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Two Nuns, Priest Killed By Tornado In New England

Worcester, Mass. — (RNS) — Two Catholic nuns and a priest were among the eighty known dead here in the worst tornado to hit New England in 70 years.

FATHER BRASSARD
Seriously Injured

They were Sisters St. John of the Cross, A.A., and St. Helen, A.A., and the Rev. Englebert Devineq, A.A., all of Assumption College, which was severely damaged by the blast. More than 100 priest retreatants were in residence at the time.

Nine other priests and ten nuns were seriously injured at the college, including the Rev. John O. Arthur Brassard, A.A., who recently returned from Moscow where he ministered to members of the American diplomatic colony.

Among the seriously injured was Mother Superior Sister Chantelle, A.A., of the Assumption College convent. The convent was all but destroyed.

The Episcopal Church of St. Michael-on-the-Heights was demolished by the blast, which affected the whole of Worcester County. Extensive damage was done at Petersham, Athol, Barre, Holden, Shrewsbury, Southboro and Framingham.

AS SOON AS the tornado had passed aid was speeded to the disaster areas. Clergymen of all faiths comforted the stricken, and at the Worcester City Hospital Roman Catholic priests administered the Last Rites to the dying as they were brought in.

Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester, who was administering Confirmation at St. John's church here, left immediately after the blast for the damaged suburbs of Worcester. Until the early hours of the morning he visited hospitals and the city morgue where he gave absolution to the dead.

The Bishop who was due to receive an honorary degree and give the commencement address at Fordham University, canceled his appearance, stating:

"In the midst of their suffering I can not leave my people."

Father Brazzard Tornado Victim

Worcester — Father Louis E. Brassard, who recently returned to Assumption College here after serving three years as chaplain to the U. S. diplomatic colony in Moscow, is seriously injured and close to death, according to the NCWC News Service. Father Brassard is among the nine priests and 10 nuns seriously injured when the worst tornado in New England history swept through central Massachusetts Tuesday night and destroyed Assumption College.

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Private Schools Build Faster Than Public

Washington — (NC) — Non-public school building in America is increasing at a far faster rate than public school construction, according to figures released by the Department of Commerce here.

By the end of May the nation had spent $156,000,000 on new parochial and other private schools and colleges. This was an increase of 17.3 per cent over the amount spent in the first five months of 1952. In May alone the estimated expenditure was $32,000,000, 23 per cent higher than the total for May, 1952.

PUBLIC SCHOOL construction between the same five-month period arose only 3.5 per cent. The total amounts spent, however, were much greater: $683,000,000 through May, 1953, compared to $660,000,000 for the same period last year.

Church building by all denominations has also risen sharply from last year, increasing by 14.9 per cent.

Total new construction throughout the country rose less than six per cent over last year in the January-May period.

A part of the increase in these categories over last year can be explained by the removal of controls from building materials in the summer of 1952. Since that time it has been possible to buy building materials for school and church construction on the open market without priorities. There are also a number of other reasons for this year's increase, such as different weather conditions, Department of Commerce officials have pointed out.

CONSTRUCTION OF new hospitals and other institutions, many of which had a high priority for materials under controls, showed a decline from last year. Private hospital building in the first five months of 1952 dropped to $129,000,000 from $164,000,000 a year earlier, a decline of 21.3 per cent.

Public hospital construction between the same periods declined from $188,000,000 to $168,000,000, a drop of 10.6 per cent. Part of the decline in public hospital building was explained here by the decrease in construction of new hospitals for veterans.

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Parish Holds Rites For 30 Tornado Victims In Flint

Flint, Mich. — (NC) — Thirty members of Saint Francis Assisi parish here were counted among the victims of eight tornadoes which roared through Michigan, northern Ohio taking toll of 140 dead and a thousand injured.

The disaster area is a few blocks from the parish buildings, none of which were damaged. The new parish school was used as a Red Cross emergency relief center.

LANSING BISHOP Joseph H. Albers flew here accompanied by Msgr. Charles Keating, Chancellor. The Bishop Spent three hours visiting the disaster area; gave $5,000 to Red Feather fund to aid victims; discussed plans with Flint pastors for a Mass funeral of the Catholic dead outside St. Agnes Church.

