

'Hopeful' Outlook in Germany Described by Bishop Muench

Washington — (NC) — A generally hopeful picture of the situation of Catholicism in Germany, including with certain reservations, the position of the Church in the Soviet zone of occupation, was given here by Bishop Aloisius J. Muench of Fargo, Apostolic Visitor in Germany.

Bishop Muench, who has just returned in this country by airplane, plans to stay until early next year. The immediate purpose of his visit, he said, was to be with his mother, who will soon mark her 80th birthday.

THE BISHOP expressed himself particularly gratified at the "tremendous improvement" that has taken place in the relations between German Catholics and those of the western adjacent countries, resulting in a great contribution to the cause of international peace.

Asked about the situation in the Soviet zone, Bishop Muench said there was no doubt that the people in that area are living in an atmosphere of fear and terror, with the uncertainty of the situation causing much anguish.

"BUT ACCORDING to the information I have received," he added, "the Church in the Soviet Zone still enjoys, apart from youth activities and Catholic Action groups, freedom of worship. These German Bishops whose dioceses are partly located in the Russian Zone have received permission to visit there and administer the Sacrament of Confirmation. The Russian authorities have even permitted, at least until recently, the distribution of relief supplies among German Catholics under their jurisdiction."

Discussing the relations between the American Military Government authorities and the German people, Bishop Muench said that "nothing has served more effectively in building up the prestige of the United States among the Germans than the Berlin airlift."

BISHOP MUENCH explained the efforts of the Church in Germany to counteract the continuing strong socialist influences upon labor by promoting and spreading knowledge of Catholic social teachings. Formation of Catholic Workingmen's Societies, he said, is making much progress in the industrial areas of the Rhineland and Westphalia.

ASKED ABOUT the status of Germany's Catholic youth, Bishop Muench pointed to the increasingly successful efforts on the part of the Church to revive their organizations. Particularly interesting, he said, is the movement to organize Catholic youth in the rural areas. Youth centers have been established in many parishes and weekend and summer courses in these centers for the study of religious, social and cultural questions enjoy increasing popularity.



Arriving in the United States to be with his mother on her 80th birthday, Bishop Aloisius J. Muench of Fargo, N.D., Apostolic Visitor in Germany, visits the headquarters building of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, in Washington. Bishop Muench had great praise for the Berlin airlift. He gave a generally hopeful picture of the situation of Catholicism in Germany. With the Bishop in the photo is Mr. Frank A. Hall, Director of the N.C.W.C. News Service. (NC Photos.)

'Welching on Store-bills' Is Stealing, Priest Warns

New York — (NC) — Whenever somebody is being defrauded of what is rightfully his, and it is being done against his will, that's stealing.



This definition was supplied to listeners to the Hour of Faith program here by the Rev. Hugh Calkins, Chicago Service missionary, in the sixth of a series of talks on the Ten Commandments. The broadcast was produced by the National Council of Catholic Men and carried by the American Broadcasting Company.

One way in which many average Americans steal is by living beyond their means, Father Calkins explained, adding that this causes them to run up bills they can't pay or to run out on bills they have contracted.

Fr. Calkins

"We just as truly steal from a storekeeper by welching on bills we owe him as we would by robbing him with a gun," the priest said. "Yet how many so-called Christians attend church regularly, receive the Sacraments frequently, while totally ignoring or conveniently forgetting to pay large and long-standing bills they contracted."

The basic principle behind the Seventh and Tenth Commandments is to give to each man his due in regard to acquiring and holding material possessions, Father Calkins pointed out.

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British Bishops Hit Home Ills In Advent Pleas

London — (NC) — The 18 diocesan Archbishops and Bishops of England and Wales put the accent on serious domestic problems — the sanctity of marriage and the home — in their pastoral letters as this sombre Advent opens.

They speak kindly but firmly, as spiritual fathers, on the tragedy that has come to many thousands of British men and women through that world war in which they behaved so bravely — the scattering of homes in the national upheaval, the consequent break-up of family life and the present startling total of broken marriages in this country.

THE SEPARATION of husband and wife during the war often wrecked the home, with many cases of infidelity, through conscription, evacuation, air raids; many houses were destroyed and thousands are still living in miserable makeshift dwellings, sometimes sharing rooms with other families. Archbishop Peter Amigo, 83-year-old Bishop of Southwark, writes.

The Archbishop, who lived just south of Westminster Bridge throughout the worst of London's blitzes, calls on the Government to give the people new homes — "and by this we do not mean small flats or houses where a husband and wife cannot decently have and rear a normal family."

