

# Catholics of Diocese Will Observe Holy Family Feast on Sunday



**Catholic War Veteran** officials were among the hundreds of laity who exchanged best wishes for the new year with His Excellency Bishop Kearney at the Bishop's annual New Year's reception on Sunday in his East Avenue home. Shown here with the Bishop are (left) Alfred Green, Monroe County CWV commander, and Edward Esse, county historian.

## Bishop Kearney Calls Families To Parish Communion Rails

Faithful of the Diocese of Rochester will observe the Feast of the Holy Family Sunday (Jan. 9) with attendance at Mass and reception of Holy Communion in family groups in their parish churches.

Request for this appropriate observance of the feastday was issued last weekend by His Excellency Bishop Kearney in a special letter read in all churches. The Family Communion Sunday was started in the diocese for the first time in 1940 at the personal suggestion of the Bishop.

**IN THIS YEAR'S** letter, he repeats his suggestion, first made ten years ago, that the mother of the family be made the guest of honor at a Communion Breakfast following attendance at Mass.

Quoting President Truman's Christmas Eve statement, "There are no ties like family ties," the Bishop again urges an enthusiastic turnout of families together at Mass and the altar rail on Sunday and at breakfast following.

**HE STRESSES THE** importance of the Holy Family Feast celebration as an opportunity for blessings to all families and in this regard cites his own experience and the testimony of parish priests throughout the diocese.

"Nothing," the Bishop states "will bring the blessing of the Holy Family upon our own homes so generously as this tribute to the Holy Family of Bethlehem."

Great outpourings of family units in all churches of the diocese have resulted from the beginning of the family observance. With the trend toward greater preservation of family life, the attendance, this year is expected to exceed other years.

**PASTORS EXTENDED** the invitation to the families last Sunday after reading the Bishop's letter (appearing on this page). The children's Mass will be celebrated for this one Sunday to allow children to attend with their parents.

## Abp. Cushing To Lead Eire Trip

**Boston (NC)** Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, has announced that he will lead a pilgrimage to Ireland next September.

The prelate made the disclosure in broadcasting a New Year message. He said "It is my hope that many hundreds who love the Isle of Saints and Scholars will 'come back to Eire' with me this September." The Archbishop who led a pilgrimage to France and Italy last summer, added:

"Our purpose again this year is primarily spiritual, but it includes very real considerations. We are anxious to demonstrate our solidarity with our brethren everywhere; to encourage them as best we can by visits of Christian Americans and to be inspired in turn by their different ways of pursuing the same spiritual goals that motivate our selves."

Fine watch repairing at reasonable prices. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 East Main St.

# VATICAN REBUFFS REDS

## THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

60TH YEAR 14 Pages ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, JANUARY 6, 1949

# 'Mercy Killers' Launch Fight For N. Y. State Legal Backing

## Euthanasia Survey Cites Backed by Labor Role Clergy Group Of Church

Efforts to legalize mercy-killing in New York State were launched anew this week when a petition signed by 379 Protestant and Jewish clergymen urging passage of a law permitting voluntary euthanasia was sent to all members of the state legislature at Albany. Announcer of the move was made in New York by the Euthanasia Society of America.

**THE CLERGYMEN** proposed that voluntary euthanasia be allowed for an incurable sufferer when authorized by a Court of Record upon receipt of a signed and attested petition from the sufferer and after investigation of the cause by a medical committee named by the Court.

**INCLUDED AMONG** the Protestant clergy, signing the petition are 33 ministers of the Rochester area. This represents only a small fraction of the estimated 600 Protestant ministers in Rochester and vicinity and indicates that up to now the Euthanasia movement has by no means won full support of Protestant leaders.

However, as in the case of the Birth Control movement, it is expected that as time goes on the drive to legalize mercy killing will gain wider support in Protestant clergy ranks.

**STANDEST OPONENT** of the euthanasia group is the Catholic Church which brands so-called mercy killing as murder and holds that no one except God has the direct right to dispose of human life.

Catholic critics also argue that

**NEW YORK (NC)** Catholic social action doctrine, which offers a "radical yet positive philosophy, with concrete social and economic objectives," has become an increasingly important factor in the American labor movement, according to Fortune, noted periodical of the business world.

**IN ITS JANUARY** issue, the magazine looks into the part played by Catholic "labor priests" and the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists in recent labor development.

