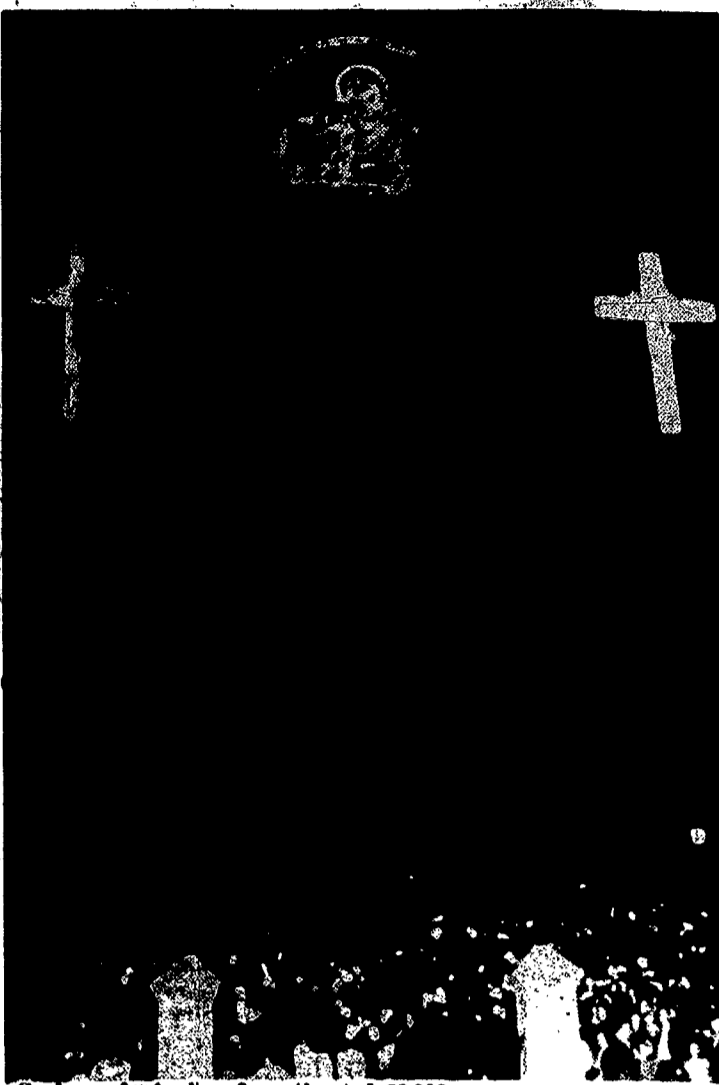


30,000 AT CONGRESS



Sydney, Australia—An estimated 30,000 persons overflowed St. Mary's Basilica here for the opening ceremony of the National Eucharistic Congress, presided over by Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, as Papal Legate. Present also were two other Cardinals and some 40 bishops. Congress theme was "Christian Charity." (Religious News Service Photo.)

### Huge Crowds Thrill To Rites Closing Eucharistic Congress

Sydney, Australia —(NC)— Half a million persons lined the streets here to watch a vast, colorful procession that wound its way toward St. Mary's Cathedral for the closing ceremonies of the National Eucharistic Congress that commemorated the 150th anniversary of the first public Mass on this continent.

Starting at St. Patrick's on "Church Hill," Sydney's oldest and most venerable church, the procession featured a reverently and artistically designed float on which His Eminence Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, bore the Sacred Host aloft while Catholics along the route dropped to their knees in adoration.

THE CARDINAL, who served as Papal Legate to the Congress, had earlier in the day celebrated a Pontifical High Mass in the Cathedral at which the preacher was Archbishop John G. McQuaid of Dublin, Ireland.

Highlighting the closing ceremonies of the Congress was a broadcast by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, who declared that the way to peace in the world was through devotion to Christ in the Eucharist.

The procession, in which 18,000 participants joined, was the first one in the history of Australia in which nuns walked. The nuns, made up of contingents from every Sisterhood in the country, received ovations as they passed along a route lined by a guard of honor of Children of Mary in cloaks and veils.

LEADING THE procession were altar boys and standard bearers carrying the Australian flag, the Papal flag and a banner of the Blessed Sacrament. Marching behind the nuns were groups of Brothers, seminarians, rows of Religious and diocesan clergy and hundreds of college graduates and students attired in colorful academic dress.

Behind the students walked a special group of Sydney diocesan clergy in alba and chasubles, followed by a guard of honor surrounding the Papal Legate.

He, in turn, was followed by members of the Australian Hierarchy, led by their Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracian, Archbishop of Bombay, India, and Peter Gregory XV Cardinal Agagianian, Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians.

IN THE WAKE of the Cardinals came a large group of distinguished Catholic citizens, contingents of boys and girls from Catholic schools, national groups in picturesque attire, a marching unit of the Children of Mary, socialists, Catholic nurses, and squads of members of the Holy Name and other societies.

Hundreds of thousands had assembled in the environs of St. Mary's Cathedral and thousands more converged upon the surrounding area to receive the final blessing from the Papal Legate.

Crowds knelt reverently on footpaths, roads, tramlines and patches of lawn as Australia's first Australian-born Prince of the Church raised his hand in benediction.

and he adds the daily habit of asking God's help.

May Catholics do more than respect such a movement? May they take part? There is the instruction "Ecclesia Catholica" of the Holy Office to consider. It expressly permits Catholics to participate in mixed confessional meetings for the defense of the fundamental principles of human rights and of religion against the enemies of the Church, or for rebuilding of the social order. But is MRA a religion?

