

Birth Control Proposals Hit In Puerto Rico

San Juan, P. R. — (NC) — Not birth control but an economic "battle of production" is the Puerto Rican Government's answer to the population problem of the island. Governor Luis Muñoz Marín declared in a reply to the Joint Lenten Pastoral of the Puerto Rican Bishops.

The pastoral letter had challenged him to make his attitude clear and to state whether he approves of the declarations in favor of birth control made by some of his subordinates.

THE GOVERNOR'S statement, as released through his Executive Assistant in charge of Public Relations, Gustavo Agrait, reads as follows:

"It is not the policy of the Government of Puerto Rico to consider artificial birth control or sterilization as a means for the solution of the problems created by the discrepancy between the resources and the population of the country.

"PERSONS WHO, as members of this Government, express themselves differently do this in a strictly personal capacity. This Government is determined to solve the discrepancy between resources and the number of inhabitants by means of the battle of production."

The Joint Lenten Pastoral of Bishop James Peter Davis of San Juan and Bishop James Edward McManus of Ponce denounced recent statements in favor of birth control and sterilization made by the Commissioner of Health of Puerto Rico, the Auditor of Puerto Rico, and the Industrial Development Corporation.

"There is no law, and there can be no law, there is no regulation and there can be no regulation of any Government Department or agency in any country, which could have the effect of making prostitution, abortion, artificial birth control, and sterilization cease to be immoral and abominable practices," the Bishops stated.

Bp. Sheil Defends FEPC Against 'Communism' Charge

Chicago — (RNS) — Members of the Illinois state legislature came in for sharp criticism from church leaders here over charges of "Communism" hurled at backers of the proposed state Fair Employment Practices Act.

The Most Rev. Bernard J. Sheil, Auxiliary Bishop of the Archdiocese of Chicago, branded the charges as "ridiculous" in a public statement he pointed out that the Catholic hierarchy had endorsed fair employment practices legislation three years ago.

DECLARING THAT the need for such legislation is "obvious" and "long overdue" he said that "the Roman Catholic Church in the United States through its official body the National Cath-

Honored



U. S. Senator J. Howard McGrath of Rhode Island, who is chairman of the Democratic National Committee, has been named a Knight of the Holy Sepulchre by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. It has been announced by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, who nominated him for the honor.

Rumania Ousts Army Chaplaincy

Bucharest — (RNS) — Abolition of the Rumanian Army chaplaincy was indicated by an announcement in Universal, government-owned newspaper published here.

Universal said a government decree has been issued removing clergymen of all denominations formerly listed as Army Reserve chaplains from service, and excusing them from all army obligations in the future.

Last October a government decree was published announcing that all clergymen had been removed from army rolls, and army chaplains ordered to report to the former military diocese for other assignments.

Under the new government decree, Universal declared, theological students not ordained by September 3 next will be called to the colors with the 1949 contingent of recruits.

The newspaper also stated that hereafter students preparing for the priesthood or the military will be subject to military service when called upon. It said that those who wish to become monks must first do their military service.

Shanghai Story

Rescued From Coffin, Little Chinese Girl Lives Best Week of Her Life With Nuns

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR
Shanghai — (NC) — Little Beautiful Cloud left her coffin to live just one more week. But it was to be the best week of all.

On February 7, the light, cheap coffin of a child was seen to rock back and forth on a wharf here. It was one of 30 coffins, containing bodies of the poor, that a Shanghai benevolent society was taking across the river for burial in Pootung. A startled workman drew near the moving coffin and heard moans from within. Hastily opening it, he found a six-year-old girl, alive but nearly dead. There was no indication of her name or where she had come from.

FEARING THAT a bumpy ride in a truck or rickshaw might cause the frail heir to stop breathing, the man took the child in his arms and set out on foot to find a hospital. After a long, weary trek he was advised to try St. Joseph's Hospital, founded by the great Chinese Catholic, the late Joseph Lo Pehong.

The Sisters of Charity at St. Joseph's quickly took the child from his arms and put her in a hospital bed. Dr. C. F. Shen, a Catholic, gave her medical attention. She was critically ill with tuberculosis.

SHE WAS too weak to speak. Later, when the Sisters asked her if she had a father, she shook her head in denial. A mother? Yes. A didi (little brother)? Yes? Grandparents? Yes.

