

Rome Alerts Visitors Against Exploitation

By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN
 Rome (NC) — Accommodations for a minimum of 13,000 pilgrims at one time — under ecclesiastical auspices and at moderate prices — are available here during the Holy Year according to the next monthly issue of the Holy Year Bulletin which is now being printed. According to one official the number of pilgrims that can thus be accommodated may well reach 20,000.

A particular effort is being made at the insistence of the Holy See and the Holy Year Central Committee to discharge the obligation of hospitality toward the pilgrims especially in the interest of those of modest means and to reduce as far as possible the tendency of hotel keepers toward speculation and profiteering.

THE HOLY YEAR Central Committee is not engaged in the hotel business but it has made every effort toward proper reception and handling of the pilgrims and the avoidance of speculation and similar troubles.

In accordance with the law of supply and demand some speculation and certain profiteering are considered here inevitable but the Italian Government is making every effort to control the situation. An inter-ministerial committee was formed several months ago to exercise strict surveillance of the hotel trade and to punish offenders.

Members of organized groups, ages who have paid a fixed price in advance, have little to worry about regarding the essential expenses. They must however be prepared to guard themselves in all other respects, for instance when buying souvenirs, paying for the services of guides, for side trips etc. the same as in any other heavily frequented tourist center of the world.

INDIVIDUAL PILGRIMS, and those coming in small groups without any binding previous arrangements or previous contacts with the National Holy Year Committee in Rome are much more exposed to victimization. Much space in first class hotels is said to have already been booked for most of the year 1950. But whatever may be the case under the prevailing law prices must be fixed and published in advance and any deviations from that

RESPONSIBILITY in meeting the situation rests with the pilgrims themselves. All prices for better class hotel accommodation must be listed in the year book and all hotels are obliged to have a price list in the lobby stating the rates for all rooms. Thus guests can check the rates immediately when registering. Police stand by with strict instructions to investigate and act at once on all complaints of overcharging.

Similar arrangements are being made regarding other things, such as protecting pilgrims in public places when shopping, etc. The Rome police is being reinforced by two battalions, a special corps of police interpreters speaking various languages, and is available to direct pilgrims to shrines and other points of interest and guard them against being exploited by unauthorized guides.

Catholics in England Said Lax in Duty

London (NC) — In some parts of England more than 50 per cent of the Catholics do not attend Sunday Mass according to the Rev. John C. Heenan, Superior of the Catholic Missionary Society and principal organizer of the General Mission in an address to students of Liverpool University.

A recent poll he added, showed that 40 per cent of the people of Britain have no religious belief. Of the small percentage of worshippers one in two are Catholics, he said.

Some 90 per cent of the Catholic priests and laymen in this country, Father Heenan asserted, are Irish or of Irish descent.

Pontiff To Sick: Christ Did Good By His Miracles, But Saved World By His Suffering

Vatican City (NC) — The world's sick were reminded by His Holiness Pope Pius XII in a special radio address that Christ did good by working miracles but saved mankind by His suffering and death.

The Pontiff pointed to the fact as a comfort to the sick in their feeling of uselessness and inactivity. By their sufferings he said they are cooperating in the work of the Redemption. He invited them to dedicate their sufferings toward realization of the spiritual aims of the Holy Year.

HIS ADDRESS, given over Radio Vatican was inspired by the Pontiff said by the fact that he thought so frequently for need to them as he received other pilgrims in audience. By his radio address, he said, he hoped to

SURPLUS FOOD PROGRAM



Catholic Charities and parochial schools in several dioceses of the United States are making good use of the surplus food commodities available through the U. S. Department of Agriculture. In this photo, girls of St. Mary's Training School, Des Plaines, Ill., get practical experience in domestic science as well as an enriched diet by helping Sister Cecile preserve a shipment of fresh pears donated by the Agriculture Department, one of a dozen items available. (NC Photos)

Berlin Prelate Warns Against Anti-Semitism

By MAX JORDAN

Berlin, (NC) — His Eminence Konrad Cardinal von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, has issued a formal statement warning against the extermination of more than five million Jews by the Nazi regime — a crime without precedent and calling on the German people to take a stand against racial hatred which still is not wholly extinct.

The Cardinal's statement was issued on the 11th anniversary of the day when the burning of synagogues all over Germany signalled the beginning of the most cruel phase in the persecution of Jews under the Nazi regime. The statement was prominently published by the *Volksblatt*, Berlin organ, which referred to it as marking "the recurrence of a day of shame in German history."

"ONCE AGAIN, the gruesome anniversary of the day recurred on which began the extermination of the Jews in Germany," the Cardinal's statement said.

"As you know, the former government murdered over five million Jews. Not even the aged and children were spared. It was a crime without precedent. I take occasion to refer to it because time and again, here and there in Germany, symptoms manifest themselves that racial and ethnic hatred still is not totally extinct. We are shocked to hear that even the peace of ecclesiastical life is being disturbed. And what surroundings must such youth live in, if such excesses can occur!"

(This is a reference to reports that in various parts of Germany, vandals have defaced and demolished tomb stones in Jewish cemeteries.)

Workers Will Give Holy Year Tools

Rome — (RNS) — The traditional hammer and trowel Pope Pius XII will use in opening the Holy Door in St. Peter's Basilica for the Holy Year of 1950 will be a gift from Catholic workers' associations all over Italy, Vatican officials disclosed.

Czech Bishops Ask Priests To Resist

Prague — (RNS) — In their first collective pronouncement since new church control laws went into force on November 1, the Roman Catholic Bishops of Czechoslovakia called upon their priests to resist every encroachment on the Church's rights no matter what suffering they may have to bear.

