

Hierarchy Elects Abp. of Cincinnati

Washington — (NC) — Archbishop John T. McNicholas of Cincinnati was elected Chairman of the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference for the coming year, when the 10 Archbishops and Bishops composing that group met and organized here yesterday afternoon. He had served in the same capacity in last year's year.

THE MEMBERS of the new board were elected at the annual three-day general meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States held at the Catholic University of America in this city. It was the largest such meeting to date, with three of the four American Cardinals and 140 Archbishops and Bishops taking part.

Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington became a member of the Administrative Board for the first time. Bishop Karl J. Allen of Toledo, who last year completed the maximum permissible number of consecutive terms, retired from the board. All other members who served last year were re-elected.

MEETING AT the N. C. W. C. headquarters following the general meeting, the 10 Archbishops and Bishops organized as follows: Archbishop McNicholas, Chairman; Archbishop Francis P. Keogh of Baltimore, Vice Chairman of the Board and Chairman of the N. C. W. C. Department of Education; Bishop John Mark Gannon of Erie, Treasurer; Bishop John F. Noll of Fort Wayne, Secretary; Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, Chairman of the Youth Department; Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio, Chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations; Archbishop O'Boyle, Chairman of the Department of Social Action; Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis, Chairman of the Department of Catholic Action Study; Bishop Michael J. Ready of Columbus, Chairman of the Press Department; and Bishop Kenneth M. Walsh of Charleston, Chairman of the Legal Department.

The following members of the Hierarchy were invited to serve the Board as assistant chairmen in the various departments of the N. C. W. C.: BISHOP WILLIAM D. O'BRIEN, Auxiliary of Chicago, Assistant Treasurer; Bishop Matthew F. Brady of Manchester, Assistant Chairman of the Department of Education; Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart of Ogdensburg, Assistant Chairman of the Legal Department; Bishop Allen James Babcock, Auxiliary of Detroit, Assistant Chairman of the Department of Lay Organizations; Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Reno, Assistant Chairman of the Press Department; Bishop Richard O. Garow of Natchez, Assistant Chairman of the Department of Catholic Action Study; in the Department of Social Action: Bishop Karl J. Alter of Toledo was named Assistant Chairman for Hospitals; Bishop Charles Hubert LeBlond of St. Joseph, Mo., assistant Chairman for Charities; Bishop William T. Mulloy of Covington, Advisor for Rural work; Bishop Peter W. Bartholomew, Coadjutor of St. Cloud, Advisor for Family Life work.



ARCHBISHOP McNICHOLAS



ARCHBISHOP O'BOYLE

U. S. Missions Get 2 Million, Report Reveals

Chicago — (NC) — Nearly \$2,000,000 was collected and distributed during the fiscal year for the benefit of the home missions of this country by the Catholic Church Extension Society, Bishop William David O'Brien, Auxiliary of Chicago and president of the society, reported at its 43rd annual meeting.

TEN ARCHBISHOPS and 85 bishops from all sections of the nation gathered at the three-day meeting, most of them arriving from Washington, when they attended the annual meeting of the Archbishops and Bishops of the United States. His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago and Chancellor of the society, presided.

Every Archbishop in the United States, by virtue of his office, is a member of the board of governors of the society, while all other members must be elected to that office. BISHOP O'BRIEN is serving his fifth term of five years as president of the society. He indicated that the work of the home missions must proceed with the same intensity as shown heretofore.

The officers of the society were re-elected. They are: Mr. Joseph B. Lux, vice-president and managing director; Mr. Richard R. St. John, vice-president and general secretary; the Rev. Thomas J. Reed, vice-president and director of the Order of Martha; Charles C. Kerwin, vice-president and treasurer, and James F. Burns, vice-president and general counsel.

Others named to the board of directors were the Bishop Karl J. Alter of Toledo; Bishop James L. Connolly, Coadjutor of Fall River; Bishop Joseph H. Albers of Lansing; Mr. Patrick J. McGuire of Chicago; Mr. William Anthony of Cincinnati, John Chano of Chicago, and Dr. Louis D. Moorhead — Chicago.

HIGHEST AWARD FOR DAD



At the War Department's Pentagon Building in Washington, Mrs. Frances E. Kefurt, of Sacred Heart parish, Sharon, Pa., pictured with her children, Robert, 9, and Patricia, 7, and General Omar N. Bradley, Army Chief of Staff, following the presentation of the posthumous award of the Congressional Medal of Honor, given to the widow of Staff Sergeant Gus Kefurt for bravery "above and beyond the call of duty," the nation's highest military award. (NC Photos)

'Laughing Lepers' Asylum Assisted by Imperial Gifts

Tokyo — (NC) — The increase of facilities to accommodate 110 patients at the Biwasaki asylum, home of the "laughing lepers" near Kumamoto, was at least partially helped along by imperial gifts.

Conducted by the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, this 50-year-old leprosy asylum annually receives a gift from the Empress Dowager, mother of Emperor Hirohito. The superior is Mother Marie Sterre der Zee, who is very proud of what she calls her "happy family."

THE ASYLUM patients are called the "laughing lepers" because of the sunny disposition they show despite the horror of their disease. A fact noted by Prince Takamatsu, brother of Emperor Hirohito, on a recent visit.

Seeing only two or three patients who seemed sad and afflicted while all the rest were laughing and joking, Prince Takamatsu remarked: "These (the lepers) must be new arrivals; they are so different from the others." He was wrong. The sad ones were the new arrivals, and have learned to laugh since then.

U. S. Catholics Set Record In Foreign Relief

Washington — (NC) — War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference shipped to countries still suffering as a result of the war a total of 110,487,319 pounds of supplies worth approximately \$15,793,000 during the last year.