The man who rescued her from the coffin had announced in the Chinese press his search was successful. The little girl's dumbfounded mother and grandparents came to St. Joseph's to see her. Smiling she recognized them.

Her name was Ching Mei-ya. Beautiful Cloud Ching. She had lived with her grandparents in the Street of Ten Thousand Bamboos, a Shanghai tenement area that belied its poetic name. Her father was dead and her mother had had to work as a domestic servant, leaving the children with the grandparents.

POVERTY LAY crushing on them all. Beautiful Cloud, undernourished, became tubercular and after two months' illness had apparently breathed her last on the morning of February 7.

A dweller in the same tenement, fearing infection for her own children, had insisted that the body be buried quickly and taken away. The heartbroken, poverty-stricken grandparent had to entrust the coffin to the benevolent society for burial.

After her narrow escape from being buried alive, the child rallied somewhat. She learned to call the Sisters Mou-mou. She thanked them and told them she would like to stay in St. Joseph's.

MEANWHILE HER story spread. An anonymous Chinese telephoned the hospice, saying he would pay any remedies the child might need regardless of expense. He supplied everything the doctor prescribed. While his identity is still unknown, it is believed that he, like the man who carried the little girl to the hospice, is a non-Christian.

At his own expense Dr. Shen provided all the laboratory service possible. But Beautiful Cloud was leaving this world for good. She was baptized, receiving the name of Cecilia.

She died on the morning of February 14. Her extra week of life had brought her a glimpse of the faith-filled world of St. Joseph's, where the Mou-mous, Sisters of Charity, carry out their unceasing errands of mercy. The week had evoked new evidence of goodness in hearts that best amid the turmoil of Shanghai. And, having brought baptism above all, it had ended gloriously for Beautiful Cloud.

"It was God who sent her here," said Sister Germaine quietly. "Now she is in Heaven."

WAR RELIEF FUND AIDS HIM



Somewhere in Europe a hungry child gets a substantial meal, thanks to food supplied by War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference. Clothing and medicines are also shipped overseas to the Catholic Welfare Committee of China. It is hoped to realize some \$3,000,000 in the campaign of the Bishops' Fund for Victims of War, to be held in most dioceses of the United States including Rochester Diocese on March 27, Laetare Sunday.

Chinese Seminarians Transfer to Manila

Manila — (RNS) — President Elpidio Quirino has approved a request by Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York and the Very Rev. Leo A. Cullum, S.J., Superior of the Jesuit Philippine Mission, that 97 seminarians in China be permitted to enter the Philippines.

Acting on President Quirino's orders the Department of Foreign Affairs is arranging visas for the seminarians. The group, whose studies were interrupted by the Communist advance in China, will enroll at San Jose Seminary in Manila and at the Sacred Heart Novitiate in a Manila suburb.

Brazil To Adopt U. S. Day Of Thanksgiving

Rio de Janeiro, Brazil — (NC) — Brazil is soon to have a national Thanksgiving Day modeled on the one in the United States and to be observed on the same day, the last Thursday in November, according to expectation here.

The bill for such a day of thanksgiving has passed in the Chamber of Deputies, and is expected to get the approval of the Senate and the signature of the President.

CREDIT FOR promoting the idea of a Thanksgiving Day belongs to the Noelist Union, a women's Catholic Action group. Headed by Senorita Alice Gerin Isnard Tavora, the Union requested Parliament to act on the proposal in March last year. The idea received the strong endorsement of His Eminence Jaime Cardinal de Barros Camara, Archbishop of Rio de Janeiro.

Commenting on the bill, the conservative Catholic daily of this city, Jornal do Brasil, declared: "This project is in strictest accordance with the national traditions of our people. It is especially urgent now if we consider this tragic hour of humanity when the civilized world witnesses a satanic attack by the forces of evil against the Church of Christ."

SUPPORT FOR the idea was given by Bishop Karl J. Alter of Toledo on his visit here last September. He related that in the United States the President each year makes a proclamation of Thanksgiving Day, which people celebrate by going to church and acknowledging that "if God does not build the house, he labors in vain who builds it."

Moslems and Hindus Condemn Hungary

Karachi, Pakistan — (NC) — Heads of Moslem, Hindu, Parsee and Catholic organizations here have adopted a joint resolution protesting the life sentence given His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, by the communist-dominated Hungarian regime. The resolution was conveyed to the Pakistan government to be forwarded to the government of Hungary.

