

Japan Growth In Population Favors Catholics

Tokyo — (NC) — The annual percentage increase of Catholics in Japan is outstripping the population increase, a study of percentages shows.

The number of Catholics shows an increase of ten per cent a year, while the total population's growth is between one and two per cent. From 1947 to 1949 the Catholic population in Japan increased by 19.3 per cent.

Japan's 260 parishes had an average of 32 adult converts and 75 catechumens last year for a total of more than 8,000 converts and nearly 20,000 people under instruction. A further interesting statistic is the fact that nearly one per cent of all adult Catholics in Japan are either priests or seminary students. This is high tribute to the fervor of Catholic life here since seminaries were practically closed down for five years after Pearl Harbor.

These statistics show progress for the Church in Japan that surpasses the dreams of pre-war days. However, some reports of mass conversions have been so exaggerated as to give the impression that Japan will soon be a Christian nation.

Actually, the 130,000 Catholics represent only one-sixth of one per cent of Japan's 70 million people.

Consecrated



Most Rev. John J. McElaney, S.J., for the past six years Provincial of the New England Jesuit Province, who was consecrated Titular Bishop of Zeugma in Syria and Vicar Apostolic of Jamaica, British West Indies, on April 15, in Holy Cross Cathedral, Boston. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing was the consecrator; Bishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford and Bishop Daniel J. Feeney of Portland, Me., the consecrators. (NC Photos)

ROCHESTER PRIEST Fr. Sullivan Gets Newsmen Vatican Entry For Story

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Wolter were delayed while they tossed camera equipment into their car. Meanwhile, I jumped into my Lancia and my chauffeur followed the Cardinal's car through mad traffic, losing him at a stop light. Rounding into St. Peter's Square, I saw the Cardinal's car approaching the Vatican Gate. Costa and Wolter, in their Fiat, right behind him, I was 500 yards away. The Cardinal's car hesitated at the gate, the Swiss Guards saluted and the car whirled inside followed by Costa. When I rolled up to the gate, the guardmen came to port arms with their rifles and I was barred.

IT WAS THEN and there that I learned I do not speak Italian—or Swiss, for that matter. The guards just stared at me and ordered my Lancia to back out of the way. I got out fuming, trying to explain that I was with the Cardinal. No good. I couldn't go in. I tried to tell them that even if there were no news story, at least I was curious to know what was going on.

After standing there for about ten minutes, trying to figure out some way to sneak in without getting a bayonet in me, I was accosted by Father Joseph Sullivan of Rochester, N.Y., and Rome correspondent for the N.C.W.C. He wanted to know why I was standing around there. I explained the situation and pleaded that he get me inside. He spoke to the Guard, who looked distastefully at me. He decided I could enter if Father Sullivan rode with me, to see that I violated no major rules. So I finally got inside the sacred portals.

In the building on the quadrangle, I found Costa and Wolter sitting dejectedly, with no pictures made and no hope of any. But, in a few minutes, things really started popping.

A Papal chamberlain came from the audience chamber. He asked for the New York newsman and informed us that the Holy Father had reversed his earlier decision and would now permit photos to be taken—provided Costa could work fast. And did Costa work fast?

GRABBING EQUIPMENT — two cameras and lights—Costa and Wolter dashed into the chamber. The Cardinal smiled benignly and said, "Only one

minute, Joe. You'll have to hurry."

Costa and Wolter genuflected and went into action. With his flashes placed, Costa had less than 45 seconds in which to work. The lights flashed. Costa swiftly changed the bulbs, assisted by Wolter, who was art director turned camera assistant on the biggest picture story of his life. The lights flashed again. Quickly, without dropping the used bulbs at over the chamber floor, Joe and Wolter switched again. The lights flashed again. The Holy Father gave them his blessing and moved on in less than the 45 seconds. Costa and Wolter had shot two color pictures and one in black and white.

After an hour in audience with His Holiness, Cardinal Spellman had turned and asked one favor: That the men who had come all the way from New York with his pilgrims be permitted to make a few pictures. In his short time with the Holy Father, the Cardinal had thoughts of the news men. He wanted to help them. He did help them. The Holy Father consented, reversing his earlier decision not to pose for pictures. One of these is the cover photo others will appear inside the Mirror magazine on April 16.

