

Convert Campaign Enters Fourth Month

San Diego, Cal. (RNS)—A pioneer venture in converting non-Catholics has entered its fourth month in the San Diego Diocese, inaugurated late last September, the "Crucifixion of the Church." It is regarded as the most far-reaching and planned project of its kind in the United States.

Although many officials have not yet reported on the success of the campaign, official sources claim it has achieved considerable success, especially among the "churchless."

The campaign, which has attracted interest in Vatican circles, was launched by Bishop Charles F. Buddy, who composed a special prayer to be recited at services held as part of the drive. The prayer was published in many languages.

An apostolic blessing was sent to Bishop Buddy on behalf of Pope Pius XII by Joseph Cardinal Pizzardo, prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities. Meanwhile, Observatore Romano, Vatican newspaper published a special article which said that the San Diego diocese was "enjoying an enthusiastic response" to its campaign.

Two hundred and fifty priests and an estimated 200,000 laymen and women are cooperating in the convert-winning campaign. While the drive is diocesan in scope, each parish has its own headquarters and is responsible for all activities within its limits.

ONE OF THE objectives of the campaign is to induce every Catholic man and woman in the San Diego diocese to try to win at least one convert a year to the Catholic faith.

The campaign was opened by a special period of prayer from September 23 to November 1. Novenas for divine help were held in every parochial church and prayers for the campaign's success were recited after Masses both on weekdays and Sundays. In the meantime, priests exchanged pulpits and preached sermons designed to stimulate zeal among the laity for the soul-winning drive.

During the month of October, clerical conferences were held to discuss various aspects of the campaign. Meanwhile, information regarding the project was spread through advertisements in the daily press and the distribution of handbills and cards of invitation to non-Catholics to attend Mass and convert forums and classes.

CLERICAL AND lay committees and parish societies were

organized to canvass non-Catholics in their areas. The campaign proper was conducted through instruction classes and discussion forums, missions, days of recollection and retreats for non-Catholics.

Formerly associated with the crusade was the Very Rev. John A. O'Brien, of Notre Dame University, a nationally known expert in the techniques of convert-making, who spent a month in San Diego addressing student and parent organizations and conducting missions and classes for non-Catholics.

Dr. O'Brien described the San Diego campaign as "a pioneer venture worth every effort to insure success because its example will then be copied by virtually every diocese in the United States."

Former Polish Mayor, Officer Ordained Priest

Rome (NC)—The Rev. Adam Kocur, 57-year-old alumnus of the Polish College in Rome, was ordained in the Basilica of St. John Lateran. He celebrated his first Mass the next day in the Polish church of St. Stanislaus here.

FATHER KOCUR was born in Kurania near Raciborz, Silesia, in 1894. After graduating from high school, he studied philosophy and theology in Wroclaw. His studies were interrupted by the first World War and the Silesian Insurrection, in which he participated.

After the war he studied law and became a civil servant in Silesia. He was elected mayor of the city of Katowice and served for 12 years. He contributed to the construction of the Katowice cathedral and three other churches.

IN 1939 he joined the Polish army with the rank of major and served in Poland, France, England and Germany. In 1949 he was discharged from his work among refugees and enrolled at the Gregorian University, where he was admitted to the second year of theology. At present he is in his fourth year.

Uniting Altar And Hearthstone



Observing an old family custom, Mr. and Mrs. George Hiskman, R.M.G., of Kingsley, Iowa, and their seven children receive Holy Communion together in their parish church. Seven nuns and two seminarians are included in the group. The growing practice of family Communion is especially appropriate on the Feast of the Holy Family, which falls on January 12. (NC Photos)

New Swedish Religious Freedom Law Eases Restrictions On Catholic Church

Stockholm, Sweden (NC)—The existence of some 25 religious priests and Brothers and 135 nuns became legal here as Sweden's new law on religious freedom went into effect on New Year's Day.

The law was passed last spring by the Swedish Riksdag (national parliament) and strikes out some of the restrictions which have been forced on all non-Lutheran Churches since the 18th century.

TOP CHURCH officials here do not see, however, any immediate practical change in the work of the nuns and monks as a result of the new law. They have been carrying on missionary and charitable work here for a number of years, though there was a law on the statutes against their presence. No great influx of new missionary Orders is seen at this time.

Church officials here see, as the greatest significance of the new law, the fact that it gives concrete expression to a new phase of thought replacing the strong anti-Catholic prejudices of centuries ago.

There are now 12 religious communities represented in Sweden, seven of them nuns. They are the Sisters of St. Elizabeth, St. Bridget, St. Joseph, Our Lady, Mary, the Name of Mary, and St. Dominic. The men's communities represented are the Dominicans, Salesians, Benedictines, Franciscans and Jesuits.