Given Papsi Decoration Ogden, Utah — (NC) — Mrs. William E. Quillman, who for the last 27 years has been president of the Altar Society of St. Joseph's parish, has been awarded the decoration Pro Ecclesia et Pontifice by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, according to the Chancery office in Salt Lake City.

Unwanted Hero Buried Next To Gen. Pershing

Arlington, Va. — (NC) — Catholic burial ceremonies were held at Arlington National Cemetery here for Felix Longoria, Philippine war hero, whose family was denied the use of a military in his native Three Rivers, Tex., because he was of Mexican descent. The Rev. E. P. Fersall, Catholic chaplain at Ft. Myer, Va., officiated at the interment.

The body of the Mexican-American soldier now rests in a section of the cemetery known as "Pershing's Hill," and the grave is but a few feet from that of the famous World War I leader. A Congressional delegation headed by Senator Lyndon Johnson of Texas joined eight members of the Longoria family, including the soldier's widow, mother and eight-year-old daughter, at the burial rites.

Bishop Defends Human Rights In West Indies

Port of Spain, British West Indies — (NC) — The Lenten pastoral of Archbishop Finbar Ryan, O.P., of Port of Spain touched on matters of human rights and racial problems. Constitutional reforms are being introduced in British West Indian politics are giving the predominantly colored population a greater say in their public affairs.

THESE ISSUES, said Archbishop Ryan, are "the recognition of the personal human dignity and rights of the individual person, irrespective of race, color, creed or social condition; recognition of the family as the vital unit of society, with immunity from undue interference by any outside authority; recognition of the right and duty of parents to educate their children at home or in schools of their own choice; recognition of the personal human right to possess private property."

Archbishop Ryan added that candidates for election should be invited to state their views on these matters.

"Only if the program and practical political history of candidates guarantee the expectation that they will respect the observance of Divine Law and the rights of the Church may Catholics vote for them," the Archbishop concluded.

Plan Library Convention Detroit — (NC) — The annual national conference of the Catholic Library Association will be held at Marygrove College April 18 to 21.

Saints' Causes Advanced At Consistories

By REV. J. J. SULLIVAN
Vatican City — (NC) — Secret and public consistories were held here March 14 in connection with five coming canonizations, solemn announcements to the Sacred College of Cardinals of the appointments of Archbishops and Bishops since the last consistory, and petitions for the award of pallia to those who have not yet received them.

In the secret consistory the 13 Cardinals attending voted as "safe" the canonizations of Sister Bartolomea Capitanio, founder of the Institute of the Sisters of Charity; Blessed Maria Giuseppe Rosello, foundress of the Daughters of Our Lady of Mercy; and Blessed Joan of Valois, Queen of France.

IN THE PUBLIC consistory advocates presented appeals for the canonization of these three and for Blessed Joan de Leizor, widow and foundress of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, and Sister Vincenza Gorea, foundress of the Sisters of Charity in Brescia, Italy.

The canonization of the latter two had been voted safe at a secret consistory last June, and today was the first public consistory held since then.

ON THE SECRET consistory His Eminence Massimo Cardinal Masini, Prefect of the Apostolic Signature succeeded His Eminence Domenico Cardinal Jorio, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Sacraments, in the office of Cancellero of the College of Cardinals.

His Eminence Adeodato Giovanni Cardinal Piazza, former Patriarch of Venice and presently a member of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, was appointed to the suburban See of Poggio and Mirto, which has been vacant since the death of Enrico Cardinal Sibilla last fall.

At the end of the secret consistory, when consistorial advocates and representatives petitioned for the pallia for those who are to receive them five Archbishops were present to present their own petitions in person. They were Archbishop Carlo Agostini, formerly Bishop of Padua, and newly named Patriarch of Venice, and Archbishop Raffaele Maria Radossi of Spoleto.

The pallia were conferred on them immediately after the consistory by His Eminence Nicola Cardinal Canali, President of the Pontifical Commission of the government of Vatican City, in the Pauline Chapel of the Vatican Palace.

Scholastic Philosophy Fukuroka — (CIP) — The Imperial University of Kyushu, Southern Japan, now offers a course in Scholastic Philosophy and has appointed as professor the Reverend Philip Deslauriers, O.P., a native of Ottawa.

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