Catholics Observe Labor Day With Special Masses, Sermons

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

In every section of the country religious ceremonies under Catholic auspices were an outstanding feature of the observance of Labor Day, 1950. It was probably the largest and most extensive Catholic participation to date in this constantly growing national holiday.

In large centers, the high note of Catholic observance was the offering of special Labor Day Masses in cathedrals or prominent churches, with Bishops, priests and members of the laity attending in impressive numbers. On each occasion the sermon was delivered by a distinguished student of social questions, who spoke with particular reference to the rights, obligations and opportunities of the working man.

HIS EMINENCE Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, assisted by three Archbishops and 11 Bishops took part in the Labor Day exercises at Santa Fe, which were a part of the celebration of the 100th anniversary of the appointment of Bishop John Baptist Lamy as Bishop of Santa Fe.

Fifty thousand copies of the 1950 Labor Day statement of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, were distributed at 50 Labor Day Masses in the Brooklyn Diocese. This was done through the courtesy of Bishop Thomas E. Molloy of Brooklyn.

IN LOS ANGELES, the fourth annual Labor Day Mass and Communion arranged under the auspices of the Catholic Labor Institute, was offered in St. Vibiana's Cathedral. Archbishop J. Francis A. McIntyre of Los Angeles, presided at the Mass.

The Rev. Robert H. Tensing of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, preached the sermon at the Mass in St. Louis' Church, Cincinnati, which was offered by Bishop George J. Rehring, Auxiliary of Cincinnati since 1947 and now Bishop-Designate of Toledo.

In Baltimore, the day was marked by a Mass and Communion breakfast by the Maryland Action Guild. The Rev. John F. Crenin, S.S., assistant director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, addressed the breakfast meeting.

The Rev. Dr. John P. Monaghan, national chaplain of the Association of Catholic Trade Unionists, delivered the sermon at the New York Archdiocese's annual Labor Day Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral. Father Monaghan, pastor of St. Margaret Mary Church, Staten Island, declared that "To the Catholic Church, as to no other group, organized labor owes a great debt of gratitude."

LABOR DAY SERMON

Poor Trade-Unionist Also Poor Catholic, Priest Says

Chicago—(NC)—"The Catholic trade unionist who is not a good trade unionist is to that extent not a good Catholic," working people and employers from the Chicago area were told at the annual Labor Day Mass at Holy Name Cathedral.

The Rev. Benjamin L. Masse, S.J., associate editor of America, in the sermon urged workers "to be loyal to their unions, to take an active part in their affairs, to strive to make them the best, the cleanest, the most constructive unions in the world."

FATHER MASSE

"AND THESE thoughts should lead our workers, too, to remain close to the Church, to seek their daily strength in prayer and reception of the Sacraments, to find in the social messages of the Pope a light for their minds and a guide to their acting," he said.

Arranged by the Catholic Labor Alliance, the Mass was under the auspices of His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago.

Father Masse, an authority on labor problems, declared that a new era in industry and trade unionism was dawning.

"IN CONSTANTLY growing numbers, leaders of industry are coming to see that they cannot reasonably expect cooperation from their men unless they first give them, and the unions which represent them, that measure of security without which life remains too precarious to be enjoyed," he reported.

"A few short months ago the largest non-financial corporation in the country recognized this simple fact. It gave a measure of security to the union with which it deals, and it gave security to the men it employs, such security, at any rate, as is possible in a free economy.

"That example will be followed by other companies. Already, indeed, it has been followed in a number of cases."

THIS DEVELOPMENT, opening "a completely new vista for unions," offers them "a kind of partnership in industry," Father Masse declared.

"It means that their slow and painful climb up the ladder has ended, that they have arrived. After years of struggle, it gives them a chance to devote much less of their time to the negative job of defense, and much more of their time to building, in collaboration with fair-minded employers, a still richer life for our people."

Labor Day, Father Masse said, "was a protest against a growing industrial order which tended to treat the worker as a nameless element in the cost of production; which was careless of his rights as a human being; which often made a mockery in practice of that glorious doctrine in the Declaration of Independence that all men are created free and equal, and have a right to life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness.' 'Labor Day was a protest, in short,' Father Masse added, 'against an order which overlooked the most important thing about a workingman, or about any man, namely, his dignity as a son of God."

New Hospital

Norfolk, Neb. — (NC) — Archbishop Gerald T. Bergan of Omaha officiated at dedication of the ultra-modern $700,000 new Our Lady of Lourdes Hospital, here.