Drafted at a secret meeting presided over by Archbishop Joseph Matocha of Olomouc, the Bishops' statement warned that any priest who collaborated with the Communist regime in violation of his obedience to the Church would be unfrocked.

THE WARNING to the clergy was couched with the reminder that in "this most critical time" priests "who have so often called upon believers for sacrifices for their holy beliefs" are now required to show their own fidelity to the Church and the Pope.

Only extraordinary priests whose signatures did not appear on the bishops' statement was Archbishop Joseph Beran of Prague, who has been under house arrest since June 15, and consequently was unable to attend the hierarchy's meeting. It was reported that a delegation sent to the Archbishop's palace to obtain his signature was refused admission.

"The whole nation," the Bishops told the priests, "looks to you to let neither threats nor seductive promises separate you from our Holy Church. But should any one — and may God prevent it — forget his holy duty and betray Christ in this most critical time, he shall be deprived of his rights as a Catholic priest."

THE BISHOPS declared that such a priest, "falling under God's judgment and standing in shame before the people," would be deprived of his jurisdiction and denied the right of hearing confessions.

"We must defend ourselves and those who are attacked have a right to defend," the Bishops declared. "The life which is shortened by suffering is worth much more and gives more to the soul than the best life and easy actions by which the work of Christ would be wasted, the faith spoiled by heresy, the order of God broken, and the life of faith weakened and replaced by paganism."

THE BISHOPS repeated their

Lourdes Weighs Alleged Cures

Paris — (RNS) — One thousand alleged cures have been examined this year by the Medical Bureau at Lourdes, France's national Catholic shrine, according to a report published in the *Journal of the Order*, special news sheet authorized by St. Joseph Marie Therese of Lourdes.

Of this number, the report said, 73 were every category of ailments which have been cured. Medical explanation was sought for 214 cures and 100 were referred to the National Medical Commission.

The work of the Medical Bureau had been greatly increased by the steady growth in the number of pilgrims since the end of the war, the report disclosed.

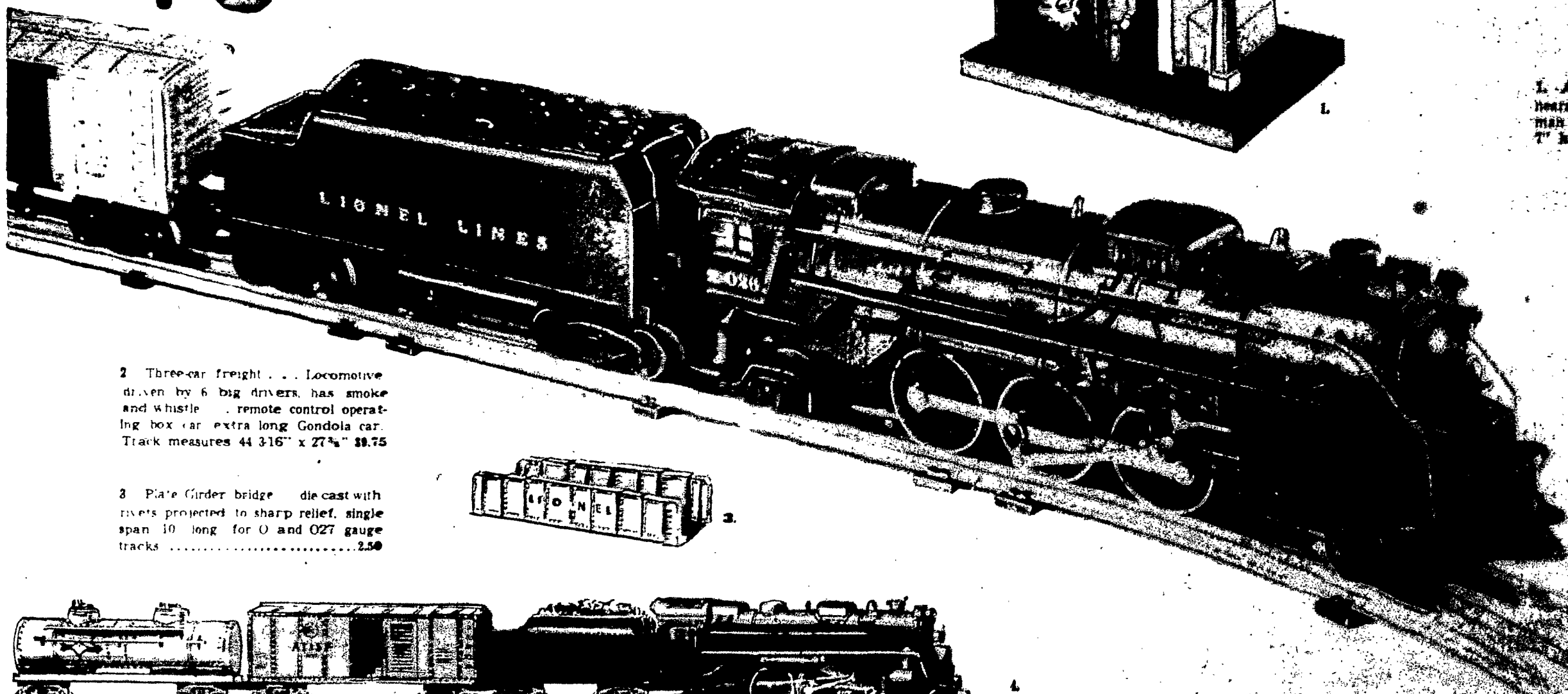
St. Peter's Tower

London, Nov. — (RNS) — There are now 25 St. Peter's Towers patterned after the famous Peter's Basilica, built in London by the late Lord, Robert, Marquess of Epsom. The towers, which were designed in Japan by a Tokyo architect,



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