

What Constitutes Layman Apostolate? Question Clearly Answered By Cardinals At Congress

Home—(NC)—Just what constitutes the lay apostolate and Catholic Action?

This question was given a thorough answer by two Princes of the Church speaking at the World Congress for the Lay Apostolate here. The speakers were Their Eminences Giuseppe Cardinal Pizzardo, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for Seminaries and Universities, and Antonio Cardinal Caggiano, Bishop of Rosario, Argentina. Excerpts from the speeches of both follow:

CARDINAL PIZZARDO:
"The word 'apostolate' has not been chosen haphazardly. Apostle means one who is sent. Jesus, sent by His Father to save what was lost, perpetuates His mission of Saviour of souls by choosing 12 apostles upon whom He confers the triple power of teaching, sanctifying and governing."

"Collaborating with the hierarchical apostolate signifies therefore collaborating in that first apostolate springing directly from Christ and continued from generation to generation in the expansion and development of the episcopate."

"IF THEN THE laity are called to collaborate in the apostolate of the Church, this means that in allegiance to the legitimate authority their action must tend, like that of the hierarchical apostolate itself toward the conquest and reconquest of souls."

"Your apostolate must be closely linked, according to the nature of the various works with that of the hierarchy. The latter limits itself at times to recognizing one or another association. Often it explicitly approves their statutes. At other times the hierarchy itself intervenes directly in the direction of the works, giving them a kind of mandate or mission. In this last case it defines the field of their action and even determines their methods of organization and penetration."

"To indicate the degree of dependence with regard to the hierarchy, let us use the comparison of a geometrical figure. In the center is the hierarchy. Your institutions and your various activities surround it, like so many concentric circles. The nearer your works come to the center the more they participate in its supernatural life and are penetrated with its spirit."

CARDINAL CAGGIANO:
"Essentially lay people belong to the 'learning Church.' In order to be sanctified they must receive the doctrines which the hierarchy teaches in virtue of its power of teaching, and they must acknowledge and submit to its power of governing."

"The faithful can collaborate in the apostolate of the hierarchy, but only in one essential condition required by the very nature of the hierarchical apostolate."

"THE ESSENTIAL reason for the whole apostolate of the Church is and must be her hierarchy by divine institution. Otherwise the apostolate would not be that of the hierarchy. It would not be that of those sent by Jesus. It would no longer belong to the Church nor to Jesus Christ."

"Thus it clearly appears that the hierarchy by divine institution, without the help of the laity, possesses of itself the mission and the power of which it could make efficacious use in its proper apostolate. The laity by itself does not possess of itself and formally the power to realize a legitimate and efficacious apostolate."

"THE IDEA OF Catholic Action has deep meaning which should be made clear."

"All Catholic action, to be worthy of the name should be in some way action of the Catholic Church, that is of its hierarchy by divine institution. It is united to the hierarchy, which in one form or another directs the action of the faithful."

"What can never be called Catholic Action in the strict sense is the activity of Catholics acting as children of the Church but on their own personal responsibility."

Cathedral Eyed For Communist Center

London—(RNS)—Hungarian Communist authorities are planning to convert St. Stephen's Catholic cathedral in Budapest into a public library and meeting center for Communist youth organizations, the Vatican Radio reported.



IN KOREA—These tiny travelers were strapped by the cameraman as they trudged along a South Korean road, just two of countless children wandering southward for a sanctuary and perhaps food and clothes. Give again for their sake, to the Catholic Bishops' Thanksgiving Clothing Collection for Korea and the expellees and refugees of Europe, the Near and Far East. Send your clothing contribution to your local parish collection center the week of November 13-23.

Priest Pilots Plane On Trans-Atlantic Round-Trip

Detroit—(RNS)—A 35-year old priest has returned here from piloting his own plane on a round-trip flight to Paris. It was the first time any American has made a trans-Atlantic crossing in a private plane and is believed to be the first time a Roman Catholic priest has piloted one across the ocean.

THE REV. EDWARD P. Rucinski of Holy Name church here said he was flying his seven-place twin-engine Beechcraft over the city a few weeks ago when it "just occurred to me it might be nice" to fly to Paris. So a few days later, he took off after Sunday Mass, picked up a friend in Cleveland and headed for France. Flying time each way was 28 hours, with stops in Labrador, Greenland and Iceland, and without incident, Father Rucinski said.

The friend was Martin Clark, a Cleveland business man who accompanied the priest on a flight to Rio Janeiro last year and to Mexico City the year before. FATHER RUCINSKI, who was chaplain at the National Air Races in Detroit last summer, has flown 1,800 hours since 1941. Disclaiming any distinction for the flight he said: "The journey cannot be compared to Lindbergh's flight. He had a single motor plane that wouldn't be used today even to fly to St. Louis, and he crossed the Atlantic at great hazard. "We had a twin-engine job, with each engine having 450 horsepower, and by stopping at Labrador, Greenland and Iceland, were never over open water for more than 800 miles. "It was just a nice, comfortable vacation trip."

