Pope's Encyclical Upholds Church Teaching Authority

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from the sacred teaching authority."

IN WARNING "advocates of novelty" in the specific field of theology, the Pontiff deplores a tendency to "deliberately and habitually" neglect the Encyclical letters of Pontiffs concerning the nature and constitution of the Church.

"Even generally leave theologians free in those matters which are disputed by respectable theologians; but history teaches that many matters that formerly were open to discussion no longer now admit of discussion," the document says, adding:

"Nor must it be thought that what is expounded in Encyclical letters does not itself demand consent, on the pretext that in writing such letters the Popes do not exercise the supreme power of their teaching authority. For these matters are taught with the ordinary teaching authority, of which it is true to say 'he who heareth you heareth Me'; and generally what is expounded and inculcated in Encyclical letters already for other reasons appertains to Catholic doctrine.

"But if the Supreme Pontiffs in their official documents purposely pass judgment on a matter up to that time under dispute, it is obvious that the matter, according to the mind and will of the same Pontiffs, cannot be any longer considered a question open to discussion among theologians."

Deploring that some scorn Thomistic philosophy, calling it "outmoded in form and rationalistic in thought," the Pope declares that centuries of experience show "the method of Aquinas is singularly pre-eminent both for teaching students and for bringing truth to light; his doctrine is in harmony with Divine Revelation and is most effective both for safeguarding the foundation of faith and for reaping safely and usefully the fruits of sound progress."

POPE PIUS acknowledges that a majority of Catholic savants are "far removed from those errors," but adds "We know also that such new opinions can entice the incautious; and therefore We prefer to withstand the very beginnings rather than to administer the medicine after the disease has grown inveterate."

In his conclusion the Pope urges ecclesiastical superiors to use all diligence in guarding and maintaining the purity of Catholic doctrine and admonishes professors of ecclesiastical sciences to follow directives given by the teaching authority of the Church.

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A-Bomb Lawful In Defense War, Says Franciscan

Milwaukee, Wis. — (RNS) — Unless a war is just, "neither the atom bomb nor any other bomb can be used," Father Matthew Herron, T.O.R., of St. Francis College, Loretto, Pa., told the 31st annual Franciscan educational conference at Cardinal Stritch College here.

"Since every just war is essentially a defense action," the priest said, "those weapons may be used which are necessary for self-preservation. Self-survival may become impossible unless a nation uses atomic weapons. Conditions could arise, therefore, which would justify the use of the atomic or even the dreaded hydrogen bomb."

Instead of bombing populous cities like Hiroshima and Nagasaki to demonstrate to Japan the demolishing effects of the atom bomb, the United States could have chosen the "more human" path of using the bomb on an uninhabited area, he suggested.

"The Japanese could then have observed its effects before deciding whether or not to continue the conflict," he added.

New Czech Law Penalizes Priests

London — (RNS) — Czechs who conduct religious activities without obtaining authorization from the State are liable to prison terms of from one to three years under a new law.

This was reported by the Vatican Radio which said the same law also provides prison terms for those who "abuse" their religious functions. In this case the penalty ranges from three months to three years.

Thus, the Vatican station said, "the Czech officials are afforded pretexts for abusing their powers against priests."

Korean Reds Occupy Convent, Jail Nuns

London — (RNS) — North Korean troops have occupied the Benedictine convent at Tokwan and imprisoned the nuns after evicting them, the Vatican Radio reported.

CATECHISM IN THE CONGO

Catholic missionaries have created numerous native teaching congregations to aid them in spreading the Gospel. Above a native Sister at a mission near Bansyville, Belgian Congo, teaches catechism to the children. (NC Photos)

Reds Abolish St. Stephen Day

London — (RNS) — St. Stephen's Day, celebrated for centuries as a civic and religious holiday throughout Hungary, has been abolished by the government as an official observance.

From now on, Communist authorities have ruled, the day will be observed as Constitution Day to mark the anniversary of the Hungarian Communist Constitution.

Despite this ruling Hungarian Roman Catholics crowded their churches on Aug. 20 to celebrate St. Stephen's Day, according to dispatches from Budapest.

The traditional procession with the "Holy Right," the embalmed right hand of St. Stephen, which is a national holy relic, did not take place. But the relic was displayed to many thousands at St. Stephen's Basilica here.

Masses at the Basilica were celebrated by Archbishop Jozsef Groesz of Kalocsa and Archbishop Gyula Czapik of Eger.

Church Warns Germans On Red 'Peace' Bid

Berlin — (RNS) — Catholics here were warned by Church authorities against "falling prey to the Communist peace propaganda." The warning was broadcast over Germany's two most powerful radio stations, RIAS, the American-sponsored Berlin station, and the Northwest German station.

The broadcast was headlined "Be aware of the false prophets." It warned that Communism uses many propaganda methods to catch people into its ranks, and particularly hopes to win the Christian population by peace slogans.

"It knows," the broadcast said, "that the defense of peace finds open ears and hearts in all Christians.

"However, what the peaceful attitude of the East Zone rulers is really like is proved by the cruel and unhuman government of the German Democratic Republic, especially in the case of so-called political crimes."

In conclusion, the broadcast said:

"To the outside world, Communists present themselves as the defenders of peace. But within their area of power they rule by force and injustice. They thus become in reality the gravediggers of peace."