* * *

American troops in Korea find spiritual strength from their chaplains within rifle shot of the enemy. In these photos taken at the front line (top), an unidentified Catholic chaplain gives Holy Communion to some troops about to enter the battle. At an improvised chapel (right) set up in a Pusan warehouse, an Irish St. Columban missionary, Rev. Bernard Geraghty, who has labored in Korea for 25 years, assists the Army chaplain in hearing Confessions. (NC Photos)

* * *

More Chaplains Asked For Duty With Armed Forces

Washington D.C. — (RNS) — Army Chief of Chaplains (Major General) Roy H. Parker has called for additional clergymen of all denominations to serve with the Armed Forces. He particularly urged clergymen holding reserve commissions to volunteer for active duty.

Chaplain Parker said there are four ways in which clergymen can volunteer for duty.

(1) RESERVE chaplains may volunteer for active duty.

(2) Chaplains assigned to civilian components, National Guard or reserve units will be called up when those units are mobilized.

(3) Chaplains in the inactive reserve will be called up to meet the needs of the service.

(4) Clergymen with no previous military experience may apply for commissions as reserve chaplains if they have not yet attained their 33rd birthday, and may subsequently apply for active duty.

Parish Runs Adult Education Courses

Pittsburgh—(NC)—Adult education courses of Sacred Heart parish, here, which have reached an overall enrollment of 1,100 men and women, will enter upon their fourth year, October 31.

Experienced teachers will conduct courses on "The History of Christianity," "The Lessons of Korea," "Marriage, for Better or for Worse," "The Fundamentals of Christianity," "Logic, Philosophy and the Laws of Thought," and "The Canon Law and the Civil Law of Marriage and the Matrimonial Courts."

Chinese Detest Red Ruler, Reports Say

By J. J. GILBERT

Washington — (NC) — Information from private and intimate sources in China, and highly regarded by observers, makes these points clear:

1. The United States was shamefully misinformed—either because its experts were simply mistaken or because our officials were viciously deceived—about the character of the hordes that have conquered China. They are unmistakably communists and puppets of Moscow.

2. THE CHINESE people generally are bitterly opposed to their conquerors. It has been estimated that they are 80 per cent anti-communist—whether the communists are Russians or natives. Many of them are convinced that Moa, the leader of the Chinese Reds, has sold them out to Moscow.

3. Many of the Chinese people would prefer anyone—the Americans or even the Japanese—to the Reds. But in many places, and at least in the flat coastal area, the Reds are taking every precaution to see that they are not overthrown by their victims. In some cities there is a Red assigned to every six houses, and he keeps an eye on their residents by having his meals in these houses by turn.

4. Russian jet planes have been seen in various parts of the China sky, notably in the Shanghai area. The Chinese readily recognize their presence as a part of Mao's "deal" with Stalin. Mao gets military equipment and support, and Stalin gets Chinese workers and rice in return. This infuriates the Chinese, who cannot understand why so much rice must go to Russia when there is so much starvation in China.

5. Russian propaganda is being overdone, rather than underplayed. There are pictures of Stalin and Lenin everywhere. They are sometimes combined with pictures of Mao. While Mao was in Moscow for one of his visits, the controlled press in China kept up a veritable drumfire of communist propaganda. It is clear that the Reds in China are determined that the U. S. Department of State shall not have the opportunity of weaning Old Cathay away from Moscow, if that be the State Department's plan at this late date.

6. THE REDS' victory bond campaign was a terrific flop until the bond salesmen started to make the rounds in the company of two Red soldiers per bond salesman. If a householder protested that he could not afford to buy a quota of, say, 200 bonds, he was instantly told that his quota had been increased to 400 bonds. There were many suicides.

7. Some of the Russian Reds who have come to China to help along with its conversion to the soviet system live on the fat of the land. They take up residence in the swank localities, and "live not like visitors but like conquerors." When they drink too much, many Chinese have had reason to find them more obnoxious than the Japanese. The Chinese communists fear the Russian Reds.

Truly China has fallen on evil days. To the extent that her downfall was encouraged or abetted by people in the United States, this country should feel the pangs of deep remorse.

One can almost discern on the part of some the incredible attitude that it was desirable that China should fall when she did, that she will profit by it, because she will eventually shake off the Red yoke and arise stronger and better. What a horrible line of reasoning, if one can be sincere in it! What assurance is there that the Chinese will be able to throw off Russia's domination? And what right does anyone have to consign her to such acute suffering while she attempts to free herself?

The news from China is interesting, even challenging, but it is not happy news.

Cornerstone Laid At Ogdensburg

Ogdensburg, N. Y.— (NC) — With impressive ceremonies, the cornerstone of the new Cathedral of St. Mary here, was blessed and laid by Bishop Bryan J. McEntergart of Ogdensburg before more than 7,000 persons.