**FORTUNE SAYS** that about one-fourth of all American labor leaders are Catholics, and they together with such non-Catholics as Walter Reuther of the United Auto Workers, Axel Crome Catholic support in battling communists.

**AT THE SAME** time, the magazine holds, all of them carefully avoid public approval of organized Catholic labor activity.

**THE RISING** force of Catholicism in American labor according to Fortune was the subject of "considerable backstage discussion" at the recent Portland CIO convention, at which President Philip Murray struck out so sharply at communists.

**IF THE COMMUNIST** issue becomes less important, it will be interesting to see if the Catholic program then has the wider influence for social progress. Its proponents now seek "Fortune comments.

Fortune calls the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists "the most militant and most criticized force on the Catholic labor front." It says that the association, especially active in Detroit, Pittsburgh and New York, has been under fire from its active enemies, the communists, from some liberals who call it a "religious pressure group" and from conservative Catholic churchmen who fear that it may not always be prudent.

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## 'Bad Faith' Charged To Budapest Bid

**Rome (RNS)**—Any hope of an agreement between the Communist-dominated government of Hungary and the Catholic Church in that country is out of the question so long as Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty remains in jail, according to Vatican officials.

They disclosed that the Hungarian government had offered to undertake negotiations directly with the Holy See for a Church-State agreement.

(An official announcement in Budapest said that regardless of the "personal case of Mindszenty" the government is willing to come to an understanding with the Catholic Church.)

**STRESSING THAT** the Vatican fully supports the attitude of the imprisoned primate, the officials said that acceptance of the Budapest offer would be equivalent to disavowing the highest representative of the Catholic Church in Hungary and to acknowledge he was responsible for the present Church-State impasse in that country.

The officials pointed out that the Vatican looks upon the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty as an insult not only to a "Prince of the Church" but to the Church itself, and hence could not be reconciled with what seemed to be a conciliatory offer by the Hungarian government.

Believing that the Budapest offer was obviously in bad faith, the Vatican officials said an indispensable premise to all negotiations was a guarantee that lay authorities would respect the right to freedom of religion and of education, which included the right to religious teaching in the schools.

Present conditions in Hungary, the Vatican officials declared are in direct contradiction to that premise, and therefore no negotiations are possible unless anti-Catholic persecution is stopped and anti-Catholic measures abolished.

**IF THE HUNGARIAN** government was earnestly seeking a constructive understanding with the Church in Hungary, the officials stated, they would not have arrested Cardinal Mindszenty before making an offer. They added that another proof of the government's bad faith was the manner in which school and agrarian reforms were applied.

The officials charged that in the latter case the government had seized Church property in spite of Cardinal Mindszenty's suggestion that an agreement be reached on the question. They recalled that a similar offer was made and accepted by President Benes during the first agrarian reform in Czechoslovakia. The Church in that instance, it was said, insisted it should have a certain amount of property available to support its religious, social and welfare institutions.

## Arrest Charged To Red CIB

**Rome (RNS)**—The arrest of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, was decided upon at the last meeting of the Communist Information Bureau in Sofia, Bulgaria, OServatore Romano, official Vatican newspaper, charged.

OServatore decried the action against Cardinal Mindszenty as inspired by the fact that "the Catholic Church constitutes a strong tie between Hungary and the West."

Steps to weaken or break this tie, the paper added, have also been taken in Romania, and are expected in Poland and Czechoslovakia.

OServatore reported that telegrams and messages of sympathy over the arrest of Cardinal Mindszenty have "reached the Holy See from all parts of the world."

Express your sympathy with Flowers, Call Main 1986, Blanchard Florist of 58 Lake Avenue, where you really get best value. Delivery delivers to all sections, including hospitals.—(Adv.)



HOLINESS POPE PIUS XII  
"Grant, O Lord, Peace to Our Days"

## Pope Pius Writes Holy Year Prayer

**Vatican City (NC)** His Holiness Pope Pius XII has composed a prayer for the Holy Year, which will begin Christmas 1949 and has forwarded it to Archbishop Valerio Valeri, president of the Central Committee for the Holy Year.

The prayer's text follows: "Almighty and eternal God, with all our soul we thank Thee for the great gift of the Holy Year."

"O heavenly Father, who sees all, who reads and rules the hearts of men, render them docile to the voice of Thy Son in this time of grace and salvation."

