

U. S. Catholic Press Aid Lauded By Exiled Bishop At St. George's

By ARTHUR P. FARREN
Praise for the Catholic press of the United States for "the fine job it is doing to bring out the plight of persecuted peoples under Red domination" was expressed in Rochester last Sunday by an exiled Lithuanian Bishop.



Discussing stories of Communist persecution contained in the columns of the Catholic Courier Journal, Rochester diocesan newspaper, are Bishop Vincent Brizgys of Lithuania (right), who has been exiled from his Red-dominated native land since 1944, and the Rev. John M. Bakay, pastor of St. George's Lithuanian Church, Rochester, who was host to the Lithuanian prelate last Sunday. (Courier Staff Photo)

Diocesan Pilgrims Leave For Spain Congress May 17

The 85th International Eucharistic Congress will begin in Barcelona, Spain on May 27 immediately upon the arrival of the Cardinal Legate.

This announcement was made by Bishop Gregorio Rodriguez of Barcelona after a visit to Rome where he received the approval of His Holiness Pope Pius for the program of the Congress. To date the Pope has not announced his choice for a Papal Legate to the Congress.

THE ROCHESTER Diocesan Eucharistic Congress Pilgrimage led by the Rev. John E. Maney, D.D., Vice Chancellor of the Diocese will leave New York City on May 17 on the S.S. Saturnia of the Italian Lines and arrive in Barcelona for the opening ceremonies.

The opening ceremonies will be held in the cathedral. The "Veni Creator" will be sung. The papal bull will be read. Addresses will be given by the Cardinal Legate and the President of the Permanent Committee for International Eucharistic Congresses, Archbishop Alexander Vachon of Ottawa. Then the official hymn of the Congress will be sung.

This will be followed by Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament which will remain exposed until the end of the Congress. The Eucharistic vigil will begin at eleven that night in the temple of Tibidabo, an ancient church there.

May 28 will be devoted to the theme "The Eucharist and Family Peace"; May 29 to "The Eucharist and Individual and Social Peace"; May 30 to "The Eucharist and International Peace"; and May 31 to "The Eucharist, Peace and Church Unity."

THE CONGRESS will close on June 1 with a Solemn Pontifical Mass in the new, large Pius XII square. The Cardinal Legate will officiate and preach the sermon. Then the final Eucharistic procession will be held during which there will be recited the Pope's prayer for those who suffer persecution for the Church.

This will be followed by Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament. Then the pilgrims will listen to a radio message from the Pope to the Congress.

The Rochester pilgrims will visit the Shrine of Our Lady at Fatima, Portugal, also Lourdes, Nice and Rome and make stopovers at Florence, Venice, Milan, Lucerne, Switzerland and Paris. Reservations are being made now at the Kalbfleisch Travel Agency, the official agency for the diocesan pilgrimage, at 17 Clinton Ave. South, Baker 5440.

Lithuanian Bishop. Persons outside the Iron Curtain do not yet fully realize the "desperate and worsening world situation" which is being created by Communist terror, Bishop Vincent Brizgys declared.

DEPORTED FROM his native land in 1944 by the German Gestapo and unable to return to Lithuania since then, the 49-year-old prelate has spent the last 10 years traveling around the world visiting fellow-countrymen in varied lands.

He spoke at Masses in St. George's Lithuanian Church on Sunday morning, and addressed some 500 Rochesterians of Lithuanian descent in St. George's Hall in the afternoon.

Despite "the fine relief aid being given refugees in Europe, especially by America," Bishop Brizgys said that "only immigration will solve the very sad problem of refugees and escapees in Germany and Austria, because they are unable to obtain jobs."

Lithuanians who have come to America seem to have entered successfully into community and economic life, the Bishop observed. His remark was echoed by the Rev. John Bakay, pastor of St. George's Church, who said there are approximately 400 such refugees in the Rochester area.

The Bishop urged his listeners to strive to be "good Catholics, good American citizens, and good Lithuanians."

