

U. S. Catholics To Build Shrine For Marian Year

Washington — (NC) — Catholics in the United States will observe in a very special way the Marian centenary year 1954. They will raise up the great walls of a magnificent national shrine here in honor of the Mother of God.

This will give the United States what many other countries have long had. The undertaking is especially appropriate to this country, however, for here the whole nation, many dioceses and cathedrals, schools and churches are dedicated to the Blessed Mother, under the title of her Immaculate Conception.

THE YEAR 1954 will mark the 100th anniversary of the promulgation by Pope Pius IX of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. It will be the occasion of a world-wide celebration. Catholics in the United States will mark the centenary by beginning the magnificent upper church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in this city. The massive foundations, enclosing a beautiful Crypt Church already are completed.

To raise the funds necessary for this large work, the Bishops of the United States are conducting a nationwide Appeal. In most parts of the United States, the Appeal will be held on December 8, the Sunday nearest to the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8.

Actively promoting the Appeal in the following committee of the Hierarchy:

—Their Eminences Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit; Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago; Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles.

—Archbishop John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, Chairman of the Episcopal Committee for the Shrine; Archbishop John Gregory Murray of St. Paul; Archbishop John J. Mitty of San Francisco; Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis; Archbishop Patrick A. O'Doyle of Washington; Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati; Archbishop John F. O'Hara, C.S.C., of Philadelphia; Bishop James K. Kearney of Rochester; Bishop Peter L. Ireton of Richmond.

The erection of national monuments—in addition to the already numerous local reminders—of great persons is entirely in the American tradition. There are countless mementoes of George Washington scattered throughout the United States, but the Capital City was named in his honor and in it was erected a world-famous monument. Also, while Lincoln and Jefferson are honored in many ways in many places, splendid memorials have been raised up in Washington in their memory.

The building of a church belonging to the whole nation is also in accord with Catholic tradition. Canada to the north has its great shrine of Our Lady of the Cape (Cap de la Madeleine) in Mexico to the south its shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe. France has its Lourdes, Germany Our Lady of Trier, and even tiny Luxembourg its church of Our Lady Consoler of the Afflicted.

THE FLAGSHIP in which Columbus discovered America was named the Santa Maria, in honor of the Blessed Mother. The Spanish missionaries coming into what is now the great Southwest of our nation, erected countless churches and missions bearing the name of the Blessed Mother. The Jesuit missionaries coming into what is now Northwestern United States, brought with them reverence and love for the Blessed Virgin.

In 1846, eight years before the promulgation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception, the Bishops of the United States petitioned Pope Pius IX to designate the Blessed Mother Patroness of the United States under the title of her Immaculate Conception. The Pontiff acceded to this request in 1847 by a special Papal letter.

The last Plenary Council of Baltimore, held in 1864, gave favorable consideration to the erection of a national shrine to the Blessed Virgin.

In 1913, Bishop Thomas J. Shahan, rector of the Catholic University of America, inaugurated a movement to erect here in the Capital, a great national church to honor this country's Patroness. The project was not launched, however, until it was held before Pope Pius X, now Blessed Pius XI, who endorsed it enthusiastically. His Successor,

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Bishop Blesses Parish School Additions



Two additions to parish schools in the See City area were solemnly blessed by His Excellency Bishop Kearney assisted by the two pastors and other priests of the diocese on Sunday.

The Bishop first blessed the four-classroom addition to Holy Ghost School, Coldwater at 3 p.m. and then went to St. Andrew's School on Portland Ave. for the dedication ceremony at 5 p.m.

ACCOMPANYING THE Bishop in the blessing ceremony at Holy Ghost School were the Rev. Albert J. Geiger, pastor; the Rev. Albert H. Schneck, director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine; the Rev. Anthony Loo, C.S.B. and the Rev. Joseph O'Reilly, C.S.B.

Indement weather necessitated holding the entire proceedings at the Coldwater school indoors. The Bishop commended the pastor and people for their contribution to the growth of Catholic educational facilities in the diocese.

At the conclusion of the blessing Bishop Kearney read the prayers in English and explained the ceremony. The Bishop said that it is not only the matter of placing a cross but is the dedication as "Christ's School." The Bishop quoted the Savior's words on "Suffer little children."

