

Priests Approve Recreation On Sunday

Birmingham, Ala. — (RNS) — Approval of "wholesome recreation" on Sundays after persons have performed their spiritual duties was voiced here by the Roman Catholic Priests' Association of Jefferson County.

The priests' action followed a resolution adopted recently by the Protestant Ministers Association condemning the use of a football stadium here for Sunday sports events.

IN THEIR statement, the priests declared "The Catholic Church demands in fulfillment of the Commandment of God, 'Remember that thou keep holy the Sabbath Day' acts of piety towards God at tendance at Divine worship and rest from daily labor. These are the primary requirements for the proper observance of Sunday.

"FOR THIS reason, far from forbidding all recreation, the Church invites us, after we have performed our spiritual duties to recreate ourselves in an honest and innocent manner.

"Recreation is as necessary for us as any of our other duties, and it is necessary to perform our other duties well.

"THIS TEACHING of the Catholic Church is summed up in the words of the Divine Master: 'The Sabbath was made for man, and not man for the Sabbath. (Mark 2:27) meaning thereby, that the Sabbath was ordained by God for man's spiritual and physical needs.

"Therefore we the members of the Catholic Priests' association of Jefferson County go on record as favoring any Sunday program of wholesome recreation and entertainment that will tend to meet the physical, cultural and social needs of this community."

Baptist Minister Studies Catholicism As Enrollee In Correspondence Course

Washington — (NC) — A Baptist minister in West Virginia was anxious to know more about the Catholic Church but did not dare approach a priest because of bigotry in his home town. Finally he got his opportunity to get a clear idea of Catholic teachings through the correspondence course conducted by students at Capuchin College here.

He is typical of the 13 persons who have taken the Religious Home Study Course given by the students for the past eight years. Both Catholics and non-Catholics have enrolled. Forty-one joined the Church. The students are all aspirants to the priesthood and members of the Franciscan Capuchin Order.

USING THE slogan "Let the mailman be your apostle," the course aims at instructing especially those who are interested in the Church, but find it impossible or embarrassing to take regular instructions from a priest. The idea originated with the Rev. Lester J. Fallon, C. M., some years before the war. He had spent the summer months explaining the Catholic religion in towns and hamlets of priestless Missouri areas and found correspondence the only way to keep in contact with prospective converts.

The course is based on the book, "Father Smith Instructs Jackson," by Bishop John F. Neill of Fort Wayne. It is given free and a diploma is presented on its completion.

THE REASONS for taking the course and the reactions to it are various, the Capuchin students here find. After finishing it, the Baptist minister wrote that this exposition of the true Catholic teaching had been "a revelation" to him.

The Minnesota father of a Catholic family, himself a non-Catholic, gave this reason for wanting the course: "I wish to worship with my family, because I do not want to be separated from them in anything."

A 15-year-old Pennsylvania farmboy, the oldest of ten children, related that, although a Catholic, neither he nor his parents had opportunity for much education in the Faith. He believed the course would help both him and the other members of the family.

A NON-CATHOLIC woman, married to a Catholic, said she

was eager to take instructions but could not see a priest regularly because her husband's job kept them constantly moving from place to place. Another woman near death of tuberculosis in a sanatorium took the course to preserve her faith in the several crisis of her life. "The greatest value of such a course," she said, "is the fact that it gives a person time really to assimilate the doctrine and to reflect, whereas in a regular instruction class much is missed."

The reaction to the course of a housewife from Washington State was: "I've not only learned the truth and sincerity of the Catholic faith, but I've learned to know God better."

A non-Catholic man from Kansas wrote: "Never have I been so well or so fully instructed in a religion. Whatever I may do in life from here on will be done better for what you have taught me."

RELIGION VIA HOME STUDY



Others of the Religious Home Study Course at Capuchin College, Washington, D. C., outline new contact methods for the coming year. During the past year 133 diplomas have been granted, some of these to non-Catholics. Of this number 41 have received Baptism. There is no charge for the course.

Records Of Last Holy Year Opened

By REV. JOSEPH SULLIVAN, Vatican City, Dec. 18.—The historical examination of records of the previous Holy Year, sealed in a repository in the Holy Door at its close, took place at a private ceremony called the "recognition" in St. Peter's Basilica.

The previous Holy Year was the special one proclaimed by Pope Pius XI and the closing of the Holy Door took place April 2, 1934.

THE CEREMONY consisted of the removal of a marble slab containing a Greek cross from the internal side of the Holy Door of St. Peter's, beneath which reposed the records placed there at the last closing. Mgr. Callori di Vignale presided in the capacity of Major-domo to His Holiness Pope Pius XII and was assisted by canons of St. Peter's.

