

# German, Swiss Bishops Curb Public On Fake Apparitions

By MAX JORDAN  
(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

**Bonn** — (NC) — Catholics were ordered to attend the special "visionary meetings" at the shrine of Heroldsbach in the diocese of Bamberg, Bavaria, according to a German announcement here.

At the same time the Swiss hierarchy, in a joint statement issued during their annual meeting at Einsiedeln, formally warned the faithful not to be "excessively credulous" in regard to Heroldsbach. Fully supporting the bishops of Germany, many of whom have issued similar warnings, the Swiss bishops ordered their clergy from going to the May village which has attracted attention ever since, in the fall of 1949, nine girls, ranging from 11 to 13 years of age, successively claimed to have had visionary "apparitions" of the Blessed Virgin in nearby woods.

**TENS OF THOUSANDS** of "pilgrims" have flocked to the place since that time, even from neighboring countries like Austria, France and Switzerland, despite the formal warnings issued by both the Chancery of Bamberg and the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office in Rome.

A commission of experts appointed by Archbishop Joseph Otto Kolb of Bamberg reached the conclusion nearly two years ago that the children are the victims of "hysteria" and "mass hysteria," and that the events they claim to have witnessed, definitely are not of supernatural origin.

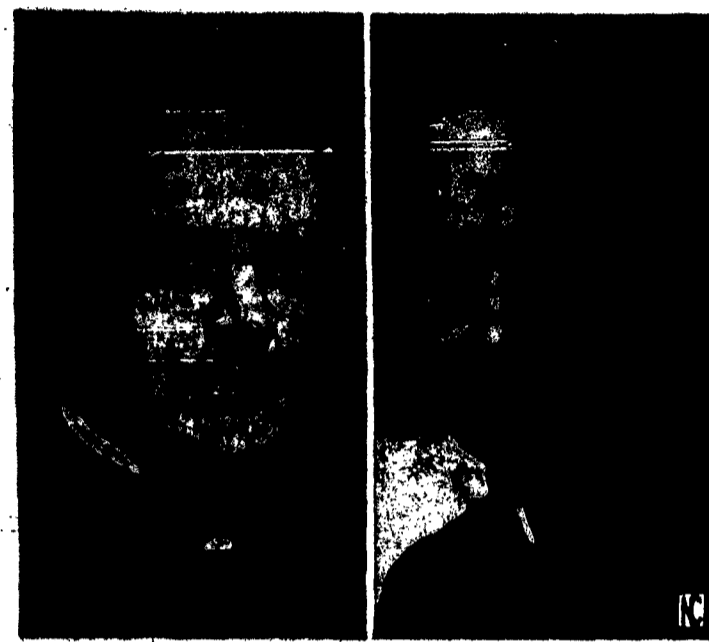
(An "idiotic" person is one who is afflicted with mental images, which sometimes persist and may often be recalled.)

**THE HOLY OFFICE** confirmed this opinion in a letter, signed by the late Cardinal Marchetti Selvaggiani, and addressed to the Bamberg Ordinary. Nevertheless,

less agitation about Heroldsbach continues. Local people do a thriving business by selling candles "to be blessed by the Virgin Mary," devotional articles of all kinds and food-stuffs. Bus companies organize trips to "cash in" on the vogue which was started on the mere word of some little girls who, naturally, are excitable and immature.

The Heroldsbach "visions" include some manifest nonsense, and even heretical traits, such as "the Child Jesus being given a bath by the Blessed Mother." The scene at Bethlehem as described by the children who pretend to have seen it, is described in detail, even to the extent where the manger is adorned with a banner carrying the German (sic) translation of "Glory to God in the Highest." The children insist that "little angels came to play" with them regularly. One of the girls reports she has "seen the Holy Trinity." When asked for a description she said there were "three men, one dressed in blue, one in red and one in yellowish gold, and over them hovered a dove." When told that something in this picture was wrong, she replied: "Well, then we'll leave out the dove!"

## BISHOPS NAMED



Pope Pius XII has raised the Diocese of Seattle, Washington, to the rank of Archdiocese and made it the Metropolitan See of the new ecclesiastical province. Bishop Thomas A. Connolly (left) of Seattle has been named the first Archbishop. Mgr. Joseph F. Dougherty (right), Chancellor of Seattle, has been named first bishop of the newly created Diocese of Yakima, Washington. Also included in the new ecclesiastical Province of Seattle is a new Diocese of Juneau, Alaska, with Rev. Robert Dermot O'Flanagan (not pictured), pastor of Holy Family Church, Anchorage, Alaska, as first bishop. (NC Photos)

# Austria Faces Clergy Need; Priests Invited

**Vienna** — (NC) — One of the gravest problems confronting the Catholic Church in Austria is the growing shortage of priests and a suggestion has been made that foreign priests regard Austria as a missionary country.

In line with this suggestion, a writer in *Die Furche* (The Furrow), Vienna Catholic weekly, urges priests of countries, where the proportion of the clergy to the Catholic population is more favorable, to volunteer for service in Austria. Three such countries, the article says, would be the Netherlands, Ireland and the United States.

