

Negro Priest Consecrated Bishop Of African See

Bay St. Louis, Miss. — (RNS) — The Most Rev. Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D., was consecrated Bishop of Accra, West Africa, by Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, in colorful ceremonies here.

Pontiff Honors Altar 'Boy', 65

Coteau, La. — (NC) — Remy Copieux at 65 may not be the oldest "altar boy" in the nation, but Father Charles Fortier, his pastor, has rated him as one of the most faithful.

Co-consecrators were Bishop Richard O. Gerow of Natchez, Miss., and Bishop Adolph Noser, S.V.D., Vicar Apostolic of Alexis-haven, New Guinea, who is the predecessor of Bishop Bowers at Accra. The sermon was preached by Archbishop Joseph P. Rummel of New Orleans.

THE CEREMONIES, which took place in the Church of Our Lady of the Gulf here, were attended by leading Church dignitaries from all over the country.

Archbishop Rummel told the congregation that the new prelate's missionary activity in the Gold Coast under Bishop Noser's direction "undoubtedly had a large share in the zealous work which produced the glorious picture of Apostolic achievement in that region."

Addressing himself to Bishop Bowers, he said: "You may therefore well enter upon your episcopal responsibility with confidence and the high hope that under God's blessing the work so auspiciously begun will grow to ever-increasing proportions."

Bishop Bowers, an alumnus of St. Augustine's Seminary, Bay St. Louis, served in the Gold Coast from 1939 to 1950.

Marine, Army Chaplains Cited On Korea Role

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — Six Catholic chaplains have recently been cited for service in Korea, including one Purple Heart recipient.

Marine Corps chaplain, Father (Lt. J.G.) John P. Byrnes of Trenton, N. J., received the Purple Heart for injuries suffered on February 27 in Korea.

THE BRONZE Star was awarded to Father (Capt.) Dominic A. Bonomo of Baltimore for his "high standard of spiritual leadership" while serving with the 36th Engineer Combat Group in Korea.

Marine chaplains who received Bronze Stars were Father (Lt. J.G.) Paul J. LaDuca, O.F.M. Cap., a Marine aircraft group chaplain and Father (Lt.) August G. Mendonsa of Providence, R.I., a Marine infantry chaplain.

Letters of commendation were awarded to Father (Lt. J.G.) Charles T. Duggan of Boston, chaplain with a Marine artillery battalion, and Father (Lt. Cmdr.) Joseph P. F. Gallagher of New York, Marine infantry regiment chaplain.

NEGRO BISHOP CONSECRATED



Bay St. Louis, Miss. — The Most Rev. Joseph O. Bowers, S.V.D. (center), gives his blessing following his consecration as Bishop of Accra, West Africa, at ceremonies in the Church of Our Lady of the Gulf here attended by leading Church dignitaries from all over the country. With him is Bishop Richard O. Gerow of Natchez, Miss., one of his co-consecrators. Bishop Bowers, 45, is one of the first Negro members of the Catholic hierarchy to be consecrated in the U. S. and the first Negro member of his order, the Society of the Divine Word, to be raised to the episcopacy. His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, was the consecrator.

Pope, Truman Letters Issued By Taylor

New York — (RNS) — A special book containing correspondence exchanged by Pope Pius XII and former President Harry S. Truman has been privately printed here by Myron C. Taylor, personal representative to the Vatican for both Mr. Truman and Franklin D. Roosevelt.

Of the two letters in the new volume only two had been made public previously.

COVERING THREE years between 1946 and 1948, the correspondence stresses Mr. Truman's desire to join with Pope Pius in establishing a world order based on peace, justice and freedom.

The book is a companion piece to a similar one entitled "War-time Correspondence Between President Roosevelt and Pope Pius XII" privately published by Mr. Taylor in 1948.

In his introduction, Mr. Taylor states: "It is impossible to read the messages exchanged between the President and His Holiness without being strengthened in the conviction that faith in God and the spiritual and moral stamina that springs from it are the final and irrefutable forces through which truth, and decency, and a just peace will prevail."