"May that Holy Year be for all a year of purification and of sanctification, interior life and preparation, a year of great return and great forgiveness."

"Grant to those who suffer persecution for the Faith Thy spirit of fortitude to bind them indissolubly to Christ and to His Church."

"Protect, O Lord, Thy Son's Vicar on earth, the Bishops, priests, religious, and faithful. Grant that all, priests and laity, young, adults and old, may form, through a firm union of intentions and affections, a solid rock against which the fury of Thy enemies will destroy itself."

May Thy grace enlighten in all men love toward the great numbers of unfortunate people whom poverty and misery have reduced to a condition of

life unworthy of human being.

"Awaken in the souls of those who call Thee Father a hunger and thirst for social justice and fraternal charity, in deed and in truth."

"Grant, O Lord, peace to our days, peace to the fatherland, peace between the nations. May the rainbow of peace and reconciliation again unfold under its bow of serene light the land which was sanctified by the life and passion of Thy Divine Son."

"God of all consolation, profound is our misery, grave are our faults, numberless our needs, but greater than all is our faith in Thee. Aware of our unworthiness, we humbly place our lot in Thy hands, uniting our poor prayers to the intercession and merits of the most glorious Virgin Mary and all the Saints."

"Grant to the sick resignation and health, to young men strength of faith, to young women purity, to fathers prosperity and sanctity of the family, to mothers efficacy in their teaching mission, to orphans affectionate protection, to refugees and prisoners a homeland, and to all Thy grace, in preparation for, and in pledge of, eternal happiness in heaven. Amen."

## Bishop's Letter

Feast of the Holy Innocents 1948

My Dear People: May I open my letter urging our celebration of the feast of the Holy Family by quoting from the Christmas Eve talk broadcast by the President of the United States:

"The moving event of the first Christmas was the bringing forth of the first born in the stable in Bethlehem. There began in humble surroundings the home life of the Holy Family glorified in song and story and in the hearts of men down through the centuries. The great joys and mysteries of that event have forever sanctified and enriched all home life. The Christmas tree which we have just lighted in the south grounds of the White House back in Washington symbolizes the family life of the nation. There are no ties like family ties."

On next Sunday, the feast of the Holy Family, may I ask once again the beautiful practice by which we have sanctified the feast for the past few years, the Family Communion. Nothing will bring the blessing of the Holy Family upon our own homes so generously as this tribute to the Holy Family of Bethlehem.

Let all attend Mass as family units, sons and daughters led to the altar by father and mother, and the parents in turn led by the devotion of their little ones to the altar of God, with the Communion breakfast afterwards, with mother as guest instead of the perennial hostess, cook, and waitress as she generally and generously serves throughout the year.

May I say that the miracles of Divine Grace attendant upon this practice of ours are known only to God. I have been privileged to learn of a few, but the priests assure me that the Holy Spirit is very, very active each year in this observance.

Let us join enthusiastically in the devotion this year. It will bring you the assurance of God's blessing in the New Year, which is the sincere prayer of your devoted Shepherd in Christ.

+ JAMES E. KEARNEY  
BISHOP OF ROCHESTER

## Negro Woman Given Pontifical Honor

**Lafayette, La. (NC)** Miss Eleanor N. Figaro, a negro woman who has spent 40 of the 60 years of her life in the cause of religion for members of her race in Lake Charles, La. is among six women of the Diocese of Lafayette awarded the Pontifical honor of Pio Eccelesia of Pontifice by Pope Pius XII.

The Pontifical award was presented to her by Bishop Kearney.

## Catholic Teachers Hear Atom Study

**Boston (NC)** Parochial school science teachers joined their public school colleagues from all parts of New England to meet here with U. S. Atomic Energy Commission officials and nuclear scientists and discuss methods of presenting atomic energy principles to high school students.

The meeting was held at the Hotel Newbury Park.

## New Year Babies

born to Auburn area parents in Mercy Hospital are viewed here by Sister Mary Arlene of the Hospital staff. Held by nurses, the babies are (left to right): the son of Mr. and Mrs. Bushallow, 29 Grove Ave.; the son of Mr. and Mrs. Murdock, 38 Perry St.; and the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Frank Janas, Auburn R.D. 1. Conducted by the Franciscan Sisters, Mercy Hospital is the only Catholic hospital in Auburn.

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