The 1947 Thanksgiving Food collection alone added in the forwarding of foodstuffs totaling more than the tonnage of all relief materials shipped abroad in any previous year.

IN THE Thanksgiving campaign the Catholics of America contributed 61,500,000 pounds of foodstuffs worth over \$10,000,000, and shipments of these donations are made during the winter months when suffering in Europe, due to the shortage of crops last fall, was greatest.

This is revealed in the annual report of War Relief Services—N. C. W. C., foreign relief agency established by the Administrative Board of Bishops in 1945.

SHIPMENTS of food, clothing and medicine during the period between October 1, 1947, and September 30, 1948, brought the total amount of relief extended through War Relief Services—N. C. W. C. since inauguration of its program to approximately 257,728,000 pounds, worth more than \$32,143,000.

This vast relief program was made possible by the success of the Bishops' Relief Campaign which was undertaken in all dioceses in the United States during 1948, beginning on Laetare Sunday, March 7, in addition to the various "sink kind" campaigns conducted during the year.

Austria, Germany, Hungary, Italy, Poland and Rumania proved to be the areas of most critical need in Europe, while in the Far East the greatest hardship was experienced in China and Japan. In China hundreds of thousands of refugees and abandoned and neglected children posed a special problem.

Only Four Athletes New Orleans, La. — (RNS) — The Greater New Orleans area is 51.4 per cent Protestant, 47.3 per cent Roman Catholic, and 1.3 per cent Jewish, according to a report on the religious census taken here recently under the auspices of the local Council of Churches.

World To Observe Pontiff's Jubilee

Vatican City — (CNC) — A world-wide religious celebration is being planned for the observance next year of the Golden Jubilee of the ordination of His Holiness Pope Pius XII as a "supreme incentive to the spiritual preparation for the Holy Year."

This announcement was made by the Central Committee for the Holy Year, appointed by the Holy Father last June. A letter of this effect is enroute from Archbishop Valerio Valeri, president of the Central Committee, to all Archbishops and Bishops in the world.

THE LETTER calls for a "crusade of prayer that God... may show Himself propitious to this poor humanity and reserve, at this anguished moment in its history, the abundance of His favors."

Heeding the Supreme Pontiff's wishes, the letter suggests that Bishops arrange programs of solemn religious ceremonies, general Communion, especially of children, Adoration of the Blessed Sacrament and others.

SINCE APRIL 3, 1949, falls on a Sunday, the celebration called for by the Central Committee will take place on that day, rather than April 2, which is the actual 50th anniversary of the Pope's ordination.

The Holy Year of 1950, as announced by the Holy Father, will open on Christmas Eve of 1949, and if the tradition carries on, millions will be drawn to Rome during the "Anno Santo."



POPE PIUS XII

Berlin Cardinal Gains in Health

Berlin — (Radio, NC) — Supported by the prayers of clergy and laity in Berlin and throughout Germany, His Eminence Konrad Cardinal von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, appears to be slowly but steadily winning out in the struggle for his life.

A week ago, the attending physicians held out little hope for his recovery from the stroke which he had suffered at the end of October, but in recent days the Cardinal made what has been described as a remarkable comeback. He has regained consciousness and with the immediate danger passed, is believed to have more than an even chance for recovery.

Dr. Otto Dibelius, German Protestant Bishop in Berlin, has offered public prayers at his church for the Cardinal's recovery, and a Lutheran minister, Dr. Grueter, remembered Cardinal Preysing in a religious broadcast.

Nuns Busy Hospital Durand, Wis. — (NC) — Benedictine Sisters from St. Bede's Priory, Eau Claire, Wis., have purchased the Poplin County Hospital here. The nuns set up their priory in Eau Claire in July of this year.

Persecution in Yugoslavia Blocks Vatican Mediation

London — (NC) — Commenting on speculations in the Rome press about possible Belgrade approaches to have the Holy See act as a mediator between Yugoslavia and the United States, the Catholic Action newspaper Il Quotidiano declared "the logic of this to say the least, is strange."

The paper pointed to the need of "a radical change in the conditions for Catholics" Yugoslavia as an essential condition for any possible approach. Excerpts from the Il Quotidiano article were broadcast in English by Vatican Radio and heard here.

IN YUGOSLAVIA, Il Quotidiano said "the persecution of Catholics continues as before, and grows even worse..." and pointed out that the Church in her relations with various countries is guided solely by religious interests, which she guards and defends. These relations are disturbed as long as Catholic rights are trodden underfoot and an improvement can only come about by removal of the underlying causes. "Thus in the case of Yugoslavia," the paper concluded ac-

Shoes and Books Come First for China Diocese

Shanghai, Kwangtung — (NC) — Shoes and books have priority in Bishop Michael Ardolino's program for rebuilding the Catholic school system in his Shichow diocese.

When Bishop Ardolino, an Italian Salesian, came to take charge of this South China diocese last July he found old schools ruined by war, existing schools overcrowded, and new ones much in demand. His first decision was to open up the shoemaking department of a technical school for boys, and he expects soon to get the presses of its printing department into motion. The Catholic Mission's pre-war printing press stopped working in 1941, and much of its machinery was stolen during the war years.

Spiritual Aid for World Ills Urged

Milan, Italy — (NC) — An Italian Bishop's warning that international unity cannot be achieved by political and social remedies alone because it must have a spiritual basis summed up much of the discussion at the 22nd Social Week of Italian Catholics concluded here. "He who would think of solving the world's daunt only through political and social means would deceive himself," said Bishop Adriano Bernareggi of Bergamo, who presided.

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