

# German Hierarchy Confers At Fulda

By MAX JORDAN

(Staff Correspondent, NCWC News Service)

Fulda, Germany—No other organization in Germany stands on foundations as solid and as firmly established as the Church, declared Bishop Aloisius J. Muench of Fargo, N. D., Apostolic Visitor in Germany, in an address to the opening session of the annual conference of the German Hierarchy here. This year's conference is the eighty-second since these important gatherings were inaugurated.

BISHOP MURNON, who did not himself take part in the deliberations of the German Hierarchy, extended greetings to the bishops in his capacity as Apostolic Visitor and also on behalf of the American Hierarchy. The Bishop of Fargo, Muench, said "watch the Holy Spirit" and admiration for the heroic efforts undertaken by the German Hierarchy, clergy and people to master overwhelming disaster, and they rejoice over every success that has been achieved.

The Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, who is the chairman of the Fulda conference, and His Eminence Edward Cardinal von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, attended the meeting with the Archbishop of Bamberg, Julius and Eberhard, and other Ordinaries and Bishops. For the first time, the Eminence Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich and Freising, was unable to be present because of illness. Bishop Frings, leader of the Fulda (Fulda), which is located in the Soviet zone of occupation, again was unable to attend the necessary travel expenses from the Soviet zone. The only other German Bishops not represented, Archbishop Muench, was that of Augsburg, whose headquarters Bishop had not yet been transferred.

The joint pastoral conference issued by the German Hierarchy following their Fulda meeting will take effect principally with the last of the home mission, and especially the plight of millions of German refugees and expellees from eastern Europe. The pastoral will be released early in October in conjunction with the 100th anniversary of the St. Boniface Society.

THE DECLARATION during the past three days are widely known to have been primarily directed at problems arising from the recent Holy Office decree on communication of the Catholic Church supporting communists, and specifically with the application of the decree in the Soviet zone of occupation. The bishops also deliberated on the situation created by the outcome of the recent elections in western Germany, and particularly their effect on educational policies. Another major study by the bishops was the national and international which will be adopted in all German dioceses.

The German Hierarchy unanimously decided to adopt again a resolution expressing deep gratitude to the American Hierarchy for all the help extended by the Catholics of America to the Catholics of this country, particularly by War Relief Service, National Catholic Welfare

# Church School Test Case In French Court

Paris—(RNS)—Mass demonstrations by Catholic parents are expected to coincide with the opening of hearings before a Nines court on September 13 involving the expulsion of teachers and pupils from a church school in the Grand Combe, a mining town in southeastern France. The school was declared State property last year when mines and mine holdings in the area were nationalized.

NATION-WIDE interest has been aroused by the case which observers say may become a test case for Christian education in France. The Grand Combe school was declared State property on the ground that it was built on national estate. Rioting took place early this year when miners struck in protest against the expulsion of Christian Brothers and their pupils from one-half of the building. Authorities finally decided not to proceed with the complete expulsion until the matter had been brought before a court.

IN THE MEANTIME, however, Republican guards have been ordered to occupy the premises in order to prevent the teaching brothers and Catholic parents from selling them and keeping them free for the start of the new school term. The majority of the miners in the region are devout Catholics and apparently determined that their children shall continue to be educated on the premises which were built by private subscription, and, to a great extent, by the miners' own work. Two wooden huts were erected by the miners to house classes already expelled from the school premises, but they are considered inadequate.

THE MAIN issue at stake, the miners contend, is the right of parents to choose Christian education for their children. They are opposed to the expulsion of secular teachers, who favor a one-secular center of the Catholic education from the school premises. Thousands of signatures have been affixed to a petition asking the government to permit the school to remain in Catholic hands. Among those supporting the petition are "politicians in other regions of France."

NH Star Named

Washington—(NC)—Appointment of Forrest G. (Fod) Cotton, former University of Notre Dame football star, as a USO field representative for the National Catholic Community service, a USO operating agency, has been announced by Thomas D. Hinton, NCCS executive director.

# Czech Reds Aim At Banning Of Religious Units

Prague—(RNS)—Czechoslovakia's Communist-dominated government has threatened to outlaw any Roman Catholic religious units that does not affirm its loyalty to the State, and to close 103 convents and monasteries in Slovakia if they fail to apply to the regime for permission to operate.

According to a Church spokesman, ten priests and 40 nuns were thus warned by Dr. Josef Straka, councillor to the Commission of Education, at a meeting held recently in the commission's Bratislava office. Dr. Straka was said to have informed the assembled priests and nuns that the government demanded that religious orders comply with the laws of the State, whose tendency is to form a classless society, and that they express their loyalty toward the State.

UNDER PRESENT laws, Dr. Straka said, the government has the right to require approval of existing religious orders and the formation of new monasteries and convents. He also said that application must be filed in every diocese listing the aims of the orders and giving the number of members to each. He added that all religious must be Czech citizens.

At the close of the conference, one priest, a Jesuit superior, said that meeting Dr. Straka's demands "would mean the end of the orders." Then he added: "Every sentence spoken here is in grave contradiction with Canon Law." The same priest said it was impossible for the State to dictate the spiritual and religious affairs of the Catholic Church, just as it would be for the Council of Bishops to issue orders to the Communist-dominated administrative committees.

# New English Psalms To Be Published

Emmitsburg, Md.—(NC)—A new translation of the Psalms and Breviary Canticles, made direct from the original Hebrew and Greek texts, will be off the press in a few months. It was announced at the recent 12th annual meeting of the Catholic Biblical Association of America at Mt. St. Mary's Seminary here. This is part of the monumental project of a new English translation of the whole Bible which members of the Biblical association are making from the original texts. The Book of Genesis in this new translation appeared a year ago, and plans are for the publication of the complete Pentateuch—the first five books of the Old Testament—by the end of 1950.