**THE WELL** documented article makes a thorough examination of this grave Austrian problem, excerpts from which follow:

"Having had to contend with the dangers of liberalism, marxism, and national socialism, the Church in Austria is now threatened by a desperate shortage of priests. Statisticians have figured out that by 1954 the number of priests, in the Archdiocese of Vienna alone, will be 1,500 below establishment. In this same archdiocese, the number of vacant posts, which would normally be filled by auxiliary priests or chaplains, was 371 in the year before the German occupation (1938); now it is 785.

"Various causes have contributed to this most disturbing development. One of them was the spirit introduced into the Austrian schools under the Nazi rule; others include the enforced closing down of the majority of convents and the dispersion of their congregations.

## Ousted Missioners Home From China

**MARYKNOLL, N. Y.** — (NC) — Forced from their missions in the Wuchok section of South China, two Maryknoll priests and two Sisters have arrived safely in Hong Kong, according to word received at Maryknoll headquarters here.

They are: the Revs. Arthur F. Dempsey of Peekskill, N. Y., and Peter A. Reilly of Boston; and Sisters Moira Rehl of North Bergen, N. J., and John Karen Diggins of San Francisco.

# Priest Who 'Confessed' In Prague Trial Reported Suffering Memory Blackout

**Linz, Austria** — (NC) — The scene was a dank prison cell in communist Czechoslovakia. A priest, his face lined with worry, waited impatiently for the announced visit of a relative. The priest had "confessed" crimes in a "trial" at Prague and was now serving a long prison term.

The thudding footsteps of a prison guard were heard coming down the dimly lit hall. Then the guard and the relative were before the cell.

"What was it I said at the trial?" the puzzled voice of the priest immediately asked his relative. "It has been troubling me so much. I only remember that there was a trial. I was speaking, but I cannot recall anything else. I have racked my brain since, but I just can't remember a thing."

This spell of amnesia, which had seized one of the many victims of communist "court trials," is seen here as shedding new light on how "confessions" of the victims are obtained.

The priest was "tried" and sentenced with eight other churchmen in December, 1949. His identity is withheld to protect him from added sufferings from the Prague communist regime.

News of the priest's attack of amnesia has been received here from a reliable source, which obtained it from the priest's relative.

The most recent of the series of "confessions" which have marked all communist "trials" are those of Archbishop Josef Groesz of Kalocsa, Hungary, and his co-defendants in Budapest, and William N. Oatis, Associated Press correspondent, in Prague.

Robert Vogeler, American businessman, who made a similar "confession" in Budapest and was later released, has termed it "rubbish." Describing the mental and physical torture to which he was subjected to obtain the "confession," he related that he was questioned for 72 hours without sleep, slugged, dumped naked into icy water and brought to a physical state in which he was willing to sign "the rubbish" placed before him.

It is recalled that His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, imprisoned Primate of Hungary, reportedly had a similar "memory blackout" as the Czech priest. Two Hungarian refugees reported in Vienna last February that they had interviewed the Cardinal in his prison cell and found that the Cardinal could remember nothing from the time of his "trial" until he was taken to the Tatra mountains in Slovakia for his health about six months later.

# Pope Names Abp. Martinez, Successors Mexico Primate

**Mexico City** — (NC) — His Eminence Adeodate Cardinal Piazza, during his stay here informed the faithful that the Holy See had granted to Archbishop Luis Martinez of Mexico and all his successors the title of Archbishop-Primate of all Mexico.

**CARDINAL PIAZZA**, Secretary of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, came to Mexico to take part in the Carmelite Congress commemorating the seventh centennial of the handing of the Scapular of Our Lady of Mount Carmel to St. Simon Stock by the Blessed Virgin.

Announcement of the honor to Archbishop Martinez was made during a religious ceremony in the cathedral here. Cardinal Piazza stated that His Holiness Pope Pius XII had granted this honor in consideration of the antiquity, splendor and piety of the Church in Mexico and the personal merits of Archbishop Martinez.

Overjoyed at the announcement, the faithful broke into acclamations for the Holy Father and Archbishop Martinez and sang the Gaudulupian hymns in thanksgiving.

Deeply moved, Archbishop Martinez stated that the great honor bestowed upon the Archdiocese of Mexico is proof of the paternal affection of the Supreme Pontiff for the Catholics of Mexico.

## Monsignor Jordan Dies In Washington

**Washington** — (NC) — Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington, Chancellor of the Catholic University of America, offered a Solemn Mass of Requiem in the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here for Mgr. Edward Benedict Jordan, Vice Rector of the university, who died (July 19) at the age of 66.

# Reich Catholics Held Ranks Against Nazism

**Cologne** — (NC) — The Catholic Church in Germany has very well held its own despite Nazi persecution and the war, according to statistical surveys published in the *Kirchliches Handbuch*, the official Catholic directory of this country.

This, the 23rd volume of this important reference book, covers the period from 1944 to 1951. The Rev. Franz Groner is the editor on behalf of the Catholic statistical office.

IT APPEARS from the tabulations in this 432-page volume that only two per cent of Germany's Catholics fell away from the Church during the Nazi period. This indicates clearly that pagan propaganda hardly made a dent in Catholic ranks, especially since many of those who failed in their loyalty in years of stress were motivated by pressure beyond their control, and returned to the fold almost immediately after the war.

