

Vatican Will Mark Lateran Signing

The 20th anniversary of the signing of the Lateran Pacts, which brought to a close the 59-year voluntary imprisonment of the Pope within the Vatican and established the 190-acre Vatican State, chief in the world, will be celebrated in February 11.

During the so-called Roman Question, which had existed since 1870, the Lateran Pacts restored recognition of the Papacy as an independent sovereignty, resulted in payment of some indemnities to the Holy See for lands taken from it, and recognized the position of Catholicism in Italy. Religious marriage ceremonies were accepted as sufficient by the Italian civil authorities, and the teaching of religion was required in secondary as well as elementary schools.

For 1,000 years the Pope had held lands in Italy, ever since the end of the abandonment of Rome and Exarchate by the Byzantine emperors. Pope Pius IX communicated all who took part in the invasion of the Papal State in 1870, and since that time the Pope had firmly upheld their rights to sovereignty by refusing to recognize the unilateral "Law of Papal Guarantees" passed by Italy, and, more dramatically, by withdrawing wholly within the walls of the Vatican.

Signing of the Lateran Pacts of the Treaty, Financial Agreement, and Concordat by Cardinal Gasparri, Papal Secretary of State, and Benito Mussolini on Feb. 11, 1929, was a highlight of Pope Pius XII's jubilee year as a priest, but, although it seemed to bring peace to the world in which they were the signing of the year, more disastrous than that intended future trouble was ahead.

All this trouble was yet to come. On June 8, 1929, the day after the pact was fully ratified, the great bronze doors of the Vatican, which had remained only half opened since 1870, were opened completely by the Swiss Guards. And on July 29 the Pope passed through the great doors, ending the 59-year voluntary imprisonment.

THE NEW VATICAN State that came into being was little more than a half mile across, from sea to sea, and a little less than a half mile from north to south. In addition to full sovereignty

over Vatican City proper, the pact recognized the Pope's full proprietorship over several buildings and their buildings, the pontifical palaces, and other buildings necessary to the proper functioning of the Papacy. The Fundamental Law of the Vatican City, released in July, 1929, designated a flag of gold and white, showing the tiara and keys, and also specified a coat of arms. The Pope was listed as the state's Sovereign Pontiff, with full legislative, executive and judicial powers, and the Sacred College of Cardinals was designated to take over these powers temporarily when the See was vacant.

Pope's Interest In U. S. Racial Problems Cited

New York (NC)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII maintains a deep interest in the racial problems which confront America today, Harry Read, executive assistant to the CIO secretary-treasurer, declared here in a talk before the Catholic Interracial Forum.

Mr. Read said that he had an audience with the Pope last spring and they discussed a number of topics dealing with the problems of working people.

"I DO NOT feel that I am violating any confidence," Mr. Read said, "when I tell you that the Holy Father manifested a deep and informed interest in the racial problems that confront us here in America. He asked me a number of questions regarding the work that is being done now to eliminate prejudices that take root in the minds of people when they are confronted with differences of race in their fellow citizens."

"His Holiness observed that the elimination of racial prejudices was one of the most important missions of the Catholic Church in the United States and that their participation was necessary to the Church in attaining the real, brotherhood which we all must seek," Mr. Read said.

Bp. Kearney and Seminarians Broadcasting on CBS Program



His Excellency Bishop James E. Kearney, standing before the WHEC-CBS microphone, is surrounded by members of the St. Bernard's Seminary Choir just before their nationwide broadcast for the "Church of the Air" program last Sunday morning on the 115-station net.

work of the Columbia Broadcasting System. Bishop Kearney's 15-minute address entitled "The Lady in the Stable" explained Catholic devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and the significance of her dignity as the Mother of God. The Choir directed by the

Rev. Charles J. McCarthy (extreme right) sang a group of sacred hymns dedicated to the Blessed Mother. Public response to the broadcast, as reported this week by WHEC, has brought a heavy request for copies of the Bishop's address and several hundred letters of appreciation for the program.