For me, the highlight of the entire pilgrimage was yet to come. Pictures are not specifically my business. So, while Wolter and Costa were elated by rushing their pictures to the plane for fast shipment home, I still had the day's story to get and cable to the Mirror. I waited in the quadrangle to talk with the Cardinal. Father Sullivan had taken my car down the hill, and I was without transportation.

When the Cardinal left the building that houses the Papal Secretariat of State, he stroled over to me. I questioned him about his audience, and after he had told me the news for the day, he noted I had no car.

"How are you going to get back to our hotel, Joseph?" the Cardinal asked me.

"Guess I'll have to walk. Your Eminence?" I answered.

"How about riding down with me?" I have plenty of room," he offered.

THEN HIS EMINENCE took Monsignor Murphy and me on a personally conducted tour of the Vatican grounds, gardens

For Holy Year



Popular with Holy Year pilgrims in Rome are the special commemorative series of Vatican City postage stamps in honor of the Jubilee Year of 1950. Priced in eight values of four lire each they show: the Great Passion with Pope Boniface VIII; the Pope striking the Holy Door with the golden hammer; the conferring of the primacy on St. Peter; and the reproductions of the four Patriarchal Basilicas.

Catholic Unionists Approve Constitution

London (RNS) — A constitution for the Federation of Catholic Trade Unionists which represents 30,000 workers was approved at a meeting in Derby, England.

The Federation which is not in itself a trade union but rather an association of trade unionists already members of unions is expected to prove a strong anti-Communist influence.

Present plans call for the Federation's first annual meeting to be held this September.

palaces, offices and other buildings. He introduced me to Count Galeazzi who was happy to learn that the Holy Father had finally consented to have his picture taken. Finally we rode toward the Gate where the Swiss Guard stood at present arms. As we went through, I looked out at the same guard who had barred my entrance earlier. A big smile came over his hand some countenance and he winked as I slid away in the Cardinal's car.

And from that minute on I rated a salute from the Swiss Guard whenever I went to the Vatican.

Thousands Follow Passion In Streets of Barcelona

Barcelona, Spain — (NC) — One of the greatest mass demonstrations of faith took place here, when 200,000 persons participated in a procession of the Way of the Cross through the streets of Barcelona. The event was conducted as a response to the call to penitence by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

A huge cross, the Crucifix of the Holy Ghost of Lepanto, was carried at the head of the procession. The cross derived its name from the big naval battle in 1571 that brought victory to the Christians over the Turks near the coast of Greece.

Thousands of lighted lanterns were carried in the three-hour ceremony that fanned members of the hierarchy and leading figures of the diplomatic, military, political, civic, business and educational circles mingled with the humblest of citizens.

Bishop Gregorio Mendigoyena of Barcelona addressed the multitude and said that Barcelona had prayed and made reparation so that the wishes of the Holy Father may be realized, adding "Fear may be attained only through the path of Christ's Cross, with sacrifice for truth, justice and charity."

North Missioner Starts Vacation With Dog Trip

Montreal (NC) — Out of the Montreal was made by plane in fiction for north wastelands the Rev. Hubert Mascaret, O.M.I., who served for the last 12 years as a missionary among the Eskimos arrived here enroute to a vacation in France and a visit with his parents. It wasn't easy getting here. Father Mascaret

disclosed that when he took his leave his mission companion Father Paul DeLombie also an Oblate stepped outside to bid him good-bye. Father DeLombie didn't take the necessary precautions. Father Mascaret said and froze the tip of his nose.

Father Mascaret has been stationed at Ivuy-le-Francois, a northern mission in the Yukon of Labrador. He left his post in late February traveling by dog sled to Fort Chimo. It took him a month to reach the port a distance of 2,000 miles. The journey from the port to

Vatican's Guards Have 200 Rifles

Rome (UPI) — The Vatican's Swiss Guards have obtained permission to exercise with their postwar weapons on a rifle range belonging to the Italian Government. Vatican City grounds by order of the Pope.

The Swiss guards have 200 rifles and one machine gun. When they leave Vatican territory for target practice, they do not wear their colorful uniforms but ordinary civilian clothes.

Named To Magazine — Union City, N. J. (NC) — The Rev. Canon Flynn, O.P., chaplain at St. Agnes Hospital, Baltimore, Md. has been appointed to the staff of The Sign, a national Catholic magazine published here by the Passionist Fathers.

Urges Study Clubs — Manchester, N. H. (NC) — Bishop Matthew F. Brady of Manchester has ordered an intensification of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine program, with special emphasis on discussion clubs, throughout his diocese.

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