

Lourdes Bishop Will Come to United States

Paris—(NC)—Bishop Pierre-Marie Théas of Tarbes and Lourdes, one of the most popular French bishops due in great part to the courage he showed during the German occupation of France, will make a visit to the United States during March in response to an invitation from several American prelates.

THE BISHOP'S plans to give a series of lectures across the U. S., speaking on Our Lady of Lourdes and on the Pax Christi movement, of which he is the promoter in France.

AT 54 Bishop Théas is one of the youngest French bishops. During the German occupation he was bishop of Montauban and he protested openly the persecution and violence against the Jews.

AFTER GERMAN occupation troops had profaned churches and destroyed homes, he addressed to the German commandant vigorous protests in which he cited the obligations that the laws of war imposed on combatants, and he proclaimed that justice would have the last word. This resulted in his arrest by the Germans.

He was imprisoned first at Montauban and at Toulouse, and then was taken to the prison camp at Compiègne whence he was to be deported to Germany. He was accompanied on his journey to Compiègne by a number of very high officials of the Vichy regime and notably by Albert Sarraut, former president of the Council of Ministers.

THE BISHOP'S recently as well as his arrest won him great prestige among his countrymen. At Compiègne the prisoners accomplished the impossible by gathering around him when he celebrated Mass in his barracks. One of the depositories, an artist, sketched the bishop while he was doing his own laundry.

American troops arrived before Bishop Théas and his companions were sent to Germany and the bishop of Montauban returned to his see where he was given a triumphal reception. Some months later he was named bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes.

These American prelates are attending a study trip to the U. S. They are the Rev. James R. Cox, pastor of St. Patrick's Church at Pittsburgh, who is an honorary chaplain of the shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes, and the Rt. Rev. Joseph P. Morroni, pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Highland Park, near Chicago, a former pupil of the seminary of the Tarbes and Lourdes diocese.

ARCHBISHOP FOR GERMANY



The new Archbishop of Freiburg, Germany, Most Rev. Wendelin Hauch, pictured leaving his cathedral after his consecration ceremonies. At his right is his consecrator, Cardinal Frings of Cologne. (NC Photos)

Czech Reds Continue Export Of Rosaries To World Trade

Basel, Switzerland—(NC)—The Catholic Church is being persecuted in communist-dominated Czechoslovakia, but Czech-made rosaries still are an important item in that country's exports, while the Red regime keeps one eye closed for the sake of badly needed foreign exchange, according to an article in the Zurich weekly, Die Weltwoche.

AS BEFORE the war, Czechoslovakia is still exporting rosaries to all the world, and especially to the United States, Canada, South America, Ireland and even Italy, the article says. It tells of the little spa of Smrčhova, near Gablonz, world-famed center of the Bohemian glass industry, the firm of Wilhelm Engel formerly employed nearly half the local population in the manufacturing of religious articles, especially rosaries.

SINCE ALL of them were of German origin, the workers were ruthlessly expelled at the end of the war. Czech families took over their properties and Czech workers took possession of the factory that formerly belonged to Wilhelm Engel, according to the story.

Many of these workers were communists, who wondered whether it was the proper thing for them to carry on the production of rosaries after the Kremlin took over direction of their lives. Consequently, one of the political bosses went through the firm's files, and found that it had been exporting its products all over the world for many years.

This, the Die Weltwoche article states, meant foreign exchange accumulated through Catholic trade, and even communists need foreign exchange—even communists must trade with capitalists. So it was decided to carry on with the production of rosaries—communist rosaries, the article says.

The Zurich paper reports that the former Engel firm's management's latest report shows that business is soaring. Even Lourdes in France, it says, has been added to its steady pre-war clients.

Eucharist Honored In Moslem Capital
Karachi, Pakistan—(NC)—The Very Rev. Modestine Pittgens, O.F.M., of the Catholic Mission here has thanked the city's police and authorities for the cooperation shown by them in permitting a large Eucharistic procession through the city's streets, as part of the celebration of the feast of Christ the King. It was the first Eucharistic procession held in the city since it became the capital of this Moslem State.

Convert Pleads for Apostolate to Jews

New York—(NC)—The United States has become the center of the Jewish world and it must therefore be the heart from which will surge a new effort to bring Christ to the Jews, says the Rev. John M. Oesterreicher in a 96-page study, "The Apostolate to the Jews."

FATHER OESTERREICHER, himself a convert from Judaism, was born in Austria in 1904. While a medical student, the works of Cardinal Newman and others "compelled" him to become a Catholic. He was ordained in St. Stephen's Cathedral, Vienna, in 1927, and is now assistant at the Church of the Assumption, New York, and research professor of Sacred Theology at Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart.

"Five million, that is, almost half of all the Jews, live in this country," says Father Oesterreicher. "Thus the focus of Jewish life has shifted from the Old World to the New, and the burden of bringing the Glad Tidings to the Jews rests chiefly on American Catholics—theirs is the responsibility of bearing witness to the Gospel."

IN HIS "Apostolate to the Jews," Father Oesterreicher begins with Christ's own ministry to Israel. "Though all His words were intended for all men of all times, the immediate 'you' of Christ's preaching was the men of Israel, His own," he writes.

After reviewing the efforts of the Apostles and others as the centuries wore on, he treats the history of the apostolate to the Jews in the Middle Ages.

A NEW approach was essayed in early thirteenth century England, when the Dominicans established in Oxford, behind the Blue Boat Inn, contiguous to the Jewry, a home for Jewish converts. Father Oesterreicher relates. Another such hospital of converts was built in 1213 by Richard, Prior of Bermonsey, in honor of St. Thomas the martyr.

