

Anglican Theologian Refuted

Claim Church Of England Is Catholic. And Not Protestant Stirs Controversy

By JOHN A. GREAVES (Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

London (NC)—Much interest was aroused here by the action of a leading Church of England (Anglican) theologian who questioned the accuracy of the oath by which Queen Elizabeth will bind herself at her coronation to maintain in the United Kingdom the Protestant reformed religion established by law.

Oath Makes Queen State Church Head

Preaching in Westminster Abbey, where the coronation rites will take place next June, Dr. Edwin Morris, Anglican Bishop of Monmouth, declared that the Church of England is not a Protestant church, but is "the ancient Church of the land, reformed in 1534, but Catholic still." Nowhere, in its constitution, he said, did the church describe itself as Protestant and hence the oath the young Queen will take is inaccurate as it stands.

Dr. Morris, a former professor of theology, described the coronation oath as a state document and said that members of the Church of England need not accept it as an accurate description of their own faith. He declared that it was required by law to safeguard what is called the Protestant succession to the throne. For the same reason, he added, the Queen, when opening parliament in October, had to make an affirmation that she is and will remain a Protestant.

The question of the coronation oath is a delicate one that Catholics of this country are loath to raise themselves, since it would inevitably stir up a hornet's nest of controversy and ill-will at what should be a time of national rejoicing, and also at a time when all the Christian denominations are faced with the common enemy of a growing paganism. However, Dr. Morris' talk in Westminster Abbey, ancient London home of the Benedictine monks that in 1066 in white heads, contained claims concerning the Church of England which two Catholic priests here promptly contradicted.

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"NOT ONCE IN any of its official formularies or documents," Dr. Morris said, "does the Church of England describe itself as Protestant. In all of them it expresses or implies the claims to be the Catholic church in this land."

"Moreover, although it glories in the fact that at the Reformation it purged itself of a number of doctrinal errors and reordered its way of worship in accordance with the primitive pattern and with common sense, it always as-

sumes its continuity and identity with the Catholic church in this land from the beginnings.

"The Church of England is no new body created by Henry VIII or Elizabeth I. It is the ancient church of this land reformed in 1534, but Catholic still. Our medieval cathedrals and churches did not formerly belong to the Roman Catholics. They have always belonged to the Church of England."

FIRST REPLY to Dr. Morris came from Father George P. Dwyer, superior of the Catholic Missionary Society, who said: "When you change the wording, the teaching, the ruling authority of a church, it is juggling with words to pretend that there has been no essential change. . . . But in recent years the word Protestant seems to have become unpopular in certain circles in the Church of England. And so Bishop Morris now denies that the Church of England is Protestant at all."

The second Catholic answer came from Father Joseph Christie, who told a congregation at the Farm Side Catholic Church that "the mark of Catholicism is communion with the See of Rome."

Enforced on every monarch in the past several hundred years, the coronation oath is one of the last remaining vestiges of anti-Catholic discrimination in the Constitution of the British Commonwealth. It inflicts great hurt on the many millions of Catholics not only in Britain itself, but throughout the Commonwealth.

PAST PROTESTS by Catholics and others have caused some minor modifications, but have had no effect on the essential purpose of the oath. It is now felt that any protest against the wording must come rather from the

Promotes Vocations



Sister Mary of the Sacred Heart, F.H.M. (above), recent guest speaker at the Catholic Interracial Forum, New York, described the work of her congregation of negro sisters, Franciscan Handmaids of the Most Pure Heart of Mary, which numbers less than 50 professed nuns. The youngest colored missionary community in the United States, it was founded in Georgia, in 1917. The nuns conduct kindergartens, elementary and high schools, day nurseries and summer and day camps.

25,000,000 Catholics in the Commonwealth than from the 5,000,000 inside Britain.

A move by the Catholics of Britain, however well-organized, stands little chance of success against the traditional though unsubstantial facade of Protestantism in the British Parliament from which any alteration must come. This is particularly true of the House of Lords, the upper chamber, of which the salaried bishops of the state church are all members.

A serious appeal from one of the dominions, preferably through a dominion government, could have more weight in these days of reliance on the dwindling support of Commonwealth nations.

It would be a simple matter to alter the wording to the satisfaction of everyone by substituting "Christian religion" for Protestant reformed religion established by law.

By taking the oath the Queen, whether she likes it or not, promises to accept the belief of the "Red Dean" of Canterbury, Dr. Hewlett Johnson, and others in a Church where every person and bishop is allowed to be a political heretic, with license.

Prominent members of the Church of England support euthanasia, birth control, humanism, communism. They deny such fundamental Christian doctrines as the Virgin Birth, the Resurrection, the Assumption, miracles, angels, a personal devil and even Hell itself.

These are exceptions, but they exist and, as has recently been seen in the case of the Red Dean himself, such men cannot be removed from office by their Church for such beliefs but only by Act of Parliament. If every bishop in the Church of England became a Communist they would still remain the State Church to which the Queen must subscribe.

To satisfy Scottish demands the Queen has to be Head of the Church of Scotland, which is Presbyterian, as well as of the Church of England. The Dominions do not have State Churches.

Lawyers Urge Prayer In Schools

New York (RNS)—Approval of the State Board of Regents' proposal that the public school classes be opened with a daily prayer was urged on the Board of Education here in a letter from the Protestant Lawyers Association of Brooklyn.