"Only as those forces inspire our minds and hearts will our generation accept whatever sacrifices may be necessary to meet and overcome the forces of evil which today challenge everything that free men and women prize most."

New Ambassador No 'Greenhorn' On Irish Lore

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — America's new ambassador to Ireland, William Howard Taft, III, received a Golden Rule award for an impressive laywall testimonial dinner.

Expressing his thanks to a distinguished Washington gathering, the Ambassador who "would like to be regarded as a returning Irishman," gave out with fiction on Eire that even Irish Americans stumbled.

AMONG THEM: "According to many Galway men, Columbus stopped in at Galway to pick up his pilot before he would venture forth into the Atlantic Ocean . . .

"St. Brendan seems to have arrived in the United States, possibly at Martha's Vineyard, many centuries before Lief Ericson is said to have discovered Vinland . . .

"When Irishmen wish to be especially flattering, they refer to the United States as 'the next case to the West' . . .

"We should remember that the Marshall Plan came to Ireland but that more than six-sevenths of the funds expended were in the form of loans and are to be paid back . . .

"Let us remember also that Ireland for its size and circumstance has contributed much to international good will and constructive thought . . . that Prime Minister DeValera was the first president of the Council, and long the secretary, of the League of Nations . . . that Ireland has contributed much to the unified success of the Marshall Plan, the Council of Europe, the OEEC and the F.O.A. . . .

Relations With Iran Denied By Vatican

Rome — (RNS) — Reports from Tehran that the government of Iran was establishing diplomatic relations with the Holy See were denied by the Vatican Secretariate of State.

Teheran dispatches had quoted Foreign Minister Hossein Fazelani as announcing the impending ties with Vatican. He was represented as saying that the Iranian Minister to Switzerland would serve as Minister to the Holy See.

A predominantly Moslem country, Iran has only 17,873 Catholics out of a total population of some 17,000,000.

Korean Parish Started With One, Now Has Over 1,100 Parishioners

Ham Pyong, Korea — (NC) — This south-west Korean parish, which began as an out-mission with one Catholic in 1937, now has more than 1,100 parishioners.

On Holy Saturday the pastor, Father Paul Kim, Korean priest, working with the Columbian Fathers, baptized 159 converts here.

Ham Pyong went through a fiery ordeal under the communists in 1950. They burned the new church and imprisoned Father Kim. They released him but came looking for him again, to execute him. He spent 25 days hiding under the floor of a house.

During that time 19 Koreans who had been taking instruction came to his sister saying: "The Reds may kill us and we want to be baptized first."

Trial For Priest Set By Yugoslavs

Belgrade — (RNS) — The Rev. Vinko Rasol, a Catholic priest from Zadar on the Dalmatian coast, will shortly be brought to trial on charges of "illegal dealings in foreign currency," it was announced here.

Communist authorities accused Father Rasol of pocketing money obtained from Yugoslav emigrants in the United States for church activities.

They also alleged that the priest made parishioners who received financial aid from American relatives pay fees for religious rites in "hard dollars." According to the Yugoslav authorities, Father Rasol had fixed rates: five dollars for officiating at funerals, with an equal amount for Requiem Masses; and \$2 for conducting baptisms.

Another charge against the priest was that he kept food parcels sent from the U.S. to the poor of his district.

Military Ordinariate Appointment Made

New York — (NC) — Major Thomas J. McCarthy, director of the Bureau of Information, National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D.C., has been named Vice-Chancellor of the Military Ordinariate.

The appointment was announced here by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, who is Military Vicar and heads the Military Ordinariate.

Major McCarthy has been director of the N.C.W.C. bureau for the last four years. He is a native of Worcester, Mass., an alumnus of Holy Cross College and of St. Mary's Seminary, Baltimore, Md. He was selected for the Los Angeles Ambassador on May 22, 1947.

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