BISHOP BRIZGYS and three others of the Lithuanian hierarchy were deported to Germany by the Nazis in 1944. Subsequently, when Russia took over the little Baltic nation, four other bishops were taken to Russia, and no word of them has since been heard. Only one 76-year-old Bishop remains in Lithuania, according to last reports.

Approximately 300 priests are in the nation, Bishop Brizgys said, but they are almost entirely worldly only. There are no more Catholic schools, no prayerbooks, no pulpits, no press.

Born in 1903, Bishop Brizgys was ordained in 1927 and consecrated Bishop of Kaunas Diocese in 1940. Four years later the Nazis took him to Regensburg, Bavaria, now in the American zone.

HE HAS a brother and two sisters in Lithuania, from whom he has heard nothing for many years. Three other brothers, all refugees, are living in the United States. Another brother is a Salesian priest now serving in Argentina. Another sister, who escaped from the Russians during the war, is an Immaculate Conception nun caring for foundlings in Toronto.

Bishop Brizgys is touring America as a guest of Cardinal Stritch of Chicago. His visit expires soon, and he intends to return to Bavaria. He has just completed visits to France, Italy, Spain, Portugal and Venezuela. The Bishop last visited Rochester in 1949.

Sunday afternoon's meeting was in commemoration of Lithuania's "Independence Day," which occurred Feb. 16, 1918. But at present the nation again is under control of the Russians.

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Open Culture Lectures In Elmira



CHRISTIAN CULTURE lecture series in Elmira opening at Dunn Memorial Sunday had the above in principal roles. They are (from left) Cressy A. Mowrey, president, Elmira Deansery Council of Holy Name Societies; Rev. William A. Burns, principal of Elmira Catholic High School, speaker; Charles J. Kroner, secretary, Elmira Deansery HNS; Atty. John D. Frawley, series moderator. The Elmira Deansery Council, NCOU, is cooperating.

Culture Lecturer Urges Firm Stand By Believers Against World Perils

Peoples of faith were urged to unite firmly in the face of impending danger by the Rev. William A. Burns, Elmira Catholic High School principal, in the first of five, Christian Culture series lectures.

Father Burns told more than 200 at Dunn Memorial, Sunday afternoon, that "since World War II and the atom bomb, there has been a marked return to religion," which has grown and gained in strength.

The lectures are being sponsored by Elmira's Deansery Council of Holy Name Societies in cooperation with Elmira Deansery Council of the National Council of Catholic Women.

Speaking on "What Has Happened to American Thought," Father Burns traced the growth in this country of secularism which he termed "the complete divorce of human life from all that is divine and spiritual."

The speaker reviewed the "gradual invasion of American thought" by persons whose basic philosophy ignores God and preaches the doctrines of modernism and materialism.

FAHRE BUENS said that this philosophy, which advocates the "natural development of man according to his passions and appetites," appeals to the part of man which "is weak and decadent."

Unfortunately, he pointed out, many among this increasing number of "atheists and agnostics" are in a position to influence the thinking of Americans.

An example of this "influence at higher levels which seeps down and corrupts" is a project now being undertaken by the United States.

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30 Years As Chaplain Of Elmira Reformatory Marked By Msgr. Lane

After three decades of serving the spiritual needs of young men adjudged "hardened criminals," by the state, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Francis J. Lane, chaplain of Elmira Reformatory, is convinced that solution to criminal tendencies among them rests entirely with parents.

MONSIGNOR LANE on Tuesday, March 4 completed 30 years as chaplain at the Reformatory and as spiritual influence of many young men who have left the institution and are banded together as "Father Lane's Gang."

His unique and fruitful record at the institution was covered in the Elmira Star Gazette on Tuesday by Jim Morse, staff writer.

MONSIGNOR LANE is senior prison chaplain in the United States and from his long experience he declares "The greatest influence upon a youthful mind is the example of his father and mother."

He knows from hard, bitter experience that less than one-fourth of the Catholic men who are sent to the Reformatory have attended church regularly.

"If we are to hope for a decrease in the number of youthful criminals, we must turn to the parents who are directly responsible before God for the way their children are brought up," he is quoted.