The most important English foundation of this kind was that of Henry III, who in 1232 opened a house for converts on New Street, now C'ncery Lane, in London. Father Oesterreicher also describes the "baptismal splendors" accompanying conversions of Jews.

"ALREADY IN the middle Ages the baptism of Jews, particularly those of rank, was made an occasion to propagate the Faith. Great honors were often conferred upon them to show them the welcome of Mother Church, and to draw those still undecided. In 1106, the Spanish Jew, Moses of Huesca, was baptized on the feast of St. Peter by the Bishop of the city, King Alphonse I being his godfather.

"On Pentecost Tuesday, June 4, 1556, St. Peter's saw great splendor at the baptism of Ella, the head of the Roman synagogue, together with his three sons and his grandson. For many years, while he was yet a Dominican Friar, Pius V had wooed his soul."

FATHER OESTERREICHER recalls "Our Lady's intervention" and the miraculous event of January 20, 1842, in S. Andrea delle Fratte in Rome. On that day Alphonse Ratisbonne, "a scoffer, fashioned by the thought of his era," strolled through S. Andrea as a sight-seer, and suddenly, "drawn by an irresistible power was thrown to his knees before the altar of St. Michael, the guardian of Israel and of the Church.

Above the altar stood Our Lady, majestic and lovely, vested in light. Her hands reached out to him; she did not speak, but, Alphonse said: 'I understood all.'

HE WAS converted and became Father Alphonse. In 1858 he erected a shrine, Ecce Homo, on the very stones that heard the words of Pilate: "Shall I crucify your King?" Alphonse's brother, Theodore, founded the Religious of Notre Dame de Sion in 1863.

Saying that the extent of Catholic endeavor to the Jews in this country today "unfortunately cannot compare with that of the Protestant," Father Oesterreicher hopes for the establishment of an "Institute of St. Peter" for the apostolate to the Jews.

The scope of such an undertaking "would provide the intellectual basis for our apostolate efforts, and encourage research and publication. In due time the Institute could issue a review, at once learned and lively, where scholars could present their findings, and problems relating to the Church and Israel can be discussed." Father Oesterreicher concludes.

INTER-AMERICA GOOD-WILL



Held in connection with the observance of the 400th anniversary of the death of Fray Juan de Zumarraga, first Bishop of Mexico City, the Academy of American Franciscan History, presents The Americas Award for 1948, to Dr. Pablo Martinez del Rio, professor of archeology and history at the National University of Mexico, in recognition of his spiritual and cultural contributions toward promoting Inter-America good-will. Pictured at the presentation ceremonies in Washington are, left to right: Dr. Pablo Martinez del Rio; Rev. Roderick Wheeler, O.F.M., editor of The Americas; Rev. Alexander Wyso, O.F.M., Franciscan historian. (NC Photos.)

Tokyo Catholics Exceed Quota in Community Drive

Tokyo—(NC)—Though Catholics in Tokyo constitute but one five-hundredth of the total population of this vast city, their contribution to the community chest amounted to one sixty-fourth of the goal set for the whole city.

The total raised by the Catholics in their efforts to alleviate human misery here amounted to about 1,250,000 yen (\$4,630 according to the official exchange). Of this 531,530 yen was subscribed by the parishes, while Catholic schools raised 714,000 yen.

NOTEWORTHY was the fact that the Shiroyuri school, conducted by the Sister of St. Paul de Chartes who are themselves faced with a crucial program to repair war damage, came out on top with a total of 176,000 yen.

The Sisters of St. Maur, who almost lost all their four schools during the war, came in as a close second with 169,000 yen.

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ONE THOUSAND SOULS

A very holy man once said that the average priest becomes God's instrument to guarantee salvation to well over one thousand souls. You can give a priest to God's Church by paying for his seminary education for six years, at a cost of only one hundred dollars a year. Today Jacob Aerandan, a student in St. Joseph's Seminary at Albany, India, needs a sponsor for six years. Will you adopt him?

WILL YOU REMEMBER

When the feasting is done and you have opened every gaily wrapped, ribboned gift—will you remember that in Christ's Homeland there are ragged refugees by the thousands—homeless, heart-tick, hungry? They turn beseeching eyes to us for aid, for shelter, for clothing, and for Food Packages. Look through those well-filled closets and send the clothes you do not need to our C.N.E.W.A. Warehouse at 52-15 Flushing Avenue, Maspeth, L.I., N.Y. If you can afford an offering for our Refugee Fund, send it to our office. We need it now!

YOUR LAST ACT OF CHARITY

What will be the last act of charity you do this year? For yourself? Or for another? We suggest membership in the Holy Father's Mission Aid. He has granted many indulgences, numberless prayers and Masses for our members. One dollar a year or twenty dollars in perpetuity will enroll either the living or the dead.

A CRIB OF GOLD

The Paten and the Chalice Cup which touch the precious Body and Blood in Holy Mass must be plated with pure gold. Will you give a golden Crib for the Babe Divine—by providing a paten and chalice for Bishop Scandar in his new diocese in Egypt? The offering is fifty dollars and your name will be engraved upon it.

YOUR CHAPEL

You can build a chapel in the Near East, where God will dwell with men, at one-tenth the cost of a simple home here in America. For one thousand dollars, Archbishop Ivanios in South India, can build your chapel that will bring many souls to God. Build it in your own name, or in the name of one you love.

WHERE GOD WANTS IT MOST

The plane that carried Monsignor McMahon to Europe took the southern route to avoid the chilly blasts of the North Atlantic, for in the past many a plane "iced-up" and crashed. The warm prayers of thanksgiving from grateful hearts for all who contribute Stringless Gifts will move the Great Heart of Christ to bless you for the gifts you send to be used "wherever God wants it most."

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