Catholics Few In Churchill Government

London—(NC)—The Catholic voice in Britain's government will be even less audible in the new right-wing regime of Winston Churchill than it was in that of the defeated Labor Party.

Of the 22 known Catholics elected to the House of Commons only six are to be found among the 320 members of the reigning Conservative Party and none of these is likely to receive any post weighty enough to guide in any way the nation's affairs.

BY MR. CHURCHILL'S victory, Britain loses the direct personal touch of two ministers who are both devout and unshamed Catholics, Richard Stokes and Lord Pakenham.

Leading figure among the Catholic Conservative members remains Christopher Hollis, a man of many interests but best known as a writer mainly on historical subjects. Mr. Hollis is a director of the Tablet, the British Catholic news review, and of Burns Oates and Washbourne, the Catholic publishers.

The Labor Party, now the bulk of the opposition, contains in all 13 known Catholics compared to the Conservative's six. There is also one Catholic member from Northern Ireland, Cahrl Healy, an Irish Nationalist.

CATHOLICS TOTAL roughly between a tenth and a twelfth of the population of Great Britain, yet only 60 of them so far as is now known, were among the 1,376 candidates.

The 22 Catholics among the 225 members of the new House of Commons include two strangers to Westminster: Anthony Feil, Conservative representative for Yarmouth, Norfolk, and Philip Bell, also a Conservative for East Bolton, Lancashire.

Convention Set On Family Life

Washington—(NC)—The 1952 convention of the National Catholic Conference on Family Life will be held in Columbus, O., from March 24 to 28. It has been announced here by the Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., director of the Family Life Bureau, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

EXPELLED BY CHINESE REDS



Four members of the Holy Family Mission Society pose in the Catholic Center in Hongkong after being expelled from their mission in Kalgang, Honan, left to right: Father E. Cressa, Archbishop Gaetano Pella of Kalgang, Father A. Croft and Father E. Piccolini.

Priest-Scientist Returns From African Bush Land

Rome—(NC)—Bringing back new facts about one of the oldest cultural branches of mankind—the bushmen of South West Africa—the Rev. Dr. Martin Gusinde, S.V.D., noted anthropologist and ethnologist, has arrived here after a 14-month expedition.

A professor of anthropology at the Catholic University of America at Washington, D.C., Father Gusinde made his studies among the aboriginal bushmen and the Hottentots of South Africa from the point of view of physical anthropology.

Even among these aboriginal bushmen, who are still at the threshold of the wood-culture stage, marriage is indissoluble and fidelity taken for granted, the anthropologist-priest found.

During the first eight months he worked among the bushmen east and northeast of Windhoek in the region of Okavanga-Mundun, in the Epakiro Reserve, and in the western part of Bechuana-land. In the following three months he went further south to make investigations among the Hottentots and in the final stage among the bushmen of the Ovambo region and in southern Angola.

His researches established that the bushmen, gradually driven by Negroes and whites into the friendly desert and swamp, are now living between the 14th and 27th degree South Latitude and between the 14th and 22nd degree of East Longitude. He estimates that only about 10,000 of the true bushmen survive, calling themselves Kun, and that they are a race distinct from the aboriginal pygmies of Africa.

THE BUSHMEN know nothing about agriculture or cattle raising, Father Gusinde said. They engage in the primitive hunt and the women gather wild fruits for daily nourishment.

Their society, too, is of primitive form. There are no chieftains nor persons of authority excepting the father, the natural head of the family. Partners in marriage are free to choose their mates and marriage is indissoluble and fidelity taken for granted.

Council Votes Store Closing On Holydays

Montreal—(NC)—The municipal council, by a vote of 21 to 10, has voted that retail stores are obliged to close on holidays, must also close on six holidays of obligation. The holidays are New Year's, Epiphany, Assumption, All Saints, the Immaculate Conception and Christmas.

The vote came after three hours of debate on a recommendation of the Executive Committee of the city. A majority of two-thirds was necessary to pass the measure, and the final vote was just one vote more than necessary.

THE NEW regulation does not apply to theaters, drug stores, hotels, restaurants, collection agencies, shops and seven schools, which also are allowed to remain open on Sundays.

The council had before it copies of a letter from Archbishop PAUL KILLE Leger of Montreal to Mayor Camille Snow, pointing out that such a law would make it easier for the people of Montreal—in a vast majority Catholic—to fulfill their religious obligations on the holidays.