Father Lane has scored many "brats" in prison religious programs. His biographer reported on the 30th anniversary.

The St. Don Bosco chapel, named in honor of the patron saint of wayward youth, stands in mute testimony to his work. He solicited most of the funds for the chapel, the first Catholic chapel ever built in a penal institution.

HIS EXCELLENCY Bishop Kearney dedicated the chapel in June 1938 and celebrated the first Solemn Pontifical Mass ever offered in a prison. The Mass was broadcast from the Reformatory on a coast-to-coast radio hookup.

The chapel is larger than many churches in medium-sized parishes. It is the one place a prisoner can go where no guards or bars are in evidence.

Father Lane was also the first chaplain to celebrate a Midnight Mass in a prison.

When Father Lane visited Rome in 1949, His Holiness Pope Pius XII honored him by saying:

"You are doing a noble and important work. I place my special blessing upon your work and all those with whom you work."

BORN IN Rochester in 1894, Father Lane was graduated from Holy Redeemer School and St. Andrew's Seminary. After his studies in St. Bernard's Seminary, he was ordained in old St. Patrick's Cathedral, Rochester on May 29, 1920.

His first assignment was as assistant to the late Rev. Augustine O'Neill, pastor of Rochester's Immaculate Conception Church.

Beginning his duties there in June 1920, he began his boys' activities by establishing the first Catholic Boy Scout troop in Rochester. He was 18 months as assistant in the Rochester Church before being assigned as Reformatory Chaplain, on March 4, 1922.

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Womanliness of Mary Need Of Today Says Fr. O'Brien

By MARY E. FITZGERALD
Executive Director, Catholic Family Service

More than 200 women from Elmira and vicinity heard the Rev. Bartholomew J. O'Brien, Assistant Pastor of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Elmira, at the fourth meeting of Our Lady of Fatima Luncheon Club of March 1 at Mark Twain Hotel. His subject, "The Womanhood of Our Blessed Mother" was chosen because he was addressing "the cream of the Catholic Women in Elmira."

Father O'Brien drew a picture of a Mohammedan lad named Ashka, who might ask of him, "What is your Blessed Mother like? Were I to send him into this room," the speaker continued, "Would he be disappointed? Would he find here a whole roomful of other Marys? Would he see Mary mirrored in each one of you?"

"WOMANLINESS is a beautiful characteristic, through which a woman approaches, a likeness to our Blessed Mother. In womanliness, a man finds peace and calm and unconsciously is drawn closer to our Blessed Mother."

"Womanliness is designed to inspire men and to lift them up. Maybe that is why, our Divine Lord left His Blessed Mother with the Apostles for so many years—to be a Mother to them—to edify and comfort and inspire them."

"Today," Father O'Brien continued, "Womanliness is on its way out. It is being strangled by the opposite characteristic of Masculinity. Our Lady never lost her womanliness, because she loved Jesus so much. Women today are losing their chance to

become other Marys, to be helpers and partners of men."

IN CONCLUSION, the members of Our Lady's First Saturday Club were challenged to make use of the gift of womanliness—and thus do much good in their own respective circles. "I wish," he said, "that each one of you would be completely flooded with womanliness of our Blessed Mother."

Miss Frances Bately, President of the Ladies of Charity presided and the Rev. Hubert A. Blisko, Moderator of the Society, introduced the speaker. Officers of the Catholic Daughters, Ladies of Columbus and several parish organizations were at the speaker's table.

Mrs. Frances Crowe Kennedy with Mrs. Joseph O'Neil as accompanist sang, "Our Lady of Fatima." Mrs. Mary Lennon Snyder, a former President of the Ladies of Charity will be the speaker at the next meeting, which is scheduled for Saturday, April 5. Her subject will be "Our Lady in our Life."

Liquor Abuses
Montreal — (RNS) — Liquor abuses are largely responsible for the upward trend in juvenile delinquency, Archbishop Paul-Emile Léger of Montreal, said in a pastoral letter.

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