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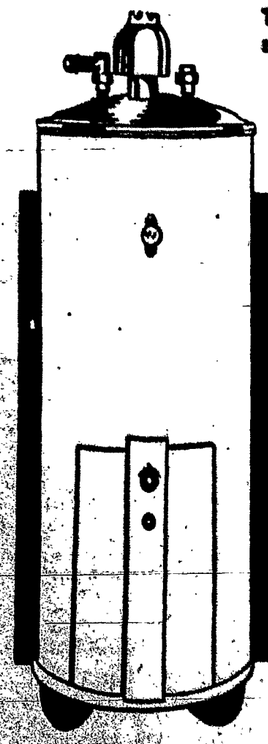

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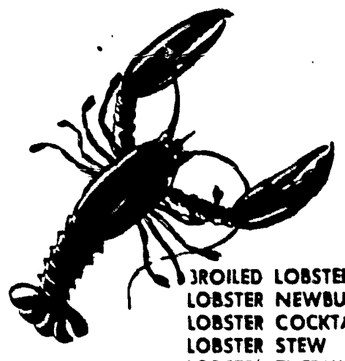

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Help the Little Fellah!

No, we haven't our genders mixed, for this little lady is a "fellah," or a poor country child in Upper Egypt. She's in a sewing class at the school in Nazlet, Diocese of Minieh . . . Jesuit Father P. Ayrout takes care of her and her brothers and sisters in 128 schools in Catholic parishes there . . . Those who join his "Helper's Association" give $150 to maintain a class for a year, or buy the kiddies "galabeyas" (school dresses) for a dollar apiece, or send whatever they can for medicine and soap. Will you join up and help the little fellah?

"QUIT YOUR KIDDING"

SOUNDS LIKE an echo of "Kfarkeddi" a Maronite village in Lebanon. And that's about what the youngsters there are saying to old-timers who talk about the "new" parish church. It was started in 1882, but such is the poverty of these rugged mountaineers that they haven't been able to finish it yet. And we're not kidding either. Photos show what has been built. It could be a pretty little church. . . . $2,000 will realize the dreams of three generations at Kfarkeddi. It could come all at once or in the following memorials: $300 for the roof, $500 to finish the inside walls, $300 each for the three altars, $200 for a little steeple and bell; $100 for furnishings.

DAY BY DAY IN EVERY WAY

OUR REFUGEE PROBLEM gets bigger and bigger. You've read Msgr. McMahon's summary of the coming winter's needs in recent Catholic press dispatches. Ways you can help include clothes sent c/o CNEWA Warehouse, 52-15 Flushing Ave., Maspeth, L. I., $10 for a food package, $6 for a pair of shoes, $5 for a blanket, or any amount, large or small, "for the Refugees."

PEARL OF THE ORIENT

LIKE A STRING of pearls the Rosary Sisters encircle the Holy Land with their precious little schools. Say an occasional rosary for their vital work and send us a gift to keep them going. Is $10 too much for these pearls of the Orient?

MYSTIC SEVEN

HOW OFTEN as children we did things in threes for the Holy Trinity or in fives for the Sorrowful Mysteries! Would you like to do something in SEVENS to honor the Seven Sorrows of Our Lady on the Feast, Sept. 15? How about seven dollars a month for our six clubs and the Stringless Gift Fund. The Clubs? . . . BASILIAN, for schools; CHRYSOSTOM for Seminarians' tuition, MARY'S BANK for support of Novices, MONICA GUILD for Altar Linens and vestments; LEPERS' FUND and ORPHANS' BREAD, 'nuf said. STRINGLESS GIFTS, emergency mission needs; $7 a month.

RIGHT ARM OF THE CHURCH

OR AT LEAST of the priest in mission lands is the Catechist. While Father visits the sick, administers the Sacraments, etc., his Catechist is teaching the children and the prospective converts, getting ready for Baptism and First Communion. . . . Christian Brother Andriano has opened a preparatory school for them at Cheren, Eritrea. . . . Could you support one of these indispensable men during his training period? $100 will do it.

DARK CONTINENT

FAMOUS for his devotion to the colored in Africa was St. Peter Claver. For his Feast, Sept. 9, we suggest you take an interest in the school for colored girls which the "Pious Mothers" Order of Sisters is developing in Asmara, Eritrea, in his beloved Dark Continent. . . . They've only a canvas roof over the building, and besides, they need another room for a new class expected in October. . . . $500 would give them that roof; $100 would do a lot for the new classroom.

Read our Gregorian Mass leaflet.

Send all communications to:

Catholic Near East Welfare Association
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.