Accompanying the Bishop were the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George W. Eddy, Father Schneck, the Rev. Raymond G. Heisel, the Rev. John W. LeVeque, the Rev. Robert J. Fox, the Rev. Jerome Schifferl, the Rev. William J. Schifferl and the Rev. Robert L. Kress.

Approximately 1500 graduates of the school over the past 31 years turned out to honor Sister Dorothea. Also present was the Reverend Mother Camilla, Superior of the Sisters of Mercy.



God's Blessing on additions to two schools in the area is asked by His Excellency Bishop Kearney here shown performing the ceremony (top) at Holy Ghost School, Coldwater with the Rev. Albert J. Geiger, pastor assisting; and lower, placing the cross at St. Andrew's School, Portland Ave., Rochester assisted by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. George W. Eddy, pastor, and the Rev. Albert H. Schneck, director of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine. (Courier Staff Photos)

Japan Catholic Population Increased By 70 Per Cent

Tokyo — (NC) — Catholics in Japan now number 185,284, as compared with 171,785 last year, according to official figures released here by the Apostolic Internunciature. The new figure is 69.5 per cent above the 1917 total of 109,285.

Adult converts during the 12 months up to September amounted to 10,669 while infant baptisms numbered 5,716. This compared with 12,178 conversions and 5,605 infant baptisms in the preceding year. A total of 24,399 catechumens were taking instruction at the time the report was published.

Other mission personnel at present includes 191 Japanese and 143 foreign Brothers, along with 2,037 Japanese and 917 foreign Sisters.

The largest single group of Catholics is the 69,740 in the Nagasaki Diocese. Next largest in the number of Catholics were the Tokyo Archdiocese (22,013), and the Dioceses of Osaka (15,433), and Fukuoka (13,255).

Last week's paid ABC circulation **42,717**
*Audit Bureau of Circulations

American Tourists Witness Beating Of Yugoslav Priest

Belgrade — (RNS) — Five American tourists, including a Catholic priest from Duluth, Minn., witnessed the beating of a Yugoslav priest in one of the latest of numerous outbreaks of mob violence against clergymen in Yugoslavia.

The Yugoslav clergyman was the elderly rector of the Dubrovnik cathedral, the Rev. Paul Porsa. He was beaten and ducked in the Adriatic Sea as he attempted to leave a ship at Dubrovnik.

One of the American tourists who saw the beating of Father Porsa was ransomed up by the crew of Dubrovnik. Police confiscated film with which she had taken pictures of the incident.

The tourists who described the beating were the Rev. William D. Larkin, director of Catholic charities for the Diocese of Duluth; Miss Anne M. Kiss of Toledo, Ohio, and T. J. Lavella of Sea Girt, N. J., both of the office of the United States High Commissioner in Frankfurt, Germany; Miss Joseph Voss of Nevada, Mo., and the United States Army Headquarters in Heidelberg, Germany, and her fiancé, Capt. Walter Dross of Philadelphia, also stationed at Heidelberg.

They were on the Split-Dubrovnik ship when they saw Father Porsa brought aboard at the island of Portula. A crowd pelted him with rotten eggs and vegetables as he boarded.

Before the ship had left the Portula dock, a foreign woman tourist spit at the crowd from the deck. The demonstrators began throwing various objects at the woman and one of them struck Father Larkin.

At Dubrovnik, the tourists said, a crowd of about 150 persons was waiting at the dock where a launch had been readied to take Father Porsa to another part of the coast.

The Americans saw the clergyman struggling in the water beside the launch. One man ducked him repeatedly, they said, although one of the crowd told the questioner, "He wasn't pushed. He fell in."

After the priest had been pulled into the launch, another member of the crowd was seen beating him on the head with his fist.

Police then intervened and, according to the tourists, gently urged the crowd to move back from the dock. Miss Voss, who had taken pictures of the priest in the water, was surrounded by several persons from the crowd who tried to seize her camera.

She and her fiancé were escorted to the police station where the film was confiscated and they were released.

Pontiff Suffers Neuritis Attack

Castelgandolfo, Italy — (NC) Pope Pius XII was reported to be well again after a mild attack of neuritis in his right shoulder and arm.

Despite the nerve ailment, the Holy Father had kept up his normal program of special and general audiences at his summer residence here. However, because of the nerve inflammation, he was obliged temporarily to transfer his papal ring to his left hand when receiving the many persons who knelt to kiss it.