After outlining the scriptural story of the Virgin Mary, Bishop Kearney declared that Catholics venerate Mary because of her position as the Mother of God. "Our reverence and love for the Blessed Virgin Mary arise from the reverence and love we have for God Himself," he said. "Wherever the presence of God is, we view that place as consecrated ground; whatever the hand of God has touched is for us forever holy."

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Chicago Women Step Up Drive On Evil Books

Chicago (NC)—Official lists of objectionable magazines, comic books and pocket books, together with directions for new procedures in surveying newsstand wares, are being issued to members of the Chicago Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Women as the council's crusade against indecent literature moves into its second phase.

A survey of neighborhood stores and places where magazines are sold was initiated throughout Chicago late last year by the ACCW at the request of His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago. A second canvassing will be made from February 14 to 28.

The Chicago archdiocesan weekly, The New World, took two of the city's largest dailies to task for sideswiping the anti-comic book drive, declaring: "We want to warn them that in their all-out espousal of all comics they may be defeating their own purposes. Many men, lacking their high ideals, will sell out the youth of this area. It is against such licentious purveyors of filth that we direct our attack. We shall continue to do so."

MEANWHILE IN New Hampshire a measure has been introduced into the State Legislature to control the sale and distribution of literature. It is aimed at comic books and magazines which feature acts of violence. Last week a bill to license comic books was proposed to the legislators of New York State.

The British Columbia Public Library Commission has announced definite support of a move in that Canadian province to suppress "crime comics" by law. This stand supercedes a resolution, passed six months ago, suggesting that adequate results could be obtained by making better literature more easily accessible to young people.

THE UNITED STATES Armed Forces retreated from a scheduled ban on the PX sale of comic books regarded as offensive. Comic books on sale at the military and naval bases after January 31 were to be limited to those having the approval of the Association of Comic Magazine Publishers.

Family Life Head Protests Use of Name in Movie Ads

New Orleans (NC)—The Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., director of the Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference, has asked New Orleans newspapers that used his name in advertisements of the motion picture, "Forbidden Desire," to publish his protest against its use. It had been made to appear that he approved of the picture.

IT IS ONE of those "adult only" pictures. Some advertisements said: "There is a crying need for sex education today"—Dr. Schmiedeler founder Catholic Home Life Society, Coronet, January, 1949. Not only was Father Schmiedeler's name misspelled, but there is no such organization as that he was said to have founded.

As for the flap with Coronet magazine, Father Schmiedeler was quoted in its January article, "Sex Education, Please," which is the report on a Coronet survey made by Donita Ferguson and Carol Lynn Glimmer. He was quoted in this article as saying in an interview "There is a crying need for satisfactory sex education today." The word "satisfactory" was left out of the advertisement.

Abp. Stepinac Saves Prisoners

Rome (CIP)—In the fortress prison of Lepoglava, where he has been a prisoner for two and a half years, Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac of Zagreb recently saved the lives of 20 prisoners, according to information received from a member of the Yugoslav police who visited the prison.

The Archbishop intervened on behalf of 20 inmates who were to be executed on orders from the commandant for having allegedly been responsible for an attempted revolt at the prison in the revolt, which failed, 12 prisoners were killed by the police and 20 were wounded.

The commandant then ordered the execution of 20 other prisoners who, in his opinion, had been the initiators of the revolt. When the Archbishop interceded for them, the commandant withdrew his order and commuted the punishment.

Congressmen Urge U. S. Plea To UN On Imprisoned Prelates

Washington (NC)—Three more members of Congress have introduced resolutions demanding United States action through the United Nations in the arrest of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty in Hungary and the imprisonment of Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac in Yugoslavia.

IN THE UPPER House, a concurrent resolution was introduced by Senator Irving M. Ives in behalf of himself and his New York colleague, Senator Robert F. Wagner, stating that "it is the sense of the Congress that the action of the Yugoslavian and Hungarian governments constitutes persecution for political and religious beliefs and violates the Charter of the United Nations."

The resolution further declared that as a "member nation, the United States should submit to the next General Assembly of the United Nations the issues raised by these deplorable incidents."

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