Cloistered Nuns Vote First Time

St. Louis — (RNS) — Two groups of cloistered nuns here were able to vote for the first time when polls were set up on their convent grounds.

The cloistered nuns were 40 Sisters of Visitation, who conduct the Visitation Academy, and 15 from the Academy of Sacred Heart. They voted on the adoption of a new city charter.

Assumption Definition Seen Blow At World Materialism

(Continued from Page 1)

Father Balic recalls the indescribable enthusiasm of faith and piety which met the definition of divine maternity and perpetual virginity, and the blows which they struck at the heresies of those times.

He asks who would remain indifferent at the thought of the incalculable effects of the "dogmatic definition of the Immaculate Conception in times of atheism and satanic impiety?" It was a prelude to the definition of the doctrine of the Infallibility of the Popes, he says, the apparitions at Lourdes and Fatima and an increase in the devotion to the Sacred Heart of Mary and numerous solemn Eucharistic and Marian congresses and the foundation of religious congregations, etc.

SPEAKING OF the times in which we live, Father Balic goes on to say:

"Two world wars, and especially the second, have renewed in all its cruelty the fury of the 'satanic revolution' of the eighteenth century. We witness a systematic, direct and even completely unrestrained assault against God and the Church, with aspects of intolerance and bloody persecution the sight of which was perhaps not given to times which history would show as worse . . . men ever more descend toward materialism, turn their backs on Heaven and forget their sonship of a common Father, their membership in the same family and lose the view of eternal unfailing destinies.

"When we venerate the Assumption of Mary with true religious intent and sincere conviction, we make a profession of faith not only in the individual privileges of Mary, but we profess also the fundamental mysteries of our holy religion.

"The Assumption, which recalls to belief in the resurrection of the body and life everlasting, is a fundamental truth of such significance that it will be able not only to produce a profound intellectual renewal, but will also inaugurate a new era of faith and the great return of scattered peoples to the unity of the true Faith in the bosom of the Holy Catholic Church under the protecting mantle of the only Mother."

The most important aspect of the definition the Rev. Gabriele Ronchini said in another comment is the blow it strikes at all present-day errors, which can be summed up in the word "materialisms" and the blow it strikes for the spiritual doctrines of the resurrection of the body and life everlasting. Father Ronchini is a member of the Order of the Servants of Mary (Servites) of Chicago, who for 25 years has been professor of Mariology at the Order's international college here and is an expert on the doctrine of the Assumption.

He is scheduled to give a series of ten weekly lectures over Radio Vatican in preparation for the definition of the Assumption.

Cardinal Mooney To Dedicate School

Steubenville, O. — (NC) — His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit will officiate at the dedication of the new Catholic Central High School here on September 10. Besides Bishop John K. Mussio of Steubenville, several other Bishops of the area are expected to attend the ceremonies.

More than 800 students are expected to register at the opening of the school on September 5.

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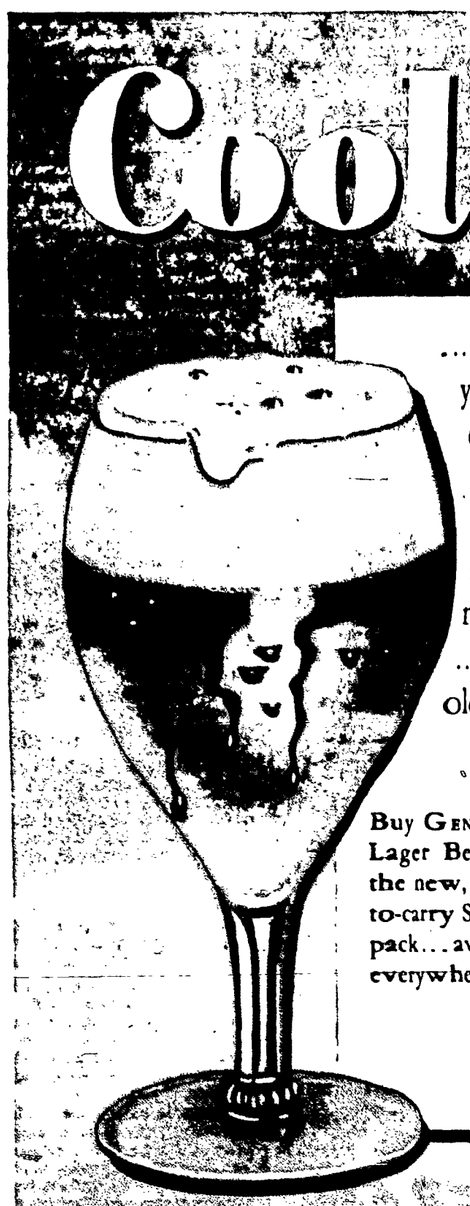

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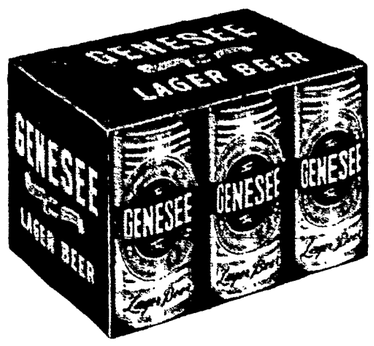

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