Interesting grand totals for 1949 presented in the book are the following: Catholics number 25,059,473; parishes 9,114; clergy 26,426; recipients of Holy Communion 53.8 per cent; church attendance 48.7 per cent; conversions 21,455; reconversions 10,819; desertions 30,806; gain 1,668.

**THE TABULATIONS** show an increase of approximately nine per cent in the Catholic population of Germany since 1924. For the whole of the country the Catholic percentage remains slightly over one-third, while for Western Germany alone, Catholics number nearly one-half. Some dioceses have swelled their totals considerably due to the influx of refugees from the East.

At the same time the number of the clergy has decreased by more than ten per cent. Significantly, however, the clergy of religious orders considerably increased in number during the Nazi years. Most encouraging is the increase in the number of Sisters — from 69,644 in 1924 to 88,924 in 1950.

# Last Free Iron Curtain Cardinal Dies In Cracow



**CARDINAL SAPIEDA** Berlin — (NC) — The death on July 23 in Cracow of His Eminence Adam Cardinal Sapieda, Archbishop of Cracow, Poland, reported here reduces the Sacred College of Cardinals to 49, and removes from the scene the only Cardinal behind the Iron Curtain who had been still free to carry on his ministry.

The Cardinal, Poland's only member in the Sacred College, had been in ill health for a long time and was 84 years old.

# Near East Missions

Francis Cardinal Spellman, President  
Mgr. Thomas J. McMahon, Nat'l Sec'y  
Mgr. Joseph F. Connelly

Very Rev. Andrew Rogosh  
Rev. Wm. Kaller Dunn



None of us is growing younger. To every man and woman must come the thought—What if old age finds me sick, helpless—perhaps without security? Possessive and unwanted—such has been the fate even of those who in middle age thought themselves fixed for life.

The Old Man's Dining Room in the Home conducted by the Sisters of the Desciple in CHUNANGAMELY, INDIA, shows that even in this faraway corner of the world our Church does not forget the world's citizens after the world wants them no more. To the Home this is a work of Love, for in each cheerless face they see the console of Heaven.

Maybe you're old and cared for—maybe you're young and hope you'll be cared for—is any case, give \$10, 25 or 100 that more old folks may smile!

**STILL STANDING IN LINE**  
Homeless in American hearts are two Seminary men for whom we have been able to obtain no adopters. VINCENT NAMUR of St. Cyril's, Ghiza, Egypt, and VELLO SALO at Rome's Russian College each need \$100 a year for the next five to continue their studies. Who would like to have one of these missionaries-to-be in the family circle?

**IN SWADDLING CLOTHES**  
The eight the Shepherds saw in Bethlehem's Stable when the Mighty God babbled Himself in a manger has warmed the hearts of men in every century since. How familiar to Him must be the sight of other Bethlehem babies in the Foundling Home of that same Little Town wrapped in swaddling clothes by devoted Sisters of Charity. Please Him and send them \$20 to help.

**IGNATIUS AND HIS JESUITS**  
"THE FIRST LEGION OF THE LORD" has moved forward the frontiers of Christianity these 400 years. For St. Ignatius' Day, July 31, we tell the story of Jesuit Father Ayrault, Champion of Catholic Education in Egypt. In 10 years he has raised the number of schools from 55 to 128.

\$150 will keep 1 of his classes going for a year. For \$18 he can buy soap and medicine for the health program. \$1 buys a "galabayah" (child's clothing). What Catholic will not try to help this Legionnaire of Jesus Christ!

**HELP, ST. ANTHONY!**  
In your hands, Patron of lost things, we place the LOST CAUSE of the Medical Dispensary of Godaif, near your Shrine in Asmara, Eritrea. Help us find some \$25 gifts to launch this vital project!

**WELCOME HOME!**  
Over in the Suez Canal Zone Father Joseph Khouram is winning (all-ways back to the Sacraments. If you've been praying that a loved one return to the Church, may we suggest a votive offering of \$10 to support this project.

**COVERED with the MANTLE of the PRECIOUS BLOOD**  
THE REQUEST WE MAKE THROUGH THE HOLY SACRIFICE OF THE MASS who favor in the light of God beyond that which our unaided prayers could obtain. Let a Missionary to clothe the greatest need in your life or that of a dear one, living or dead, by offering Mass for your intention in the Lords which form the Credito of Christianity.

**"BEAUTY OF THY HOUSE"**  
Bless American Catholics, Archbishop Nisan believes a neat Church helps the people to hear Mass better. So he asked us to beg funds to repair and paint a tiny chapel at DOHUK, Iraq. The parishoners gave all they could. Will you add \$20?

**WATCH US GROW!—BUT—**  
Like your own Mary or Johnnie, the school at Akra, Iraq, is getting bigger each year. But the classes are overflowing the building. To add a room for the fall term Bishop Chiekh needs \$300. We know how important to Akra this school program is. Please God, our friends will agree!

Send all communications to:  
**Catholic Near East Welfare Association**  
480 Lexington Ave., at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

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