CATHOLIC service Bureau under the direction of Father Earl V. Sheridan played major roles in the rescue work. Flint priests were up all night, ministering to the dying and the injured.

Father John Blasko had charge of the morgue in the armory where bodies of Catholic dead were annointed.

Bishop Albers is scheduled to offer Requiem Mass this morning (Friday, June 13) outside St. Agnes Church for the 30 victims from St. Francis Assisi parish.

Presbyterians Keep 'Catholic Church' In Their Creed

Minneapolis, Minn. — (RNS) —The 165th General Assembly of the Presbyterian Church in the U. S. meeting here, rejected an overture from the presbytery of Duluth, Minn., proposing to substitute "Holy Christian Church" for "Holy Catholic church" in the Apostles Creed.

The Duluth presbytery had claimed that the phrase "Holy Catholic Church" is "generally misunderstood" and "wrongly identified" with the Roman Catholic Church.

In recommending that the General Assembly reject the proposal, Rev. C. Ralston, Oklahoma City, Okla., chairman of the committee on overtures, said the change would abandon the creed to the Roman Catholic Church.

Rather than make the change, the Presbyterian Church should educate its people in the meaning of the word "Catholic," Rev. Smith said.

Several Protestant bodies already have changed the wording.

Ordained Priests In Sacred Heart Cathedral

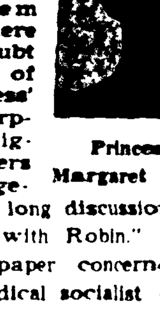
PRIESTS FOREVER—First class to be ordained in Sacred Heart Church since its elevation to a Cathedral, the ten graduates of St. Bernard's Seminary and the Third Order Regular missioner are shown after the ceremony. In photo front row (from left) Rev. William H. Hickey, Rev. Edwin B. Wedow, Monsignor Wilfred Craugh, Bishop Kearney, Auxiliary Bishop Casey, Rev. Leo J. Mans, Rev. Paul B. Schnacky; second row (from left) Rev. Ignatius W. Butler, T.O.R.; Rev. Bernard C. Krieg, Rev. Robert G. Smith, Rev. Bernard F. Dollen, Rev. Robert J. Donovan, Rev. F. F. Eisemann, Rev. William G. Charbonneau.

It's Strictly Unofficial

Princess Margaret Linked To Catholic Nobleman

London — (NC) — Leftist newspaper gossip concerning the sister of Queen Elizabeth serves to recall that no power on earth—except the royal family itself—can divulge details of the royal family's private life.

The gossip, printed in the London Daily Mirror, spoke of a "very deep friendship" that Princess Margaret had formed with 24-year-old Robin McEwen, an attorney indentified as "a devout Roman Catholic." The gossipy item added: "There is no doubt that some of the Princess' recent absorption in religious matters springs largely from her long discussions on the subject with Robin."



Princess Margaret Rose

The newspaper concerned is the most radical socialist organ in Britain this side of the Communist London Daily Worker.

THE BRITISH PRESS in general respects the privacy of the royal family, and anything printed by some papers is either guesswork or gossip. An instance of the rigidity with which this privacy is observed is furnished by the still unconfirmed rumors concerning death-bed conversions of King Edward VII who died in 1910, and also of Queen Mary who died earlier this year.

Whatever element of truth such rumors might contain, it is utterly unlikely that any suggestions regarding Catholic connections of members of the royal family would be issued officially, in view of weighty constitutional reasons and of the readiness of extremists to beat up hornets. And any Catholic priest involved would observe the confidence most strictly.

As for the item printed in the Daily Mirror, journalistic circles here do not regard it as a sensational "scoop." It is known generally in Britain that Robin McEwen's sister, Christian Mary, now Baroness Hesketh, has been Princess Margaret's closest friend since her childhood days. Her brothers, including Robin, have been escorts of the Princess for a long time. Robin is one of seven children of Capt. John Hellas Finnie McEwen, a Scottish Catholic landowner, former politician and author. Robin McEwen was among several hundred Catholics who attended the coronation ceremonies in Westminster Abbey.

As for Princess Margaret, she is the most eligible spinster in the British Commonwealth and the press has grown weary of "marrying" her to anybody seen in her vicinity. She is a sincere and devout churchgoer and belongs to Anglican (Church of England) lay groups. This latter fact has given rise to the gossip that she may embrace the religious life.

