

### Of Mrs. Roosevelt 'Agnostic' Questioned

(NC) — Addressing members of the St. Paul Society here, Archbishop J. Francis A. McIntyre, advised to Mrs. Franklin D. Roosevelt the role of an agnostic.

In Paris, was quoted as commenting on the Tidings article and Archbishop McIntyre's statements.

"I can't remember exactly what I said on that program because it was a short program. I do believe in immortality, but I haven't been able to decide what form it might take. There are so many probabilities. For example, there is a question in my mind whether we will appear physically as we appear now. It seems unnecessary to try to decide the exact form that immortality will take. We won't be able to change it and we must accept it. And we must meet it with courage and do our best."

### North American Ordains First Post-war Class

(NC) — Members of the first post-war class to enter the North American college here were ordained this week in two separate ceremonies.

That there were two ceremonies, which is unusual, is explained by the fact that Bishop Thomas F. Merikam, Auxiliary of Boston, came to Rome to ordain his nephew, the Rev. James Markham of the Diocese of Manchester, N. H., on December 6.

BISHOP MARTIN J. O'CONNOR, Rector of the college, ordained 21 members of the class for 16 dioceses of the United States on Saturday.

MISERS RICHARD K. BURNS (of Rochester, N. Y.), vice rector, and Joseph R. Lacy, former procurator, assisted Bishop O'Connor in the ceremony. Relatives of nine of the men ordained also were able to attend the ceremony.

This date has for long been the traditional ordination date for priests who continue to complete theological studies for the remainder of the scholastic year.

### Refuses To Yield Diocese 'By Government Force'

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THE ARCHBISHOP arose at 4 a.m. to celebrate Mass at the regular dawn service of the small whitewashed parish church here. It was filled with peasants, women and children and some men. They did not know that Archbishop Stepinac had been released from prison since he had been brought to the village church of Krasic, 30 miles from Zagreb, where about to leave the church at the conclusion of the Mass when they saw another priest kneel before the altar. Then they recognized Archbishop Stepinac and remained. Their strong emotion at seeing him was clearly apparent.

Archbishop Stepinac occupies two rooms in the tiny white and yellow five-room vicarage of Vicar Josef Vranekovich. His bedroom contains a tiled stove, an iron bed, a typewriter, a wash basin, and bookshelves. His windows look out on the main street of the town.

Thanks Ireland

DUBLIN — (NC) — Premier Eamon de Valera of Ireland has received a telegram of thanks from Mayor Vincent F. Impellitteri of New York for relief supplies sent by Irish people to the Italian flood victims.

### Conditional Release Fails To Undo Injustice To Prelate

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"small step toward the fulfillment of elementary human rights."

BOTH ARCHBISHOP Stepinac himself and Observatore Romano have stated emphatically that any attempt to deprive the prelate of his episcopal status is utterly unacceptable. American press correspondents who interviewed the Archbishop after he had offered Mass in the village church of Krasic, 30 miles from Zagreb, quote him as saying:

"I am the legitimate Archbishop and not the former Archbishop." No government can deprive me of my rank. I never sought the office of Bishop. If the Holy Father wants it, I am ready to give up my office, but I shall never do so as the result of government pressure."

Observatore declared editorially: "In calling Monsignor Stepinac 'the former Archbishop,' the civil authorities of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia are arrogating to themselves a right which is not theirs, just as it is not that of any other state."

Equally plain were the statements of Archbishop Stepinac, Observatore Romano and Catholic spokesmen throughout the world in making it clear that the issue at stake in Yugoslavia goes far beyond the "Stepinac case."

SPEAKING WITH the same courage and frankness that he had demonstrated during and after the war and when facing his "judges" in the Zagreb courtroom five years ago, Archbishop Stepinac told, in effect, press correspondents on the morning after his release from prison:

"The major issues standing in the way of an acceptable agreement between Church and State in Yugoslavia are not yet settled. My personal situation is secondary to these fundamental problems."

"There must be an agreement based on honesty and the essential conditions demanded by the Catholic Church."

"These include church marriages, religious education in the schools and a free Catholic Press. Church marriage must be defended to the last breath, for it is a Sacrament established by God and man has no right to change it."

WRITING IN the same vein, Observatore recalled that another Yugoslav prelate, Bishop Peter Cule of Mostar, is still in prison together with hundreds of priests and Religious, that training of priests is severely curbed, that religious congregations have been dispersed and the Catholic Press wiped out.

Pointing out that "this painful situation" has not been changed by the conditional freedom granted Archbishop Stepinac, the Vatican City daily continued:

"For a change to take place it would be necessary to begin by repairing the offenses that limit religious liberties: the first foundation of every other liberty of the human person."

Archbishop Stepinac in talking to correspondents made it plain that "I did not ask to be released (from prison) because I do not feel I am guilty. My situation has hardly changed as a result of this release."

THE ARCHBISHOP thus reaffirmed his complete innocence in the face of the official announcement which based his release on two articles of the "Law on Punishment, Security and Educational Correctional Measures." These articles provide for the conditional release of a person after he has served half his term, if he shows by his behavior "that he has been corrected to such a degree that it could be expected that he will commit no more criminal deeds" or before he has served half his term, if he "particularly distinguishes himself through his behavior and work."

Press dispatches summarize the condition governing the release of the Archbishop from prison as follows. He is forbidden to issue pastorals and public statements or to advise the faithful on public or personal conduct. He may leave his native village only with the permission of the Croatian authorities. He will be permitted to preach sermons in church and, so far as is known, will be free to receive visitors.

WHILE INSISTING that—regardless of what Yugoslav authorities may say—he remains the Archbishop of Zagreb, Archbishop Stepinac told correspondents:

"I am personally satisfied because I am fulfilling my duty. I am carrying out my duty here in this village as I did in prison. I am willing to stay here for my whole life."

The Archbishop, who was described as looking well and saying that he "cannot complain against anyone" regarding his treatment while imprisoned, lives in two small, sparsely furnished rooms of the parish rectory in Krasic. Among the members of the parish, totaling about 2,000 souls, are four married sisters of Archbishop Stepinac.

Gift To City

Winooski Park, Vt. — (NC) — St. Michael's College already has presented a Christmas gift to its local community — a Nativity crib.

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