

# Priest Denounces Japan 'Birth' Plan

Tokyo (NC)—Remarks made here by Dr. Warren Simpson Thompson, consultant to the natural resources section of the supreme command of the Allied forces, stating that the only solution for Japan's congested population problem is birth control have drawn fire from the Rev. William A. Kaschmitter, M. M., director of the Tosei News Agency. The agency disseminates Catholic news to secular papers in Japan.

AS QUOTED IN the Japanese press Dr. Thompson said that for political and practical reasons emigration was out of the question as the solution to the population problem here, that birth control was the only sensible answer, and that the Catholic Church would not oppose it.

Earlier Major General John B. Coulter, commander of the American forces in southern Japan, has said that because of the "contentious" nature of disseminating birth control material, the military government "must not be associated with such activities."

In an editorial distributed through the Tosei agency, Father Kaschmitter points out that in the book "Danger Spots in World Population," published in 1939, Dr. Thompson considered birth control as one of the world's great discoveries "ranking in importance with the discovery of fire, the invention of printing and the application of electricity to communications and industry."

BUT AT THAT time Dr. Thompson was also a strong advocate of emigration for the Far East people. Father Kaschmitter continues. He quotes from Dr. Thompson's book as follows: "We should ask ourselves whether absolute justice is with those people who are holding resources out of use or with those who seek to secure new resources because they really need them in order to make a moderately comfortable living. It is not the more equal distribution of the natural resources of the world among those who need them a fine ideal."

JAPAN SUFFERED a crushing defeat as a result of the war. Father Kaschmitter says "but we must conclude that the strict justice and the ideals Dr. Thompson professed in 1939 have been defeated also." Copies of the editorial were sent to American occupation leaders here and members of the Japanese government.

Stating that he is answering Dr. Thompson as an American, who spent part of the war in a Japanese concentration camp, and as a theologian, the priest continues: "IN THE LIGHT of this sentence we wish to go on record as saying that the type of birth control advocated by Dr. Thompson is against nature. If the doctor thinks that the Catholic Church will not oppose this kind of birth control here in Japan he was never so wrong in his life."

# As Catholic School Heads Honor State Educator



His Excellency, Bishop Edmund F. Gibbons of Albany was host at the dinner portion of New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents' March Meeting in the Bishop's Residence, Albany, honoring Dr. Harold G. Thompson, retiring director of the Division, Examinations and Testing, State Education Department. Former superintendents, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William R. Kelly, Archdiocese of New York and Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. Duffy, Diocese of Rochester were also guests of His Excellency. Present as shown above are: seated (from left) Very Rev. Msgr. John J. Volght, superintendent, Archdiocese of New York; Monsignor Duffy; Dr. Thompson; Bishop Gibbons, council chairman; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph V. S. McLaney,

superintendent, Diocese of Brooklyn; Monsignor Kelly; Very Rev. Msgr. Sylvester J. Holbel, superintendent, Diocese of Buffalo. Standing (from left), Rt. Rev. Msgr. David C. Gildea, superintendent, Diocese of Syracuse; Council Secretary, Rev. Charles V. Boyle, associate, Rochester; Rev. John Paul Haverly, associate, New York; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Henry M. Haid, associate, Brooklyn; Rev. Arthur M. Leary, secretary of education, Diocese of Ogdensburg; Rev. John F. Kourke, assistant, Albany; Rev. Raymond P. Rigney, associate, New York; Rev. Dr. Charles J. Mahoney, superintendent, Diocese of Rochester; Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Ross, principal, Bishop McDonnell Memorial High School, Brooklyn.

# Pontiff Deplores Labor Leaders Hurting Workers

Vatican City — (Radio, NCI) — Pope Pius XII lashed out at the exploiters of misery who seem bent on aggravating evil conditions and exciting discontent. In an address to 1,200 workers in ceremonies from Civita Castellana, on a pilgrimage to Rome.

The Pontiff did not mention names but press critics here considered his remarks significant in view of the communist line of the Red-dominated C.G.I.L. (General Confederation of Italian Workers) and its policy of strikes and non-cooperation.

"OUR GOOD will as well as that of so many other good-hearted men and lovers of justice," the Holy Father said referring to the efforts of the Holy See and of others to assist the needy, and advise responsible leaders, "runs afloat not only because of the incomprehension and inertia of many but also because of the deliberate will of exploiters of misery who, without contributing any efficacious help seem to have no other aim than to aggravate the evil, to reduce to impotence those wishing to work and those seeking to provide honest and profitable labor, to excite discontent, and to build up an atmosphere of exasperation with distressing consequences for the very interests of workers."

REPORTS STATED that during the time the pilgrimage from Civita Castellana, an area where the Reds are strong, was organized, communists went from door to door threatening and persuading the people not to go.

The Pope referred to maneuvers by labor chieftains which had made the position of labor odious, and termed these maneuvers not only anti-social but also inhuman. He pointed out the human and spiritual values of honest work and stated that those of ceramic workers have a particularly ennobling aspect since they take earth and fashion it into things of beauty and usefulness.

# College Plans Petroleum Day

St. Bonaventure, N. Y. — (NC) — Workers in the petroleum industry in this area will celebrate Petroleum Sunday on April 24, according to a decision made by members of the industry and officials at St. Bonaventure College. It was announced today by Very Rev. Thomas Plassman, O.F.M., college president.