However, Princess Margaret's main function is that of easing her queen-sister's public burden and in view of her recognized attitude toward this duty it appears unlikely that she might enter a nunnery.

As for the attitude of the British royal family toward the Catholic Church it might be said that it caught a "touch of Rome" from Edward VII, who was a friend of the Pope, and has since maintained the high Anglican tradition. Some coolness developed under Edward VIII (the present Duke of Windsor) as a result of his impending marriage to a divorced woman, but Edward also is friendly toward the Church.

Despite many protests from British Protestant circles, members of the royal family, including the reigning queen, always have visited the Vatican and the Pope when in Rome. However, the true facts regarding the present royal house of Windsor and Catholicism must await history or a statement by the royal family itself. Any other "disclosures" come under the heading of rumor or scandal-mongering.

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Coal Miners Retreat Planned

Gardiner Mines, N. S. (NC) A retreat house for steel workers and soft coal miners on Cape Breton Island will be completed in time for an opening retreat in October.

The retreat house, now under construction on the grounds of St. James Parish in Gardiner Mines, will accommodate 30 men and will be directed by the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement.

Diocesan Holy Name Men Set Annual Parley Sunday

Election of officers and an address by the Very Rev. Gerard T. McGinley, O.C.S.O., superior of Our Lady of the Genesee Monastery near Piffard will feature the annual meeting of Rochester Diocesan Holy Name Union scheduled Sunday, June 14 at 3 p.m. in Our Lady of Lourdes School Hall, Rochester.

Plans for the meeting are announced by Martin Q. Moll, diocesan president in the "Holy Name Bulletin" issued this week.

Host to the gathering will be the Rev. Francis W. Luddy, pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes Church. Assisting with arrangements is the Rev. Patrick J. Flynn, diocesan director of Holy Name Societies.

FATHER GERARD who headed a small band of Trappists as his community is better known, to this diocese in April 1951 and saw the first monastery dedicated for more than 50 monks, priests and brothers, on Memorial Day will speak on "The Spiritual Needs of the Hour".

Spiritual Directors, Parish Officers and Delegates from all sections of the diocese will elect diocesan officers. Daniel E. Macken, past diocesan Union president, is chairman of the nominating committee that will report to the meeting.

The theme of the meeting will be directed towards programming for the parish society and a plan will be discussed for the exchange of program ideas among parish societies.

In addition to the spiritual director, each society is asked to have four official delegates, two of whom shall be the incumbent president and parish society secretary.

EACH SOCIETY is being encouraged to invite as many members to the meeting as they desire.

Sessions will close with Benediction of the Most Blessed Sacrament Church in Our Lady of Lourdes Church, at 5 p.m.

Featured in the "Holy Name Bulletin" is a report by Diocesan President Moll and a report on the Daily Mass League sponsored by the Diocesan Holy Name Union with Harold J. Coleman, president.