THE NEW LAW permits the building and maintenance of monasteries and convents, but application for their erection must first be made to the government and receive the approval of the Riksdag. Both a shortage of funds on the part of the Church and a general shortage of building materials in Sweden makes it unlikely that any extensive building program will

Luther Religion School Problem

Worcester, Mass. (NC)—The great unsolved problem in the new religious law in Sweden is its consistency in its application to compulsory instruction in Lutheran in state schools.

Bishop Nelson states in an article written for the Catholic Free Press, Worcester Mass., paper here.

"In the schools religious instruction in the Lutheran faith is required of all pupils up to the university level," the Bishop says. "However, children of other faiths can be released from this instruction in order to attend religious instruction in their own faith."

"In order to be promoted to the next class or to a higher school, the pupil must present a certificate showing he has received the required amount of religious instruction."

"Here then that a grade given for religious instruction is averaged in with the pupil's other grades for promotion. Herein lies the big point of controversy."

"The pupil with a grade for religious instruction in some faith other than the state church suffers, because his grade most likely will be averaged as zero."

he undertaken in the near future by Religious.

Children Tested In Hearing Program

Chicago (NC)—More than 2,000 children in 43 Chicago Catholic schools already have received hearing tests under a Chicago archdiocesan hearing conservation program, one of the most comprehensive ever developed.

Every child in Catholic schools in Chicago second largest city in the United States—will have a hearing test as the first step in the archdiocesan plan. Education of children with impaired hearing will be provided along with training of their teachers and parents.

Joint sponsors of the program are Catholic Charities and the Archdiocesan School Board.

About 125,000 children in the Catholic elementary schools here will be scheduled for hearing tests, conducted by technicians who have received intensive training at Loyola University.

Tokyo Prelate Named Bishop Of Yokohama

Tokyo (NC)—The Rev. Lake Arai, Vicar General of the Archdiocese of Tokyo, has been named Bishop of Yokohama, according to an announcement made by the Apostolic Delegation here. He succeeds Bishop Thomas Wakida, who resigned last July.

Bishop-elect Arai was born in Utsunomiya, about 100 miles north of Tokyo, on October 18, 1904. After completing his preparatory studies at the Marianist High School and Preparatory Seminary in Tokyo he went to France to study philosophy and theology at St. Sulpice in Paris. He was ordained on June 29, 1930, by the late Cardinal Jean Verdier of Paris.

Returning to Japan in October of the same year, Father Arai served as assistant editor of the Catholic newspaper here and also made regular mission trips into two neighboring provinces, neither of which had a resident priest at that time.

In 1936 he was assigned to parish work in Tokyo until 1941, when he was named Rector of the Minor Seminary and Procurator of the archdiocese. He has also been Vicar General of the archdiocese since 1945.

Bishop-elect Arai will be consecrated by Archbishop Maximilian de Furstenberg, Apostolic Delegate to Japan, on February 25.

Anticlericalism New Communist Weapon

Vatican City (NC)—Communism has taken to promoting anticlericalism on an international scale as a means of halting the union of Western Europe. It is adopting this technique because of the support given the union movement by



COMMUNIST TOGLIATTI Leads Attack

to which they attract people who for one reason or another are discontent with the clergy, the writer explained. Now because men prominent in work for European union are Christian Democrats, Mr. Togliatti cries that an international "clericalism" wants to "consecrate the return of German militarism."

Among the Christian Democrats prominent in the movement to unite Europe Mr. Alessandrini mentioned Robert Schuman, French Foreign Minister; Premier Alcide De Gasperi of Italy, Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of western Germany, and Belgian Foreign Minister Paul Van Zeeland.

Mr. Alessandrini also took note of Togliatti's charges that the Church authorities had "blessed the most shameful adventures of Italian imperialism against Spain and Russia."

Mr. Alessandrini noted that the Church had reason to fight communism in the Spanish civil war because of the many priests and Bishops killed by the Reds. He pointed out that the Church never lent its support to Hitler's aggression against Russia.

"But Togliatti needs arguments to support his thesis and here he does not find them he invents them," Mr. Alessandrini added.

Mr. Togliatti's remarks have this new note, Mr. Alessandrini said. "In the face of European federalism or confederalism there is an effort to introduce in the international field one of the longstanding elements of the Marxist method in single countries where parties of Christian inspiration have dominant responsibilities or at least count for something."

The fact that Mr. Togliatti is taking the lead in this anti-clerical campaign, Mr. Alessandrini stated, adds weight to widely circulated rumors that the Italian Red leader has become the responsible head of western communism, the cominform's delegate "in partibus infidelium."

Parents, Teachers Confer On Pupils

Lafayette, La. (NC)—Conferences have taken the place of report cards at St. Genevieve's School here. Parents and teachers—Sisters of Divine Providence—have met once already this school year, and two more conferences are planned. The project is being supervised by the Rev. Ignatius A. Martin, Lafayette diocesan superintendent of schools.

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