IS IT RATHER a basis of truth, of moral honesty, in which religion can grow? If you can make converts, you can make them out of Buchmanites, already committed to God and goodness. "He that is not with Me is against Me," said Christ of His enemies; but to the apostles, worried about strange preachers of Christ, He said, "He that is not against you is with you."

The Communists fight MRA. Its record is good—it is the great fool of labor conciliation. The record is very interesting reading.

### BOOK REVIEWS The World Rebuilt

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

Professor of Literature, Nazareth College

THE WORLD REBUILT, The True Story of Frank Buchman and the achievements of Moral Re-Armament. By Peter Howard, Duffell-Holmes, 1953. 250 p. \$1.50

So influential has the Buchman movement, MRA, become, and so completely different are the views of European Catholics on it from those of American Catholics, that some inquiry into it is warranted. We look on a program devoted to absolutes, to the practice of Christian virtues as such, with considerable hope, being only too sharply aware that influential leaders of American opinion have been often enough deniers of the absolute—Holmes, for instance, and Vinson, and others.

YOU KNOW WHAT Buchmanism is: In the twenties the "Oxford Groups" were well enough known; they attempted moral rehabilitation by discussion week-ends. Buchman retreats, which included public confession of personal faults. The appeal of the latter tactic to straits and neurotics brought opprobrium on the movement. Years have passed; Buchmanites have sorted themselves out and have found a world-size task utterly precluding emotionalism. A confused Western Europe, many groups of de-Christianized and spiritually needy folk, find MRA a near-miracle, a weapon against Communist propaganda immediately efficacious.

MORAL RE-ARMAMENT is hailed since World War II as the wonder drug for a sick world. The drug that makes real human beings out of people. How? By making them suddenly honest about themselves, so that they say to their deadly rival or their annoying subordinate, "I've been wrong about this in certain points. My thinking went off just here, and here. I'll square it."

To this honesty is deliberately added a further step—that of holding one's breath and mentioning no fault in the opponent; this gives the other fellow his chance to reciprocate, and he does.

THE FACTUAL RECORD of MRA in the use of this simple approach is amazing: bottle-necks in industry are broken, production rises, hand-to-mouth, imperiled and about-to-be-disembodied companies now inflected with good will, dock strikes end, labor quarrels dwindle in the Ruhr, two thousand Communists of all ranks

More People Like... **GENESEE**

Old-Fashioned Beer Goodness Ale

### Stalin Continues 'Divine' Powers In Red Nurseries

London — (NC) — Stalin may be dead but he continues to exercise "divine" powers in the communist-run nursery schools in Poland.

Reports reaching here from that Red-dominated land state that the teachers in the state nursery schools are continuing their traditional "proof" that there is no God and that Stalin is "divine."

The comedy still being re-enacted in the Polish nursery schools goes like this. The children are urged to pray to God for things to eat. When nothing happens the teachers cite this as "proof" that there is no God.

Then the children are urged to appeal to Stalin for food. Immediately baskets of fruit and some cookies are wheeled into the classroom for the children. They are told that the fruit and cookies are "gifts" from Stalin.

### Polish Reds Demand Oath From Priests

London — (RNS) — Polish Communists apparently have started a campaign to force all Catholic priests in Poland to take an oath of loyalty to the regime.

The Warsaw Radio announced that several hundred clergymen already had been "persuaded" by "patriotic priests" to take such an oath.

It said a campaign to get all priests to take the oath had been organized by "patriotic priests" who are touring the country, calling meetings everywhere at which government promises of financial aid are made to all clergy who take the oath.

POLISH NEWSPAPERS, meanwhile, continued to attack Auxiliary Bishop Zygmunt Chodzinski of Warsaw, secretary of the Polish episcopate, because of his recent pastoral letter opposing the nationalization of property.

### Mother And Eight Children Join Church, Forgive An Alway

Philadelphia — (NC) — When 14-year-old Russell Meade told his mother he'd like to learn about the Catholic Church, Mrs. Meade decided it wasn't a bad idea. And it might not be a bad idea for herself, her husband, and seven other children, either.

THAT'S HOW Mrs. Meade wrote her husband, a staff sergeant at Wichita Air Force Base in Kansas, and got his okay. There's a clear view across St. Dominic's cemetery to the parish church from the Meade home here, so one night last September Mrs. Meade, Russell, and the oldest daughter, 15-year-old Mary, went over for their first talk with Father Arthur T. Hedge.

AFTER THAT all the Meades—except the absent father and the twin boys, Joseph and Egbert, who are four—traipsed over to St. Dominic's about twice a week for instructions.

At the end of Lent they were baptized, all over the family making their First Communion at 6:30 Mass the following day.

MRS. MEADE says that when her husband came home on furlough, he couldn't understand why she got up so early to go to Mass. "Anything that can get you up at six o'clock must be something," he decided. Now the sergeant is taking instructions from an army chaplain.

### Huge Fashion Show Spotlights Modesty

Chicago — (NC) — Chicago's Catholic teen-agers sparked their modesty-in-dress crusade with a fashion show that drew a crowd of 2,000.

Seven clothing retailers supplied clothes—from beach wear to formal dress—modeled by 40 high school girls especially trained for the event by the Estelle Compton Modesty Institute.

The U. S.-born campaign has, at last report, spread to Canada, Newfoundland, the Philippines and Australia.

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- wear with or without hood
- full cut in small, medium and large sizes
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THE FABRIC: taffetized virgin plastic that looks, feels and hangs like a cloth coat. Durably water-repellent. Luscious colors: blue, pink, maize, smoke, natural and navy.

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