Six Korean Priests Ordained In Seoul

Seoul — (NC) Bishop Paul M. Ro, Vicar Apostolic of Seoul, ordained six Korean priests in his cathedral of the Immaculate Conception here.

Clergy Assigned To New Posts

New assignments of diocesan clergy by His Excellency Bishop Kearney to become effective, Sept. 22, 1953 are announced by the Chancery as follows:

Rev. Edward Christoph from assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Church, Seneca Falls, to assistant pastor of the Church of the Annunciation, Rochester.

Rev. Andrew W. Touzel from assistant pastor of St. Alphonsus Church, Auburn, to assistant pastor of Mother of Sorrows Church, Greece.

Annual Seminary Collection Sunday On September 27

The annual collection for the support of the diocesan seminaries of St. Andrew and St. Bernard will be held in all parish churches Sunday, September 27. His Excellency Bishop Kearney announced today.

Bishop's Appeal For Seminaries

Fest of the Holy Cross 1953

My Dear People:

At this time each year I ask your assistance in maintaining two of the most important institutions in our diocese, St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's Seminaries. These two schools have established themselves as outstanding in the field of religious education and the Church of God has flourished in this part of the state through the generations of priests who have gone from the classrooms of these seminaries to our altars and pulpits.

It can be readily understood that in the present period of high costs the maintenance and development of these seminaries are very expensive. St. Bernard's Seminary requires renovation each summer as the years take their toll. The assessment assumed by your parish is the very least we can adjust in order to maintain these schools and balance their budgets.

Let me ask you to be as generous as possible toward each Seminary that your pastor may meet his obligation in this one annual collection. Do not forget that there are daily community prayers offered by the seminarians for the generous benefactors who contribute to this collection, and that Masses are offered regularly for their intentions.

This is a work very dear to the Sacred Heart of Jesus Christ. You can be sure that your generous assistance will bring you many blessings.

That these blessings may be the happy lot of each of you is the sincere prayer of

Your grateful bishop,
+ James E. Kearney
Bishop of Rochester

P.S. This letter is to be read at all the Masses on Sunday, September 20. The collection is to be taken at all the Masses on Sunday, September 27.

Graves Rites Set Sunday

Solemn Blessing of the Graves by His Excellency, Auxiliary Bishop Casey will take place at 3:30 p.m. in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

Bishop Casey will be escorted by priests of the diocese, seminarians and Knights of St. John in full regalia.

Diplomat, Wife Reunited After 7 Years' Separation

Montreal — (NC) — The seven-year separation of Mr. and Mrs. Alfred C. Hall, being involuntary, was a bitter one. And being full of uncertainty, it was also a fearful one. But the couple never gave up hoping and praying, and Alfred Hall credits "the intervention of God" for the reunion.

In March of 1946 British diplomat Hall married a beautiful young Russian woman when he was stationed in Moscow. In keeping with Soviet law they were married first in a civil ceremony. Both are Catholics, so the marriage in Moscow's only Catholic Church, St. Louis of the French, at which Father Antonio Labege, A. A. — long since returned to Assumption College, Worcester, Mass. — officiated.

A FEW MONTHS later, Hall was transferred to another assignment outside of Russia, and the Soviet government refused to give his wife an exit visa. Some others faced with the same situation had turned to divorce proceedings as the only way out of a seemingly hopeless situation. But not so the Halls. Somehow they managed to live together through their hundreds of letters, always maintaining the hope that one day their right to live together would be recognized.

Late last month, the British Ambassador in Moscow finally got word that the Russians had relented — that Mrs. Hall, who had stayed on living at the British Embassy even after her husband left — could leave the country. Arrangements were made for the wife to fly to Montreal, and Hall came here from his post as British information officer in Ottawa to meet the plane.

THE DIPLOMAT first visited St. James Cathedral to offer a prayer of thanksgiving and then went out to Dorval Airport.

The couple's reunion was one of tremendous joy. But perhaps even more wonderful for Hall was the sight of a dark-haired, good-looking boy of six who let out a great shout of "Daddy, Daddy." It was Nicky Hall, whom the diplomat had known only through photographs and letters, greeting his father for the first time.

Vatican Radio Addresses Russians

London — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio has recently increased the number of its broadcasts to the Soviet Union, according to a statement issued here, in a new airing program in the Russian, Ukrainian and Belorussian languages.