

Slovak Faithful Put Crucifixes In Factories

BRATISLAVA (NC) — Workers in Slovakia, including those in nationalized factories, are determined to demonstrate openly their traditional staunch Catholicism. A movement, started about a year ago, to install crucifixes in workshops has now spread to several hundred factories. The latest instance being the Slovak cotton mills at Kocmarov, a nationalized enterprise.

THE WORKINGMEN and women raise the money to buy the crucifixes which are then installed with the assistance of the local pastors who bless the crosses and call upon the workers to turn their thoughts upon God even while the machines whirl and the looms hum.

Equally striking are the sacrifices made by Slovak Catholics to rebuild their war-shattered churches and to bring aid to the needy. According to official statistics, 127 churches were destroyed and 275 seriously damaged during the fighting. Another 500 suffered minor damage.

A NUMBER of churches have been rebuilt through Catholic efforts alone. Now the Slovak government has announced a program providing the equivalent of \$1,600,000 for extensive church reconstruction. During the current fiscal year 162 churches of all denominations are to be rebuilt.

At the recent annual meeting of Central Karita in Slovakia it was disclosed that the organization has distributed more than \$200,000 for relief purposes. This sum does not include the aid extended to Slovak war sufferers through the assistance of War Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference, it was pointed out.

Improvements Set At Fatima Shrine

BY SUSAN MARQUES
Lisbon — (NC) — Full approval of plans to beautify the surroundings at the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima has been given by the Portuguese Government, as is indicated by plans published in the official gazette.

The Minister of Public Works has been in consultation for some months with Bishop Joseph Alves Correia da Silva of Leiria, who has full control over the site of the shrine.

THE BISHOP had been opposed to any radical changes, but the plan finally evolved meets with his approval and will make the area easier of access without detracting from its present appearance.

Planning has been carried forward with due consideration to the general road plan of the country. A zone of protection has been formed in the vicinity of the Sanctuary, in which the town council of Vila Nova de Ourém is prohibited from granting licenses for either building or alteration without specific approval of the ministry.

Where roads and parking places are to be constructed land and buildings will be expropriated. The technical staff of the Ministry of Public Works has been placed at the service of the ecclesiastical authorities in the sanctuary. New roads and parking places are urgently needed to accommodate pilgrims, who have totaled as many as 700,000 in a single day.

THERE IS NO mention in the decree of method of payment for expropriated buildings, or of their future replacement sites. Most of the boarding houses and shops, as well as eating places, private houses and convents will be torn down. As yet nothing has been razed on the main road, which is to be widened considerably.

Because of the location of Fatima and the terrain surrounding it, the problem of providing adequate facilities for pilgrims is no minor one. Fatima is a village in the Sierra de Aire, about 1,000 feet above sea level. The nearest rail station is at Chao de Mestas, about 12 miles distant. The principal road to the Sanctuary proper passes Vila Nova de Ourém and, bearing an engineering miracle, will furnish the main highway "access" for many years to come. The rocky and hilly nature of the country make another road impracticable.

THE SANCTUARY itself is at Cova da Iria, a mile from Fatima. Nearby is the cottage of the parents of Jacinta and Francisco Jarto, two of the shepherd children who saw the apparitions in 1917. In the same hamlet, Ajuda, is the home of the third and only surviving witness of the apparitions, Lucia de Jesus dos Santos, now Sister Mary Lucia. The parents of Jacinta and Francisco survive.



Sunday, October 24, will be observed as Mission Sunday, in the diocese of the United States, according to a call issued by Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell, of New York, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Some 100 children, dressed in native costumes and habits of the religious Orders will participate in a Mission Sunday pageant in St. Paul, Minn., typical of the observance in many parts of the country. Pictured with their Archbishop, the Most Rev. John G. Murray, some of the girls are shown, dressed as: left to right: Medical Missionary Sister; Benedictine Nun; Poor Handmaid of Jesus Christ; St. Joseph Sister; Visitation Sister; Maryknoll Sister; Poor Servant of the Immaculate Heart of Mary; Missionary Sister of Our Lady of the Angels and a Good Shepherd Sister. (NC Photos.)

Mission Sunday Pageant

Prelate Explains 'Evolution' Issue

New York — (NC) — Even if evolution becomes a proven fact, it in no way contradicts Biblical teaching on the creation of man, declares an editorial in Thought, quarterly of Fordham University here.

The editorial comments on, and quotes extensively from, an article on "The Christian and the Progress of Science" written by His Eminence Achille Cardinal Lienart, Bishop of Lille, for Etudes, monthly periodical of the French Jesuits.