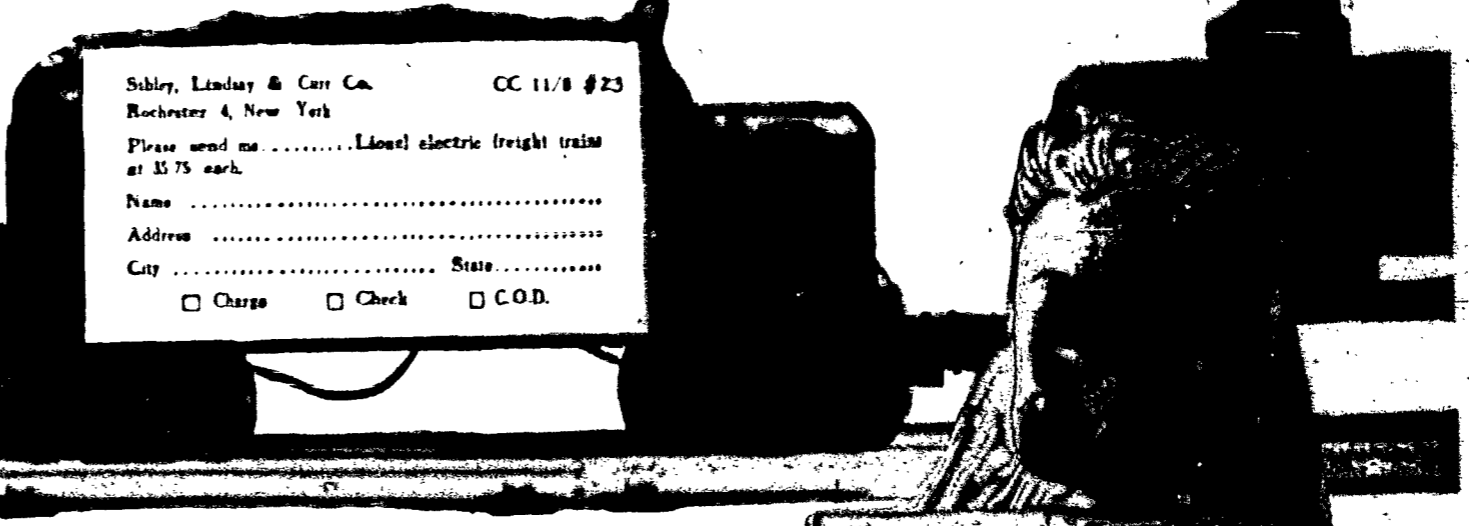
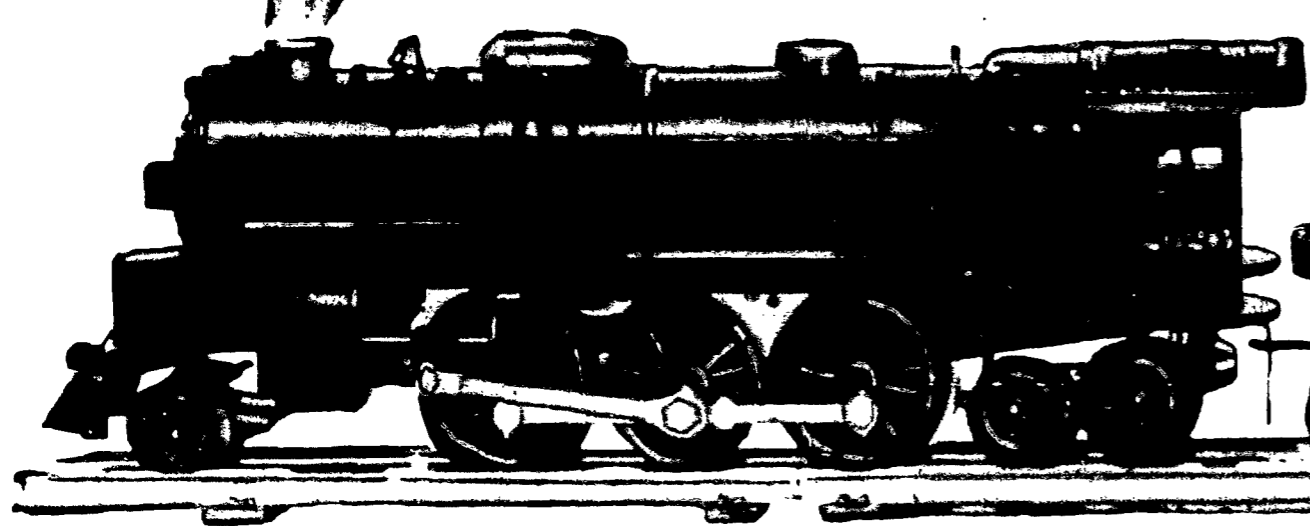
IN THE VOTE, however, the council did not follow religious lines. A number of Catholic members opposed the recommendation on the grounds that the measure should apply to all places and businesses, not merely retail stores; that the proposal was not fair to Protestants and other religious minorities; and that employees would suffer the loss of pay through the obligatory closing of the stores and that adjacent municipalities which did not have such a regulation would benefit financially through business patronage being closed in Montreal.

The sponsors of the motion, Jean Marie Savigneau and Paul Demole, replied that actually only four days were affected, as New Year's and Christmas were now observed by all as holidays. They believed that the few days closing could not cause much additional business on the part of all concerned.

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