

MONSIGNOR SHEEN:

Assumption Dogma Antidote To Despair

Washington (NC) — "Within three decades the definition of the Assumption will cure the pessimism and despair of the modern world," Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen, recently appointed national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, states in an article in the January issue of The Thomist.

In another article in the same issue, Archbishop Amlejo G. Cioffaglia, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, traces the history of devotion to the Blessed Virgin in this country and praises Americans' traditional devotion to her.

EVERY DEFINED dogma, Msgr. Sheen states, has two sides. It affirms the tradition of the Church and recalls the world from current excesses of thought. A century ago, at a time when Marx, Darwin and others were teaching a philosophy of false optimism based on universal progress, the definition of the Immaculate Conception recalled man to an awareness of sin.

"If these philosophers were right," he says, "man is naturally good and capable of perfection through his own efforts. It follows that everyone is immaculately conceived. The Church arose in protest and affirmed that only one human person in all the world is immaculately conceived, that man is prone to sin. The dogma of the Immaculate Conception wilted and killed the false optimism of the inevitable and necessary progress of man without God."

THEN, HE SAYS, there came a reaction. The optimistic man became pessimistic man as the result of a disappointed hedonism and gave himself up to a philosophy of despair centering principally around sex and death. This state of mind, he declares, will be counteracted by the reaffirmation of love and life, "the two philosophical pillars on which rests the belief in the Assumption."

"As in the definition of the Church had to remind the world that perfection is not biologically inevitable," he concludes, "so now in the definition of the Assumption, it has to give hope to the creature of despair."

Bishop Boyle Buried In Pittsburgh



PITTSBURGH (NC) — Pontifical Requiem Mass was offered in St. Paul's Cathedral Thursday for Bishop Hugh C. Boyle of Pittsburgh. Ordinary for 29 years of one of the largest Dioceses in the U. S. in Catholic population, who died here (December 22) at the age of 77.

His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, pontificated at the Mass. Bishop Boyle was buried in St. Mary's Cemetery alongside his two immediate predecessors in the Pittsburgh episcopacy.

UPON THE DEATH of Bishop Boyle he was automatically succeeded by Bishop John F. Dearden, Coadjutor. The Pittsburgh prelate had been in Mercy Hospital since last January, when he suffered a slight stroke. Bishop Boyle had held a number of posts with the National Catholic Welfare Conference until 1942. From 1930-35 he had served as Episcopal Chairman of the N.C.W.C. Press Department.

Canada Plan Hits Catholic High Schools

Toronto (RNS) — Recommendations which would mean the disappearance of all Roman Catholic high schools as such in Ontario were made in a report here by the Royal Commission on Education set up in 1943 to study school conditions throughout the province.

Headed by Justice A. A. Hope of the Ontario Supreme Court, the report proposed that public and Roman Catholic (separate) school boards administer education only in elementary schools and that all other schools be placed under public control.

THE PROPOSAL regarding the merging of all public and Catholic high schools met with immediate objection from James Cardinal McGuigan, Archbishop of Toronto.

In its 500,000 word report, the 20-man commission also recommended that the present system of public and Catholic elementary schools be changed to offer a six-grade course of study for children up to 12, rather than a 10-grade course up to 16 as at present.

After that, it declared, all secondary schools for students over 16 should be administered only by public school boards.

The Commission also urged the banning of religious emblems of a denominational nature, or the wearing of religious habits in public elementary and secondary schools and in junior colleges.

CARDINAL MCGUIGAN declared in his protest that the report would cause "astonishment and consternation" among the Catholics of Ontario. He made public a statement which said: "Catholics will reaffirm their rights in conscience to make every effort for the educational concern of their children in accordance with their religious convictions in any reform of the school system of the province."

Argentine Family Institute Blessed

Buenos Aires (NC) — His Eminence Santiago Luis Cardinal Copello, Archbishop of this See, blessed the Institute of Family Education. This is the first institution of its kind in this country. It will train young women for their roles as wives, mothers and home-makers.



The late Cardinal von Preysing, Berlin, who died suddenly last week, is shown here talking with His Excellency Bishop Kearney during a visit to Rochester in Nov. 1947.

Cardinal Von Preysing Dies Suddenly Of Heart Attack

By MAX JORDAN

Berlin — His Eminence Konrad Cardinal von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, died a few moments after the Rev. Johannes Lichy had heard his Confession.

On the morning of his death (Dec. 21), the Cardinal had complained of not feeling well. Nevertheless, he went to see his dentist. Upon returning home he saw Father Lichy who heard his Confession regularly on Thursdays, the day of his death. Shortly afterwards he suffered a heart attack which was fatal, but the Sacrament of Extreme Unction was administered in time by his secretary, the Rev. Bernhard Schwedtfeger, who, with a Sister in charge of the Cardinal's household, were the only persons present at the deathbed.