Student To Get 9th Purple Heart

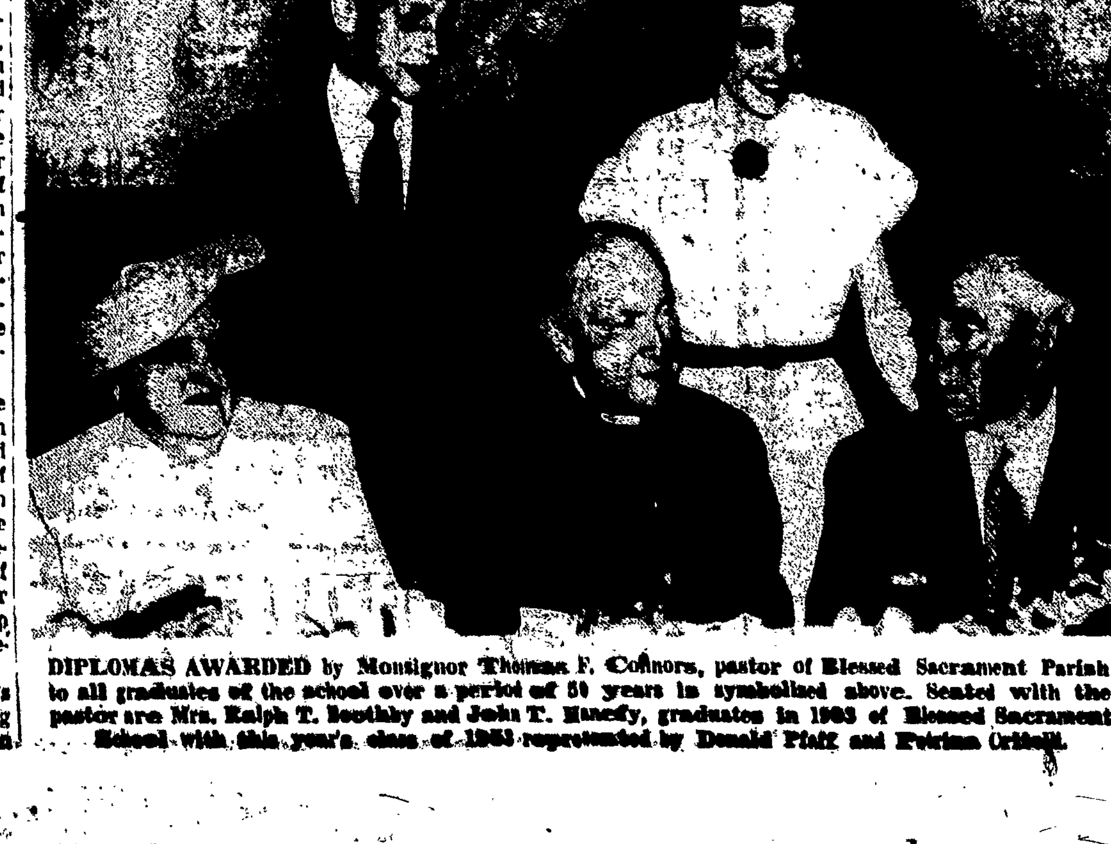
South Bend, Ind. — (NC) — A 34-year-old Notre Dame physical education student who is the Marine Corps' most wounded veteran, learned that he will receive his ninth Purple Heart this month.

But ex-Sergeant Albert L. Ireland wasn't too excited. Purple Hearts weren't his reason for fighting, he said—and anyway, another fighter in World War II had received 11 of them.

Ireland, who has fought in battles from the Solomon Islands to Korea, said he wanted to keep going until the Communists were beaten. After his re-enlistment when Korean action started, Marine authorities checked his battle record and decided it was time to stop. But Ireland took his case to the Marine Corps Commandant.

Three Purple Hearts later, the corps retired him from Korean battle lines and he returned to his studies at Notre Dame.

Graduates Span 50 Years For Pastor



DIPLOMAS AWARDED by Monsignor Thomas F. Connors, pastor of Blessed Sacrament Parish to all graduates of the school over a period of 50 years is symbolized above. Seated with the pastor are Mrs. Ralph T. Boothby and John T. Hanefy, graduates in 1903 of Blessed Sacrament School with this year's class of 1953 represented by Donald Pfaff and Patricia Orifelli.

Catholics In Seoul Kneel In Prayer As Korea Faces Armistice Crisis

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Seoul, — (Radio, NC) — The largest crowd of Catholics since the Korean war began knelt in prayer before the Blessed Sacrament exposed in the cathedral here as the Korean Republic faced one of its biggest crises in history.

The faithful were kneeling in the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception as a four-starred jeep rumbled through the South Korean capital carrying Gen. Mark Clark to the presidential palace. He was enroute to deliver President Eisenhower's letter appealing to South Korean President Syngman Rhee to accept the armistice terms then being worked out at Panmunjom.

KOREA'S CATHOLICS were observing Corpus Christi Sunday but they were also praying for divine aid and guidance during this critical period of their history, The South Korean government had announced that it found the armistice terms unacceptable and was determined to go it alone.

Top South Korean spokesmen, from President Rhee on down, have stated emphatically that they cannot accept any armistice which leaves Korea divided and permits Chinese troops to remain on Korean soil.

Only four of the five UN Command delegates were present at the conference table when the agreement was signed on the exchange of prisoners. Ominously absent was General Choi of the Republic of Korea. However, a Korean officer was present as a staff assistant.

BOTH THE PEOPLE and the government of South Korea are worried over the latest developments. The dilemma arising over the military stalemate was visible two years ago. But now, as the armistice neared, the dangers in a negotiated "settlement" were more vividly realized.

