of them are accused of political "crimes". The majority are being charged with alleged financial and moral offenses.

Some of the Polish trials are similar to the "currency trials" and "immorality trials" under the Nazi regime in 1938 and 1937.

THE MOST RECENT arrests and condemnations have been the following:

Father Joseph Kotula, Pastor of Lornice, Silesia, was arrested for "illegal sale of medicines not properly acquired".

Father Lowinski, a Warsaw pastor, was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment on a "common crime" charge, July 19.

The members of a religious Order (unnamed so far) were sentenced to 4 and 3 years' imprisonment respectively on "immorality" charges, July 27.

A third priest, a defendant in the same trial, was acquitted because at the trial the principal prosecution witness withdrew all statements made during the investigation. The public prosecutor ordered the arrest of the witness.

FATHER STANISLAW Kozłowski, Pastor of Krzywona, in the Cracow Archdiocese, was sentenced to imprisonment by the Cracow Military Court for having sheltered a young Pole who was allegedly a member of an anti-Government organization.

Father Michael Nerek, Pastor of Krywlina, Upper Silesia, was sentenced to 4 years' imprisonment by the Military Court of Katowice under the three fold charge of "sabotage", "attacks against the Communist Party", and "provocation to mutiny".

The "sabotage" consisted in the fact that he had special prayers said for the Poles who perished in Siberia, among them his own mother and brother.

Honor Catholic Physicist Washington — (NC) — Dr. Karl F. Herzfeld, a physicist of the Catholic University of America, was awarded an Army-Navy Certificate of Appreciation here in recognition of his scientific contribution to the World War II effort.

British and German Tots Play Together in Ireland

Dublin — (NC) — When 16 German children, spending a vacation at the Irish Red Cross camp at Glencree, were informed some time ago that they would be joined by young British children, their first question was "Will they bring bombs?"

The reaction of the 120 London children when told they would spend their holidays with German children was: "What will they do to us?" Today the children have forgotten their fears and are just chatting with the children.

children, natives of the Ruhr, speak fluent English and when excited break into a mixture of German and English spoken with an Irish accent.

The Londoners are the children of Irish parents who emigrated to England. Ranging in age from 10 to 14 years, they are at Glencree under an arrangement between the Catholic Care Committee Workers' Association in London and the Irish Red Cross.

A recent visitor at the camp was Bishop Patrick Lyons of Killmore who spent about two hours chatting with the children.

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