Marked by persons of all faiths and every occupation in the oil industry, Petroleum Sunday will be a day devoted to the spiritual and temporal welfare of workers of the industry. It will also commemorate deceased members.

Started eight years ago by an oil tank truck driver from Brooklyn, Petroleum Sunday is now celebrated annually in New York City, Newark, and Boston, and in Peru.

# Course in Bible-Study Set For Public High-Schoolers

Washington (NC)—At a time when the released-time instruction programs have grown into one of the foremost religious issues of the nation, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine has completed plans for a series of religious textbooks adapted for public high school students. It has been announced at the Confraternity's national center here.

The decision to issue the textbooks was reached at a meeting of the Confraternity Committee on Scripture Manuals for Public High School Students held in San Antonio at the invitation of Archbishop Robert E. Lucey. The Rev. Daniel A. Martin, C.M., professor of Sacred Scripture at St. John's Seminary, San Antonio, will write the text for the course.

The general outline, it was announced, will be a Biblical course of instruction in Christian Doctrine extending over a four year period.

# 'Days of Atonement' Spreading in Hungary

Budapest, Hungary — (NC) — A Family Holy Hour movement begun here only a few weeks ago is spreading rapidly throughout the country. In the movement families of a parish sign up for the observance of what are known as "days of atonement."

On these days the father and mother lead the family in the recitation of the Rosary and singing of hymns for the greater part of an evening. The prayers are said while kneeling before an image of the Sacred Heart placed on the table and flanked by two burning candles.

Individual lessons for the course will be published in leaflet form to be distributed either weekly or in sets for a semester of Confraternity classes. These lessons will contain pupil discussion problems, teacher aids and will feature verbatim Scriptural texts in detail.

# Convert Priest Dies At Portsmouth Priory

Portsmouth, R. I. (NC) — The Rev. J. Hugh Duman, O.S.B., 83, Episcopal minister who became a convert in 1917 and later founded the Portsmouth Priory School died at the Benedictine Priory here. He had received an Apostolic Blessing from His Holiness Pope Pius XII the day before his death.

Father Duman was the son of

a Congregational minister and was a graduate of the Episcopal Theological Seminary in Cambridge, Mass.

After his conversion he studied at Oxford and at the Academy for Noble Ecclesiastics in Rome. He was ordained in 1921 and two years later joined the Benedictine Order at Ford Augustus Scotland.

# Nun Gets Last Niche In St. Peter's Basilica

By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN

Rome (NC)—A long chapter in the history of St. Peter's Basilica is finally drawing to a close. The 39th and last niche among those reserved for the canonized founders of religious orders and congregations has just been assigned by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to St. Joan Antida Thouret, foundress in France in 1799 of the Sisters of Charity who use her name.

## Last Niche



THIS PARTICULAR chapter in the story, that of the Founders' Row, began 343 years ago in 1706, when the first statue, that of St. Dominic, was placed in the lower right-hand niche in the extreme end of the apse near the Altar of the Chair of St. Peter. Not long after in 1725, the heroic marble likeness of St. Francis of Assisi took its place opposite St. Dominic's and to the left of the Altar.

Since that time the pages have continued slowly to turn, with the great Founder-Saints taking their places one by one — heroes and heroines enshrined in the central temple of the Christian faith of which they gave such eloquent witness.

NOT SO LONG ago I asked the staff engineer of the basilica what was considered the date when its construction began. He told me it was difficult to say exactly, but that generally they reckon from the decade 1490 to 1500.

"And when was it finished?" I asked. He laughed. "It hasn't been finished yet," he said, adding that there are yet many things to be done.

Although the story of the basilica began about the time that America was discovered, and the chapter of the Founders opened long before the Revolutionary War, fortunately it was not finished before the United States could see her first Citizen-Saint, Mother Frances Xavier Cabrini in an honored place among those hallowed ranks.

HER STATUE was dedicated on December 8, 1947. Last summer those of St. Louis De Montfort and St. Lucia Filippini took their places, and models are now under consideration for the statue of St. Louis de Marillac. New models will be submitted for St. Joan Antida and, perhaps, the Holy Year of 1950 may see that last niche in the far upper right-hand wall of the right transept receive its occupant. Then the chapter of the Founders' Row will be finished.

The division between men and women among the founders runs three to one in favor of the men.

St. Joan Antida Thouret, foundress of a group of the Sisters of Charity, who will be canonized during the Holy Year of 1950. She has been assigned the last of the 39 niches in St. Peter's Basilica reserved for statues of the canonized founders of religious orders and congregations. (20 Photos.)

St. Joan Antida will bring the number of women to 10 whereas there are 29 men, and if the famous bronze statue of St. Peter is counted, there are 30. His historic status stands at the base of the right-hand pier of the St. Longinus nave, the main altar and cancels the possibility of a niche where otherwise there would have been one.

THERE ARE two rows of the niches, upper and lower, a pair in each pier of the main nave, both transepts and the apse. Statues in the lower places must be approximately 14 feet in height, those above 16. The visitor at a glance would never guess the size, so perfectly do their huge proportions melt into perspective in the vastness of the great interior.

Pope Pius XII has assigned six of the 39 niches during his pontificate, although the last two of these, St. Louis De Marillac and St. Joan Antida have yet to be placed.

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