CARDINAL VON PREYSING, who with His Eminence Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich and Freysing, and Clement von Galen, Bishop of Muenster, who died in 1946, was the outstanding champion of the Church in the struggle against the Nazi regime, will be buried Thursday (Dec. 28) at St. Hedwig's Cemetery here. A Solemn Requiem Mass will be sung by His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne.

The Berlin Cardinal had observed his 70th birthday only three months ago in his native Bavaria. He had recovered remarkably well from severe illness, and undertook a trip to Rome for the Holy Year and also attended the British Hierarchy's centennial celebration in London.

Priests Ready For Lifting Of 'Iron Curtain'

New York (NC) — "When God rends the Iron Curtain, the Franciscans will be there." This is the slogan of the Friary of Our Lady of Perpetual Help in the Connecticut hills near New Canaan, where young men are being trained in the Ignatian-Stavroic Rite for work among people of Slavic origin in the United States and for an apostolate in the East.

THIS NEW and ambitious American missionary activity, the Rev. Malachy Wall, O.F.M., Friary superior, points out, aims toward the gigantic objective of reclaiming for the Church the Iron Curtain countries. He explains that "the Franciscans are not waiting for God to rend the Iron Curtain. They are doing it."

The Friary is the motherhouse of the Commissariat of St. Mary of the Angels, a unit of the Franciscan Order in the Eastern Rite, which was established in 1947 to carry out the will of the Holy See, and to the benediction of the Very Rev. John Dunsen, S.J., C.F.M., Provincial. The sole purpose, as stated by Father Wall, is to rally the faithful of this country to the immense task of bringing back to the Church the peoples of the East.

TWO YEARS since the establishment of the Commissariat have been ones of striving. Father Wall says, but the Friary is well established now. "Steady and natural growth is the objective," he added. Proven vocations are urgently needed from among young Americans, he said, to meet the challenge offered throughout the East.

One of the great hopes voiced by Father Wall is that the clergy and laity of the United States will manifest more interest in an undertaking that is aimed to help in carrying out the message of Fatima.

Church Educating Uruguayan Children

Montevideo (Uruguay) (NC) — Religious Orders and congregations of Uruguay educate 20,000 children, about ten per cent of school-going children in the country. In 1934, says a report of the Union Nacional de Educacion Catolica in the Uruguayan Seminary of Elementary Education which met here.

Pontiff Closes Holy Door To End Rome Jubilee Year

(Continued from Page 1) believed the papal jubilee as such as it referred to the entrance of the Jubilee, and by that because the last person to cross the Holy Door was the pontiff.

There entered the pontiff, Pope Pius XII, for the first time, and he closed the Holy Door with a golden key. The pontiff, who had just returned from his summer retreat at Castel Gandolfo, was accompanied by the Cardinal Secretary of State, Cardinal Eusebio Cardinali, and the Cardinal of the Holy Roman Church, Cardinal Giuseppe Siri.

NEW EMBLEMEN Monsignor Cardinal Carini, the Grand Penitentiary of the Church, handed the Holy Father the golden key. With the key, Pope Pius XII, three times crossed the threshold of the Holy Door at the same time, speaking in Latin. The first time, Pope Pius XII said: "In faith and by the authority of Our Lord Jesus Christ, Son of the Living God." The second time, he said: "Who said to the Prince of the Apostles, Peter, 'I will build My Church.'"

Then the Holy Father put three gold-covered letters in place. The first in the center of the threshold, the second to the right and the third to the left, saying: "We place this Holy Door in honor of the Holy Year, which was opened on the 11th of June, 1934, and will be closed on the 11th of June, 1950."

Donations Buy Bus For Pupils Denied Public Rides

Avon Lake, Ohio (NC) — Children of St. Joseph School here are riding in bus which was bought by donations from Catholics and non-Catholics from New York to California. Since after the Avon Lake school of admission denied pupils of other faiths, the school board, at the opening of the school year, the school board of Avon Lake, Ohio, was informed that many of the children were denied admission to the school. A MAJORITY of the donors were Catholics, but many were non-Catholics. The bus was bought by the following: Mrs. J. J. ...

... of the Holy Year, which was opened on the 11th of June, 1934, and will be closed on the 11th of June, 1950. ... of the Holy Year, which was opened on the 11th of June, 1934, and will be closed on the 11th of June, 1950. ... of the Holy Year, which was opened on the 11th of June, 1934, and will be closed on the 11th of June, 1950.

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