ARCHBISHOP Joseph, Master of Birmingham, Industrial center, points out that today the crowded British divorce courts "give ample evidence of the tragedy which has marred the lives of many couples, who because of a hasty wartime union have succumbed to temptations which in peace-time would hardly have entered their lives... The State is built up of families rather than individuals, and the moral health of the community will be proportionate to the strength and happiness of the domestic society."

Warning of the present "organized menace to Christianity," Archbishop Richard Downey of Liverpool writes: "Never were the forces of evil so well organized and so intent on the destruction of religion as today... The family is imperiled. In certain quarters the ethical code is disregarded and expediency made the only guide to conduct..."

His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, devotes his letter to the world's disregard for the Fatherhood of God. "The more the world slips back into pagan materialism, the less God's Fatherhood is acknowledged," His Eminence writes.

Famed Tokyo Violinist, Here for Study, Led Parents and Sisters Into Church

By EDWARD A. M. FOLEY

Philadelphia — (NC) — A young Japanese, who won a scholarship to this city's famed Curtis Institute of Music for his prowess with the violin, attracts wide attention as he strides daily through fashionable Rittenhouse Square — the "front yard" of Philadelphia.

JAPANESE VIOLINISTS are unusual but Toshija (Joseph) Eto, at the age of 21 already has become famous as a concert violinist throughout Japan.

Joseph is not the temperamental type, traditional of advanced musicians, even though he does have the long hair often associated with them. Rather, he is a retired, soft spoken and jovial individual. He openly admits difficulty in understanding English spoken in the rapid style of most Americans.

JOSEPH LEFT his native Tokyo by plane October 30 and reached this city after several stopovers at Anchorage, Alaska, Minneapolis and New York. The next day he settled down to further his study of the violin under the renowned Etrian Zimballist.

Two outstanding events have occurred in Joseph's life.

The first came when he was a boy of five and his father, Francis Toshiaki Eto, former school teacher and now employed in the education department of the Japanese Broadcasting Co., bought him a piano and a violin. Joseph had chosen the violin as the instrument he preferred.

THE SECOND and more important is that he has embraced Catholicism and by doing so has brought about the conversion of his father, mother and three sisters, two of whom are musicians and the other an oil painter.

Joseph's father, who taught literature in Tokyo grammar and high schools, was hopeful his second oldest child would become well educated. Therefore, he enrolled him in the Tokyo Professional School conducted by Italian Salesian priests. From there Joseph went to the Tokyo Academy of Music, where he was graduated with high honors. His graduation was followed by numerous public appearances and national fame.

During his days at the Salesian Fathers' school, Joseph began to "wonder about religion." His family practiced none. He studied various religions, but to little avail.

Then, prompted by the good example and sound teachings of the Italian priest, he took Catholicism under consideration. Pointing to the ceiling with the index finger of his slender right hand, the artistic young man declared:

"The teachings of the Fathers convinced me there was something or someone up there who controls things."

Joseph decided to become a Catholic seven years ago. His family accepted the decision graciously. Consequently he and his older sister, Agnes Yoko Eto, 22, the artist, were baptized together. His parents and other sisters, Cecilia Reiko Eto, a piano student, and Theresa Ranko Eto, a violin-cello student, were baptized later.

The young man, who has little time to get about in this historic city, was impressed greatly by the wealth of America and is praying fervently he will be able to get an extension of the one-year visa which admitted him to this country to study.



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Notre Dame, Ind. — (Special) — "The drama of the Mass is so magnificently contrived that I cannot see why it did not occur to me earlier that it must be divine drama, created by the heavenly hero," the people at the Mass as the extras of the play, the altar boys as the stand-ins for the people, the priest as the Alter-Christus.

She said that the most wonderful thing about the Mass was that though the cast of supporting characters might change, the audience always remained the same since the audience was God, to whom the prayers of the Mass are offered.

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U. of M. Gets First Catholic Chapel

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Miss Estella Mann, President of Los Angeles, California, presided at the meetings. Others who attended were: The Rev. James W. Nagle, Spiritual Director, Cleveland; Miss Mary Rose Malley, Rochester, N. Y.; Mrs. Mary Baker, Denver; Miss Mary Knapp, Akron, Ohio; Miss Gertrude Meyer, Baltimore; Miss Clara Casey, New York; Sister Henrietta, St. Louis, Mo.; Miss Mary Kelly, Detroit.

MISS CATHERINE Dempsey, president of the Archdiocesan Council of Boston, was appointed to fill the unexpired term of Miss Anne Dugan of Indianapolis, Indiana.

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