

Latin America Cites U.S. Mission Aid

By REV. JOSE ANTONIO ROMERO, S.J.
 Mexico City—(NC)—Tribute was paid here to North American Catholic missionaries for their increasing aid in solving what were described as two main problems of the Church in Latin America—the scarcity of priests and religious ignorance.

The tribute appeared in an editorial in *Latinoamérica*, a periodical published by the Jesuit Fathers, which said that in cities and rural districts from Mexico to Patagonia, North American missionaries are establishing missionary centers, schools and welfare activities "which quickly flourish."

DECLARING THAT while American Protestant missionaries come to an environment saturated with Catholicism and thus have more or less to disguise their origin and aims, Latinoamérica said that Catholic missionaries come instead "as into their own home" and "succeed in a short time in transforming entire towns."

Latinoamérica said that, for example, when Redemptorists from the United States arrived at a mission in Manacapuru, Brazil, in 1944 scarcely 20 people attended Sunday Mass, while now the attendance is 350 and weekly Communions total over 1,000. The magazine added that at Goiaz, another Brazilian mission, New York Franciscans baptized 5,000 pagans inside of two and a half years.

STRESSING THAT economic support for the North American Catholic missions comes almost entirely from the United States, Latinoamérica commented: "We can give assurance that, comparatively speaking the North American Catholic missionaries have attained greater results in the fields of education and social welfare than the Protestant sects who, for many years, have been supported by a veritable economic trust."

"The Latin American Church," the magazine said, "places great hopes in this work, which, we might say, is just beginning. In the field of inter-American union, nothing can be more real and effective than this personal contact of zealous and devoted Catholic missionaries, which is far more effective than mere propaganda or the exchange of diplomatic notes."

Million Persons Renew Marriage Vows Annually In U. S. Catholic Church Rites

By REV. DR. EDGAR SCHMIDLEER, O.S.B.
 Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.

Progressive growth of the practice of renewing marriage vows annually probably has brought the number of couples participating to 500,000—a million persons. The public renewal of the marriage promises may take place at any of a number of different times during the year. In some places the practice is customary on the Feast of the Holy Family, in others it is made a part of a Mother's Day service. Again, it has become a customary feature of family retreats or other group religious exercises for husbands and wives.

The greatest number of renewal ceremonies takes place each year in mid-Lent, in conjunction with the closing of the annual convention of the National Catholic Conference on Family Life. This closing takes place at the Cathedral of the See-City of the diocese in which the convention is held. It assumes the form of a Family Holy Hour, and one of its features is always the renewal of the marriage promises by the married couples participating in the service.

CUSTOMARILY, ALL parishes in the diocese also have a Family Holy Hour the same evening. Furthermore, the practice is suggested to all pastors of the country, and hundreds of them respond.

No thoroughgoing check has ever been made to ascertain the exact number of parishes or parsonages participating in the annual marriage vow renewal service. But that there is a year-by-year growth is evident from the number of booklets for the Family Holy Hour sent out, and from correspondence and from stories appearing in the diocesan Catholic papers. These same sources suggest that the number of couples participating are presently an approximate 500,000.



Some 700 couples at the annual family hour, in St. Juliana's Catholic Church, Columbus, Ohio, renewed their marriage vows in an impressive ceremony, with the Rev. Francis Young, pastor, giving the blessing. The church was filled to capacity.

Budapest Reds Intrude Rule In Seminaries

Vienna—(NC)—The threat that the Budapest communist regime will set up its own "seminaries" for priests was seen here in recent Red moves.

UNTIL RECENTLY the regime had not interfered directly in the training of future priests. However, the State Office for Religious Affairs has now ordered the registration of all seminarians in Hungary. It has also "dismissed" the spiritual directors at the country's two largest seminaries: Eger and Győr. Meanwhile, the seminary of Hejce was closed and merged with that of Eger.

The method of setting up state-operated "seminaries" was initiated several years ago by the Czechoslovak communist regime. It closed all the diocesan seminaries and set up what it called the "seminaries" of St. Cyril and Methodus in Prague and Bratislava.