Alfred C. McKenzie, president of the group, said its board of directors was "amazed" that opposition to the proposal had been expressed at a Board of Education hearing. It also was amazed, he said, that Col. Arthur Levitt, a school board member, had suggested substituting the singing of stanzas of "America" for the proposed prayer.

Assenting that "religion contributed much to the development of the public school system," the letter said that banning the proposed non-sectarian prayer would be "denuding our schools of all light to the point of abjectly."

Air Pilgrimage To Shrines Planned

Washington, D. C. (NC)—The Second Annual Pilgrimage to the Marian Shrines of Europe will take place in August, 1953, it has been announced by Mgr. Patrick J. O'Connor, director of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here. Departure from New York will be by air, leaving August 8 and returning on September 5, the Monsignor said.

Travel arrangements are again being made by the International Catholic Travel Service of Lansair in Washington, D. C.

Requiem Held For New York Vicar General

New York (NC)—Cardinal-designate J. Francis A. McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, preached the sermon at a Solemn Pontifical Mass here in St. Patrick's Cathedral for Msgr. Edward R. Gaffney, vicar general of the New York archdiocese.

HIS Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, offered the Mass. He and Archbishop McIntyre both accompanied the body to St. Raymond's Cemetery for burial. Two other Archbishops and eight Bishops were among the 2,000 attending the rites.

Monsignor Gaffney died here (Nov. 27) at the home of a brother-in-law, Christopher C. McGrath.

Pastor of Blessed Sacrament Church since 1947, Monsignor Gaffney was born in New York 54 years ago and attended All Hallows Institute, Cathedral College, and St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, N. Y. He completed his seminary training at the North American College in Rome and was ordained in the Basilica of St. John Lateran in 1924.

AMONG HIS early posts was an assignment as assistant at St. Patrick's Old Cathedral on Mulberry Street. He was named successively to various posts in the Archdiocesan Curia, and in October, 1950, was appointed Vicar General. In 1950 Msgr. Gaffney was one of eleven missionaries invested by Cardinal Spellman as Protectors of the Holy See in the highest rank of Monsignor.

Archbishop Of Halifax Dies

Halifax, N. S. (RNS)—Archbishop John T. McNally of Halifax died here after a long illness at the age of 51.

Born in Hope River, Prince Edward Island, he was the last surviving bishop named by Pope Pius X who died in 1914.

Archbishop McNally studied in Rome, where he was a classmate of Eugenio Pacelli, now Pope Pius XII. Ordained in 1896, he was appointed first Bishop of Calgary in 1913 and in 1924 was transferred to the diocese of Hamilton.

Hats Tipped In Reverence

Danbury, Conn. (NC)—Msgr. Leo M. Finn, supreme chaplain of the Knights of Columbus, has called for more widespread practice of the custom of tipping of the hat as a mark of reverence and respect.

Speaking at a Connecticut assembly of the K. of C. here, Monsignor Finn said that tipping of hats symbolizes man's respect for God, the Church and the Sacraments and that it is a practice which requires little time or effort. Monsignor Finn is the nephew of Father Michael J. McGivney, who founded the Knights of Columbus 70 years ago.

Louisiana Baptists Veto Vatican Envoy

Hammond, La. (RNS)—A resolution urging that "henceforth the United States not have a personal or ambassadorial representative to the Vatican" was adopted by the Louisiana Baptist Convention at its 104th annual meeting here.

The convention directed that a copy of the resolution be sent to President-elect Dwight D. Eisenhower. The resolution stressed the "sincere belief" of Louisiana Baptists in the principle of separation of Church and State and their conviction that this principle was "infringed" in the past by the sending of Presidential personal representatives to the Vatican.

Seminary Rector Named Monsignor

Emmitsburg, Md. (NC)—Father Joseph P. O'Donnell, Rector of Mount St. Mary's Seminary, Emmitsburg, has received notice from Archbishop John F. O'Hara of Philadelphia that His Holiness has named him a Domestic Prelate, with the title Right Rev. Monsignor.

Missionary Arrives From Red China

Hong Kong (NC)—Father Craig Strong, Canadian Missionary of St. John's, Newfoundland, has arrived here from Red China. He had walked since January, 1951, for an exit permit from the Reds. He first came to China in 1934 and worked in the Diocese of Lishui, Chekiang province.

Free Clinics Opened For China Refugees

Hong Kong (NC)—Almost a dozen free clinics have been opened by Catholic groups in recent years to care for the ever-increasing number of refugees from the communist China mainland.

From 800,000 in pre-communist days, this city's population has now risen to two and a half million.

IN ADDITION to their hospitals, the Canonian Sisters operate four free clinics in widely separated sections of the city. The Immaculate Conception Sisters have a welfare center with clinic in a thickly settled refugee area.

The Chinese Catholic Club has three free clinics for refugees, staffed by voluntary lay workers. The Club members likewise distribute bedding and clothing through the same area and have obtained the aid of two priests in visiting the refugees.

THE CATHOLIC Women's League has opened three more free clinics, two on the island of Hong Kong and one in Kowloon. European and Chinese members of this club work side by side to care for these refugees who have chosen freedom instead of communism even when it means becoming a penniless beggar.

Medical Missions New York (NC)—Two shipments of the potent DDS for the treatment of leprosy have been sent out to 85 places where the disease is rife, it has been announced here by Father Edward F. Garesche, S.J., president of the Catholic Medical Mission Board.



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Advertisement for Gateway Travel Bureau, 'GOING TO EUROPE IN 1953? Why Not Make Reservations Now?' featuring an image of the Eiffel Tower and text about travel services.

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