THE DESIGN of the mon-

# Keeping Up An Old Family Custom



On the morning of the day that he was sworn in as Attorney General of the United States, J. Howard McGrath and the members of his family attended Mass in his home in Washington, D. C. It was the sixth time that the former Senator from Rhode Island has entered upon a high public office by first attending Mass with his family in his home—three times before beginning terms as Governor of Rhode Island, once before becoming Solicitor General of the United States, once before taking the oath as United States Senator, and now before becoming Attorney General. The Very Rev. Daniel M. Gallher, O.P., Registrar of Providence College, which the Attorney General attended, was celebrant of the Mass. Shown in the picture are young David McGrath, son of the Attorney General; Mrs. Ida E. McGrath, the Attorney General's mother; Mrs. J. Howard McGrath, and the Attorney General. Wide World Photos (NC Photo).

# Beautiful Irish Monstrance Ready for Fatima Shrine

Dublin—(NC)—Thousands of visitors at Dublin's famous Horse Show at Ballsbridge have thronged to see the magnificent "Fatima Monstrance," said to be the most beautiful one ever made in Ireland. It is being shown in the Irish Industries section of the show by Messrs. Gunning, church silversmiths.

The monstrance will be presented to the Shrine of Fatima in Portugal next October, when a pilgrimage organized by Irish Dominican Fathers will go there. THE MONSTRANCE was a made with family heirlooms—rings, precious stones, gold ornaments—all spontaneously offered by people in all parts of Ireland. The idea was suggested by a woman who nearly three years ago had vaguely promised to get such a monstrance in thanksgiving for a favor received from Our Lady of Fatima. When this intention was first mentioned in the Catholic Weekly "The Standard" last winter, readers responded enthusiastically and about 75 per cent of the gifts have passed through the offices of that paper.

THE DESIGN of the mon-

# Penthouse Suits Pastor's Needs

Maryknoll—Father Maurice A. Feeney stationed in Maryknoll's Takuu Mission has solved a troubling expansion problem. His brand new mission, large enough for chapel and instruction rooms, is an old pawn shop and storage house in the middle of a market town. But there was no room for a rectory. Unable to purchase land on either side of the mission, the Maryknoller decided to expand upwards. He now has an airy apartment, the first penthouse in these parts, which overlooks the hole town. The resourceful priest (a native of Albany and a member of the Class of 1930 of Rochester's St. Bernard's Seminary) has made excellent contacts with young men of the town by taking the position of English teacher at the local high school.

# Citizenship Upheld For Mexico Prelate

By CECILIO POZO

(Correspondent, NCWC News Service)

Mexico City—Following assertions by the president of the Superior Tribunal of Justice that Archbishop Luis Maria Martinez of Mexico City "is not a Mexican," the Permanent Commission of the Constitutional Congress affirmed that he is, indeed, "a Mexican citizen."

The question as to the Archbishop's citizenship status (he was born in Molino de Caballeros, Mexico) arose in connection with his request for permission as required by law, to accept decorations bestowed upon him by the government of France and Lebanon during his recent trip to Europe. THE WHOLE matter, which was widely discussed in the press, has served to focus attention on the unfairness of certain laws still in force in Mexico, particularly in the constitution of 1917. As the newspaper La Epoca of Guadalajara pointed out, this constitution was imposed upon the people by a group of bigots who deprived the clergy of all its rights as citizens.

It is these laws which Dr. Luis Catano Morlet, President of the Superior Tribunal of Justice, referred to when he asserted in a press interview that "the Archbishop does not need permission from the Permanent Commission to accept the decorations, for the simple reason that he is not a Mexican citizen." CATANO MORLET cited in particular Article 130 of the constitution, which reads as follows: "Ministers of the different cults may not, in public or private meetings of formally established organizations, nor in acts of worship or of religious propaganda, criticize either the fundamental laws of the country, the authorities in particular or the government in general; they shall have neither active nor passive vote, nor the right to join associations for political purposes."

As a result of these provisions, the jurist argued, a Mexican who becomes a minister of religious worship, loses his rights as a citizen. About the same time, ex-President Emilio Portes Gil, in a lecture during the summer courses for U. S. students, said that "the clergy do not consider themselves to be subjects of Mexico but of the Pope. . . . If they deny obedience to our government and if they are opposed to its laws, what is there lacking to make of them dangerous aliens?" Answering Portes Gil, who was President of Mexico at a time when the Church and all Catholics in Mexico were subjected to violent persecution, El Universal, Mexico City daily, asked him how he could explain the fact that most of Mexico's

culture and religious art are the product of these "dangerous aliens."

The Permanent Commission of the Constitutional Congress decided that the Archbishop, as a Mexican citizen, did right in asking permission to accept the decorations, as required by law. The permission was granted unanimously and the commission's decision was printed in the public record.

Describing the threat against "the religion, nobility, and independence of rural life" as a special challenge to Catholic Action, Pope Plus likened this organization of Catholic clergy and laity to an army organized under the discipline of bishops whom the Holy Spirit has placed in charge to guide the Church of God against attacks. "Our infallible victories," the Pope asserted, "are addressed to the sane and positive formation of consciences and the preservation of rural as well as industrial life against the peridious campaigns of bad shepherds."

St. Therese Letters Publication Set

New York—(NC)—The complete letters of St. Therese of Lisieux, "the Little Flower" will be published in English for the first time in October. It has been announced by Sheed & Ward, publishers here. The Carmelite convent at Lisieux, France, where St. Therese spent her religious life and where her sisters still are living, observed the 50th anniversary of her death by issuing the letters

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