POSING THE question of how we can reconcile the animal origin of the human body with the dogma of original justice and of the preternatural gifts which accompanied it, the editorial quotes the answer from Cardinal Lienart:

"Although, in its physical being, primitive humanity appears still very near to animality, and only gradually reached the perfection of its distinctive features, yet it started to be humanity only when it possessed a soul. But since God gave it this soul, why could He not have created it in the state of original justice and endowed it with the preternatural gifts?"

"IT IS TRUE that such privileges surprise us more in a human being who is still evolving than they would in a human being who came out of the divine hands in the fullness of his physical perfections. But this is merely subjective impression does not matter."

The French Cardinal rejects, according to the editorial, "claims of both the reckless unbelievers who would scorn faith in the name of science, and the timid Christians who believe that, in the name of faith, they are entitled to reject the discoveries of science, to deny them and even ask the Church to condemn them."

"We have no need to give up the Biblical text in order to satisfy science, nor to reject science in order to keep our faith," the Cardinal states. "The only modification called for is in our way of interpreting the text of the Bible; nor need we hesitate to broaden our interpretation in accordance with the data of science. The Christian is faithful to his principles when he accepts the established facts and when he modifies his interpretation of the inspired text accordingly."

Belgian Socialists Support Red Candidate in Election

Brussels — (NC) — Belgium's socialist Premier Paul-Henri Spaak won the applause of the whole western world for his outspoken denunciation of communism before the United Nations General Assembly in Paris.

But in his own country, hatred of Catholicism proved stronger than hatred of communism and prompted members of the Premier's own party, backed by anti-clerical Liberals, to elect a communist to the Belgian Senate rather than a member of the Catholic Christian Social party.

IF THE CHRISTIAN Social candidate had been elected, his party would have gained an absolute majority in the Senate. The Upper House consists of 167 members, which are distributed among the parties as follows: Christian Socials, 83; Socialists, 55; Communists, 17; and Liberals, 12.

Present facilities of the Sanctuary include the Basilica, completed on the outside but needing inside work; a central avenue from the entrance gates to the Basilica, on which pilgrims camp overnight; a central fountain surmounted by a statue of the Sacred Heart; the Chapel of the Apparitions; the Hospice for the sick; the Retreat House, and an open air space for the sick during the midday Mass and the blessing afterward.

The Chapel of Our Lady of Carmel, not yet built, will be used for confessions and will be constructed on the site of another chapel, which has been torn down.

Roads on either side and behind the Basilica have not yet been constructed and the ground is rough and uneven. Neither have roads outside the Sanctuary area been built. The ground at present slopes away to fields under cultivation.

In its decree, the government said the purpose of the planning was to "protect the zone from the irregular placement of buildings, clear and make access to the sanctuary easy, not only for the sake of good order during pilgrimages but also to protect the general overall appearance of Fatima."

Mourning



Most Rev. Francis J. F. Beckman, retired Archbishop of Dubuque, Iowa, and co-founder of the Catholic Students Mission Crusade, died this week in Chicago at the age of 72, while en route to New York to lead an American pilgrimage to Our Lady of Fatima Shrine in Portugal. Ordained in 1902, he was named Bishop of Lincoln, Neb., in 1923, and promoted to Archbishop of Dubuque in 1930, retiring because of ill health in 1946.

Bernardine Protector Rome — (RNS) — Appointment of Clemente Cardinal Micara, prefect of the Congregation of Sacred Rites, as protector of the Bernardine Sisters of the Third Franciscan Order, Reading, Pa., was announced by Pope Pius XII.

Information Aid Center Setup For Inquirers

Cincinnati — (NC) — Establishment of an information center for non-Catholics has been announced here by Archbishop John T. McNicholas of Cincinnati. It will be located in the chancery offices and will be known as the Christian Investigation Center.

Besides helping "by conferences or by letter" those who investigate the doctrines of the Church, the Archbishop stated, the center will issue a "white list" of approved leaflets and pamphlets and will sponsor occasional priests' conferences in which "all questions pertaining to the message of the Church will be discussed."

"THE CENTER will be a clearing house for those who have doubts to propose and questions to ask," Archbishop McNicholas said in his announcement. "It will teach the truths of our holy religion; it will help, by conferences or by letter, those not of our faith who wish to investigate the doctrines of the Church."

"Not a fragmentary but a complete investigation of the Catholic Church by all separated Christians and by those of no religious affiliation, will do away with misunderstanding, suspicion, organized opposition, and bigotry. No fair-minded persons who have seriously investigated the Catholic Church can hate her. The Catholic Church that is hated, suspected, and falsely accused by individuals and religious groups does not exist."

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