The Koreans have suffered appallingly in the war. An Armistice seemed to promise them continued partition and exposure to the same communist aggression.

On the other hand, their allies, especially the United States, have given and suffered generously. They are not morally bound to pay the price for a perfect solution, though they are certainly bound to safeguard Korea's interests as much as possible in making terms.

The agreement on prisoners of war is far from ideal, but it does seem to safeguard the principle that no prisoner shall be sent back to communist rule against his will. To this extent the agreement is a definite gain, not only in the current dispute but also toward establishing a precedent.

BUT THERE ARE some regrettable features in the agreement. Concern has been expressed over the absence of any explicit guarantee for religious ministrations for the unrepatriated prisoners of war while under the five-member neutral commission.

Point three of the agreement states that the prisoners shall be treated in accordance with the specific provisions of the Geneva Convention. This requires that the detaining power should provide chaplains as requested by the prisoners. But Church circles here feel it would have been far safer to insist in the draft on religious ministrations.

Special sections of the draft cover such things as medical care, Red Cross services and press coverage.

Another unpleasant feature is the permission for 50 "staff assistants" for each member of the "neutral commission." No adult believes Poland and Czechoslovakia to be neutral. Fifty staff assistants seems an excessive number in any event. A hundred foreign communists and additional Red Chinese and Korean teams of "explaining representatives" in South Korea supply a valuable opportunity for Moscow. These teams will have facilities for wireless communication.

The fear is expressed here that trained Russian agents who worked in North Korea will come wearing Polish and Czech uniforms.

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Mother, Daughter Become Nuns

Paris — (NC) — It's an unusual event when the mother of a family becomes a nun.

But an even rarer event took place when a mother, aged 39, and her 19-year-old daughter took their vows as nuns together at the convent of the Oblates of the Assumption here.

Christians Win Italy Elections

PREMIER de GASPERI
Wins Over Reds

Rome — (NC)—Premier Alcide de Gasperi's center coalition won a narrow majority of seats in both the senate and the Chamber of Deputies in the Italian elections.

De Gasperi's own Christian Democrats captured 116 Senate seats, and their allies in three other parties won nine. In the last Senate the government coalition had 196 seats, but the upper house of Parliament then comprised 344 members. Many appointive seats have been abolished.

The far left captured 87 seats. The Communists took 54 and pro-Red Socialists 28. A socialist-Communist alliance won four seats, and there is one independent leftist. In the last Senate the leftists totaled 109.

Resurgent far-rightists made the most spectacular gains. Monarchists won 16 seats and the neo-Fascist Italian Social Movement 9, for a total of 25. These two parties combined had only three in the old senate.

Six lifetime senators make up the total of 243.

De Gasperi's pro-Western government also won more than 50 per cent of the Chamber of Deputies vote. Under a new law, any party or bloc which wins 50.01 per cent or more gets bonus seats, raising its strength to 64.5 per cent of the Chamber seats.

UNOFFICIAL FIGURES from 60 of the 91 provinces indicated the government coalition was receiving almost exactly 50 per cent. Final tabulations determined De Gasperi's forces were slightly over 50 per cent.

Of 19,695,793 votes unofficially tabulated out of about 28 million in the Chamber election, the center coalition had 9,821,183. The far left had 7,402,190, and the far right 2,472,420.

Unless the center had achieved a majority, the far right and far left could have opportunistic alliances despite ideological differences and thus block such key government programs as ratification of the European defense treaty. Both right and left oppose this pact.

A SMALL local news agency, Agenzia Romana Informazioni, said the government bloc had a majority of 51.75 per cent. The agency declined to disclose the source of this figure but said it was based on the 20 million votes counted.

Interior Minister Mario Scelba announced that, in the Senate race, the government coalition of Christian Democrats, Moderate Socialists, Liberals and Republicans won 12,196,158 votes, to 12,103,388 for the combined opposition. This gave the center 50.2 per cent of the total. The margin of victory for the government in the Senate was three splinter parties—the South Tyrol Popular Party, the Sardinian Action party, and the mixed group of the center, whose votes were included in the coalition.

Remember Dad—Sunday June 21st with an Omega Automatic Watch. Dodge, Turner, Williams & Thorne, Jeweler, 315 Main St. E. HAm. 3861.—Adv.