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### Cardinal's Prayer Asks Help For Physically Handicapped

Washington — (NC) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman composed a special invocation to be used in connection with National Employ the Physically Handicapped Week observed throughout the country during this month.

The Cardinal's prayer asked that God inspire "Thy strong and able children with tender mercy for the blind, the maimed and the lame, that they may give work to the physically handicapped, teaching them the arts, trades and crafts that can save them and help them live."

The text of Cardinal Spellman's invocation:

"O merciful Father in Heaven Who didst bid Thy Son, Himself the image of Thy Glory, to take on the image of weakened humanity by absorbing its woes unto Himself, and by sending out in Himself Thy spirit of love and goodness, grant, we beseech Thee, O merciful Father, that Thy children on earth may imitate Thee in Thy mercy and compassion for the afflicted.

"Inspire them with desire to help the physically handicapped who languish in idleness and despair, unable to cope with the struggle for existence in open contest in gainful pursuits for rightful security and manful living, for honest toil and joys of the hearthside.

"O merciful Father, Thou Who didst send Thy angel of pity to move the waters to heal the helpless, send forth Thy spirit of mercy and compassion to move Thy children's hearts here below, quickening them with the spirit of brotherhood, with the spirit of friendship and neighborliness, that accepting Thy will as their duty they may put on the image of Thy goodness and be as gods to those who need God.

"Inspire Thy strong and able children with tender mercy for the blind, the maimed and the lame, that they may give work to the physically handicapped, teaching them the arts, trades and crafts that can save them and help them to live."

### Charities Head



Joseph Jacobo, director of the Associated Catholic Charities of the Archdiocese of New Orleans, who has been elected President of the National Conference of Catholic Charities at the 34th annual meeting of that organization just held in Boston. (NC Photos)

Classes Bring Converts  
Waynesville, N. C. — (NC) — Of 50 persons who attended inquiry classes conducted a year ago by the Rev. John A. O'Brien of Notre Dame University, 14 have since been baptized, the Rev. Ambrose Rohrbacher, pastor of St. John's Church, announced.

### Church Reports Apostates in Austria Return

Vienna — (NC) — Although the wounds inflicted through the national-socialist campaign to promote apostasy are slowly healing, much patient labor and sacrifice will be needed before all the numerical losses which the Church in Austria suffered between 1938 and 1945 have been wiped out.

About 60,000 out of 204,558 who formerly specialized from the Church while Austria was under the yoke of the Third Reich returned to the fold up to the end of 1947. Figures for the current year are not yet available.

The return to the faith began slowly while the nazis still dominated Austria and increased with each passing year. In 1938, slightly more than 2,000 apostates appealed for readmission to the Church.

In 1944, almost 5,000 — most of them enrolled nazi party members — had the courage to take the road back to the Church. By the end of the war, about 10 per cent of the total number of apostates had returned to the fold.

Since the liberation in April, 1945, parish offices have been crowded with apostates seeking readmission. According to a study made by the Archdiocese of Vienna, those seeking readmission can be classified as follows:

- (1) Those who through weakness of character and lack of faith had been unable to resist nazi pressure to cause apostasy;
- (2) those who fell away from the Church because they expected to profit from such a step and were ever ready to trim the sail according to the wind, and (3), by far the smallest number, those who are filled with sincere repentance, have suffered great disillusionment and now sincerely strive after the grace of faith.

The Church suffered the gravest losses in Vienna, not so much because national socialism had gained a stronger foothold there, but because religious conditions in the city as distinct from those in smaller towns and villages offered only minor resistance.

### Irish Seminary Asks For Funds

Dublin — (RNS) — For the first time since its establishment in 1795, St. Patrick's College at Maynooth, County Kildare — Ireland's national Roman Catholic seminary — has made a public appeal for funds.

The appeal, which will be directed to "the Irish people at home and abroad," was authorized at a meeting of the Irish Hierarchy held at the college under the chairmanship of the Most Rev. John F. D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All Ireland.

Terming St. Patrick's "one of the greatest seminaries in Christendom, which has supplied the vast majority of priests required for the Irish Church and for service to Irish exiles," the Hierarchy declared in a statement "it cannot continue to fulfill this mission without immediate and substantial aid."


The Bishop's statement requested that special collections be taken up in all churches. It pointed out that St. Patrick's is unique in being a university "in double right" — as a Pontifical university by Papal charter, and as a recognized college of the National University of Ireland.

Reds Ban Army Chaplains ordered the removal of all clergy from the army rolls, and army chaplains have been ordered to shadow the abolition of the Romanian Army chaplain corps has ceased for other assignments.

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