THE HUNGARIAN regime's actions are seen here as a move in the same direction. Among the new steps the Budapest regime will take, it was reported, will be the installation at the seminaries of new "spiritual directors" from the ranks of the "patriotic" priests and the introduction of a course in marxism-leninism in the seminaries.

Exactly what effect on vocations this new interference by the regime will have cannot be predicted here. However, it is pointed out that vocations have been numerous during the past years of communist rule. The number of priestly aspirants has been reported higher than in previous years and more than the present seminaries can accommodate.

Harvard President Speaks For Harvard President?

Washington—(NC)—Considering the remarks of Dr. James B. Conant before some 5,000 school administrators in Boston a few days ago, one ought to look behind the fact that he is president of Harvard University. His office seems to have given him a disproportionate importance in the affairs of the country.

Some observers are inclined to regard the Harvard president's speech in Boston as unfortunate. They note that it was given different interpretations in different secular press reports, and that some of these went beyond what Dr. Conant wanted to say, judging from his text. Moreover, they add, he appears to have stirred up differences and difficulties where none were noticeable before.

DR. CONANT was speaking on "Unity and Diversity in Secondary Education," and he said "the desire of some people to increase the scope and number of private schools" gives "some reason to fear that a dual system of secondary education may in some states, at least, come to threaten the democratic unity" provided by our public schools.

He does not question, Dr. Conant said, that people have a right to organize their own schools. "The United States Supreme Court settled the law on that point in the famous *Oregon Case* in 1926," he noted. "But I do question the honesty," he said, "of their tactics when they attack the public schools in an attempt to undermine confidence in secular education."

Dr. Conant said he is aware that in several English-speaking nations public funds are used to assist church-connected schools. "My concern is with the United States," he added. "We do not have and have never had an established church. To my mind, our school system serves all creeds. The school system is the product of our youth who attend independent schools, the greater the threat to our democracy."

Dr. Conant noted, without enthusiasm, that "in some of our large western cities, private schools are today attracting an increasing number of the sons and daughters of the well-to-do." He added that he could not help regretting that "private schools have been established in the last 20 years in certain urban areas where a generation ago a public high school served all the youth of the town or city." He added, though, that this is not reason "for us who are emotionally committed to public schools as schools for all to denounce or bemoan the growth of private schools." It is rather a challenge to public education, he said.

DR. CONANT'S TALK takes very careful reading, even when one has the text. And, at that, one is not always sure of the point he is trying to make. For this reason, some observers fear for the interpretations that will be given his remarks in different quarters. One very likely result, they believe, is that it will stir up differences where none existed before. And this, not only between private individuals, but also between educators connected with public and private schools who heretofore have worked in harmony and often close cooperation.

Whatever Dr. Conant's precise views on this subject, they ought to be considered as the opinions of James B. Conant, not as those of the president of Harvard University. The office is a lofty one, and unquestionably inclines people to listen somewhat more attentively to what he has to say. But he is a scientist by training, not an educator, and his years as the head of Harvard do not make him the best authority on secondary education, or on need for private schools, especially religious private schools.

Lay Women Pledge Lives To Missions

Montreal—(NC)—Nine young lay women from five foreign countries, members of the Women's International Society of Catholic Auxiliaries who came to Canada to study their professions before leaving for their apostolates abroad, made their formal promises here before Archbishop Paul-Emile Leger of Montreal.

AFTER BLESSING their promises, Archbishop Leger delivered a sermon reminding the group of girls that their society carried the seal of the Church's approval and the firm assurance of Christ's love for them and their work.

The auxiliaries who renewed their promises of adherence to their vocation came from Italy, France, England, Belgium and Germany. They will study at different schools here to qualify as teachers in domestic sciences, medicine, social work and education.