A small wooden chest was removed and within that there was a sealed lead box, which, in turn, contained an ornamental gold-plated bronze box. This latter held 31 commemorative medals struck during the Pontificate of Pope Pius XI. Three of these were gold, 24 silver and 24 bronze.

VARIOUS PRESS accounts erroneously reported, according to a Vatican official, the absence of an official parchment record of the last Holy Year, which according to the same accounts, should have been there. According to the Vatican official, the parchment where it was placed, remains in the archives of the Protolibrary Apostolic and the other archives of the Basilica.

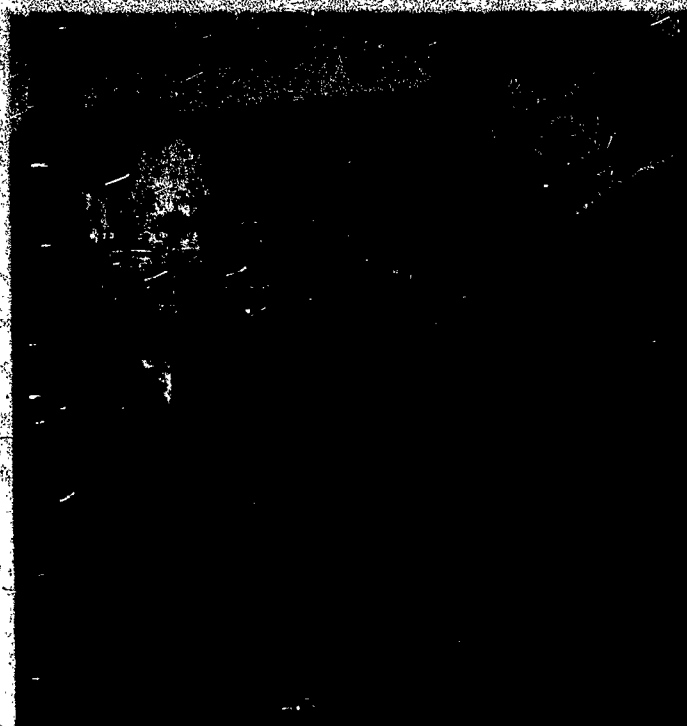
What apparently gave rise to the reports was the destruction of some paper bags containing the medals and paper inventory of the medals. All the medals were there, but little more than dust remained of the paper.

OFFICIALS EXPRESSED the opinion that time, moisture and the quality of paper must be the explanation. In another small box in the Holy Door a list of names of special bricks used in walling it up in 1934 were found perfectly intact.

Bricks for walling up the Holy Door are offered by various donors — individuals such as prelates, diplomats, groups and societies — with their names inscribed upon the bricks.

Chicago — (NC) — The typhoon which swept the Philippines last month caused more than \$100,000 damages to the new science building of San Carlos University of Cebu Island.

FOR HISTORICAL RESEARCH



At the Academy of American Franciscan Studies, presided by Dr. Herbert E. Nelson, professor of history at the University of California, records "The American Annual" from St. Alex. Alexinsky, who, O.F.M. (member), Director of the Academy, in the Rev. Modest Whelan, O.F.M., assistant director of "The American" house in (NY Photo).

Huge Stocks Of Clothing Given In Thanksgiving Drive

New York — (NC) — Hundreds of tons of clothing, including wool clothing, ready-made suits, and many other articles, were given away in the clothing drive of the War Relief Committee.

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MINCE THANKSGIVING week hundreds of tons of these articles have been arriving by rail and trailer-trucks from all districts out of the thousands participating in the campaign.

Extra police were necessary to handle traffic at the warehouse. The clothing, shoes and hats being gathered in the western dioceses is being forwarded to San Francisco, from where shipments also will be made directly to foreign ports.

The San Francisco warehouse reports the same abundance of goods being received there as in New York. ALREADY MORE than 1,000,000 pounds of clothing was shipped to France, Germany, Italy, and other countries.

U.S. Vatican 'Spy Ring' Story Denied

Washington — (NC) — The State Department has denied the story of a spy ring between the United States and the Vatican.

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Catholic-Owned Bus Carries Public School Students

Mercer, Wis. — (RNS) — A bus owned by a Roman Catholic church here transports public high school students to the school they attend in Hurley, Wis., about 20 miles away.

Father Joseph Higgins, pastor of St. Isaac Jogues and Company parish decided to carry the public school youngsters on the Catholic bus when it became apparent they could not otherwise get to class.

"Here is a concrete example of true democracy," the priest said, "and strange to say, the people here do not seem to think that there is any union of Church and State."

Father Higgins said that carrying public school students

along with the Catholic passengers had proved so popular that the bus was too small to accommodate all the pupils now seeking transportation. He said demands next year would make the bus totally inadequate.

Father Higgins said he is seeking a new and larger bus. He purchased the present vehicle with funds made available by Bishop Albert G. Meyer of Superior.

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Merry Christmas

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