The Women's International Society of Catholic Auxiliaries, formerly known as Lay Auxiliaries of the Missions, was founded in Belgium in 1937 by the Rev. Vincent Lebbe, a noted missionary in China. The objective of this lay organization is to train teams of lay women for a life service in foreign missions under the orders of the local hierarchy.

AT PRESENT there are three teams in the Congo, two in the Near East (Jordan and Lebanon), and three teams who manage international student centers for students from the Orient. One of the student centers was formed last year in Chicago by Miss Yvonne Poncelet, president and foundress of the society.

In the missions the members work principally in the fields of social work, medicine and education. A complete adaptation to the country in which they live and work is a characteristic of their apostolate.

Marriage Vow Her Oath Of Office, Said Mrs. McGranery, Refusing Congress Post

Philadelphia—(NC)—Some times even the Attorney General of the United States needs legal advice. It was on an occasion like this that James Patrick McGranery, husband of Mrs. McGranery, turned to her for counsel. His wife is an attorney.

THE ATTRACTIVE Mrs. McGranery is the former Regina Clark of this city. She is a graduate of the University of Pennsylvania law school and served as a Deputy Attorney General for the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. She wasn't overly impressed when informed that President Truman had named her husband—Federal judge since 1946—to succeed J. Howard McGrath as Attorney General. The nomination now is pending in the Senate. The McGranerys were married 13 years ago and have three children.

Judge McGranery was serving his fourth term in the House of Representatives in 1948 when the late President Franklin D. Roosevelt asked him to take the post as Assistant to the Attorney General. When he resigned from Congress, Mrs. McGranery was offered the legislative post he vacated. She declined by saying: "I took my oath of office when I took my marriage vows."

Before their marriage, the McGranerys were admitted to practice before the United States Supreme Court together. She has the utmost faith in her husband, whom she describes as "the kind who always makes up his own mind and does what he believes is the right thing."

MRS. MCGRANERY is a member of the national executive committee of the National Board, Girl Scouts of America, and also of the Philadelphia Girl Scouts Board. For 16 years, she has served on the board of St. Edmund's Home for Crippled Children here.

The McGranery youngsters are James, Jr., 11; Clark, 9, and Regina, 6. They're all excited about moving from Philadelphia to Washington, but life in the nation's capital is nothing new to Mrs. McGranery. "I haven't even begun to think about it," Mrs. McGranery said.

Vienna Cathedral To Be Reopened

Vienna—(RNS)—St. Stephen's Cathedral, famous Vienna landmark which was partially destroyed during World War II, will be reopened for public worship at special ceremonies on April 26.

Theodore Cardinal Innitzer, Archbishop of Vienna, will officiate at the reopening ceremonies in the presence of President Theodore Koerner of Austria and members of the government.

'Suffer The Little Children'

Kansas City—(NC)—Bishop Edwin V. O'Hara of Kansas City to National Catholic Educational Association Convention:

"The United States is the only important country in the world, outside the Soviet block, which rigorously prohibits the teaching of religion in schools supported by public taxation. I think this is the least creditable feature of our Government. We have billions of dollars for every conceivable project, but refuse to hear the call of Jesus Christ who asks that the little children be permitted to come to Him."

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| Fitted crib sheets, thirds of 1.59, fit over mattress corners, stay smooth, unwrinkled and comfortable .88c | Waterproof pants, seconds of 1.00. Covered with pastel or white rayon, some lace trimmed. Small, medium, large. 59c 2 for 1.00 | Rayon gowns and pajamas, seconds of 295 values. Pastel colors in sizes 2 to 6X 1.59 | Dungarees, overalls and slacks. Regularly 1.39. Denims, seersuckers and chambrays in sizes 3 to 8 1.00 | Sacques. Regularly 1.00. Knit cotton with shirred yoke. Pink or blue. Infants sizes 59c | Gowns, Regularly 79c. Flannelette gowns and kimonas for infants. White only 59c 2 for 1.00 | Overalls. Soft knit cotton overalls with sturdy snap closings. Brown, navy and red. Small, medium, large sizes 79c |
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