

Holy Father Blesses North American College In Rome

Rome — (RNS) — The new \$4,000,000 building of the North American College was dedicated here by Pope Pius XII. Fifteen cardinals, including three of the four American princes of the Roman Catholic Church, and more than 200 U. S. archbishops, bishops and priests gathered in the new College chapel for the ceremony.

The church was crowded with members of the diplomatic corps accredited to the Holy See, representatives of the Italian and American governments, students and members of their families.

POPE PIUS, speaking in English, expressed hope that all dioceses of the Church in the U. S. would gather strength from the Roman seminary. He told the American churchmen the College would stand for generations "as a monument to your love of Rome and devotion to the See of St. Peter."

In praise of the U. S. Church, the Pope said that in less than a century America had grown from a mission country to become a "seminary of apostles for foreign fields."

In the 94 year history of the North American College, the number of American priests has risen from 2,500 to 45,000, the Pontiff added. He called this "a proud and glorious tribute to the unselfish clear vision of Catholic life that prevails among you."

THIRTY-ONE American archbishops, bishops and auxiliary bishops were present at the dedication.

The U. S. cardinals taking part were their Eminences Francis Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Samuel Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, and Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit.

Each is an alumnus of the College, which is a national seminary operated here by the American hierarchy for the training of American priests. The students are handpicked by the bishops of the U. S. dioceses from which they are sent.

The College opened its doors in 1863, in remodeled convent buildings on Via dell' Umiltà in downtown Rome. It has turned out more than 1,000 American priests, including some 40 bishops, nine archbishops and seven cardinals.

THE NEW building, on Janiculum Hill overlooking St. Peter's Basilica and the Vatican, will accommodate 311 seminarians, twice the number housed in the old quarters. By adding a wing provided for in the plans, it can be enlarged to take 52 more.

Dedication ceremonies began with the arrival of Pope Pius at the \$350,000 chapel paid for by the College alumni in the U. S.

The Pope was received by Bishop Martin J. O'Connor, former Auxiliary of Scranton, Pa., and rector of the College since 1946, and other seminary officials.

Accompanied by Papal guards and members of his court, the Pontiff proceeded to the high altar as a chant sang "Tu es Petrus" (You are Peter).

After praying briefly at the altar, Pope Pius seated himself on a throne prepared for him and delivered his 12-minute address.

Then, kneeling at the altar and holding the first words of the Mass, "Memento Cruxis Spiritus," the Pope sprinkled holy water and imparted his blessing on the church.

Next, Pope Pius left the church to bless the rest of the seminary. Upon re-entering, he recited the Oremus at the altar and read the first of the dedication ceremonies by blessing the congregation.

Before leaving the College building, the Pope received the cardinal who attended. Among them were the ranking prince of the Church, including Eugene Cardinal Tardini, Dean of the College of Cardinals.

His Eminence, Pope Pius XII, the new building's founder, has been busy on the general and often trying sacrifices of the College and alumni and the students whom they serve.

The Pope's cooperation, in the construction of the new building, was a major factor in the success of the College.

The Pope's presence at the College's semi-centennial celebration was a historic event.

Cardinal Mooney Prays At Pius X Tomb



Rome—His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, prays before the tomb of Blessed Pius X in St. Peter's Basilica here. The Cardinal was in Rome to attend the dedication of the new \$4,000,000 North American College building. Pius X, known as the "Pope of Christian Doctrine," was beatified during the 1950 Holy Year. (RNS Photo).

'I'll Be Hanged If I Go Back To Slovakia'

Cleveland (NC) — When Father Paul Baján, S.J., a native of Slovakia, says, "I'll be hanged if I go back to Slovakia," he is not using a slang expression picked up since his coming to America two years ago.

HE IS referring to a sentence imposed upon him in absentia because he declined an invitation, extended him through Communist newspapers, to come back to Slovakia and all would be forgiven. With his refusal to accept, came the sentence that he be hanged.

The sentence for hanging, says Father Baján, was imposed for what he did outside of Slovakia rather than for his activities in that country under Soviet rule.

HIS DAILY broadcast from the Vatican radio station, bearing words of encouragement to the suffering Slovak people, was the reason for the sentence. The gist of his talks to the Slovak people, he said here, was that "they were sharing in the passion of Christ in their suffering."

Christ, Father Baján told them, taught as He walked around but He taught a most powerful and far reaching lesson as He hung on the Cross. The Slovak people, in suffering for their faith, were teaching a powerful lesson to many whom they would never know and through their suffering, many would come to acknowledge Christ.

Electronic Carillon Given Rome College

Rome — (NC) — Delights of the solemn opening of the new North American College this week in Rome was the inauguration of an electronic "Carillon bells" instrument donated by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

For many centuries, Rome with its hundreds of churches, has depended solely on cast bells made in Europe. Now, for the first time in the See of the Pope, and in all Italy, liturgical bell calls and hymns will be heard there from "carillon bells" that have been developed by American electronic genius and are gradually supplanting cast bells in many parts of the world.

The instrument console has been installed in the chapel of the North American College.

Red-Ousted Priest Recalls Horror March

Hong Kong — (NC) — Two priests — one who narrowly escaped execution and another who was the victim of enough horror to last two lifetimes — were among five Canadian missionaries arriving here after their ouster by the China Reds.

FATHER LUCIEN Lafond, a 37-year-old Scarborough missionary from Sainte Perpetue, Quebec, was forced to march for 43 days behind mounted Red guards in 1947. When he dropped from exhaustion, his guards dismounted and kicked him to force him back on his feet.

"Please, let me die," the priest begged in utter exhaustion. The Red reply was to kick him harder.

After his 300-mile forced march to Harbin, Manchuria, the priest was released. He returned to his mission, Paichengtu, on his own. He was arrested again on September 18 of this year and ordered expelled.

Arrested and expelled at the same time was Father Laurent Beaudoin, a 45-year-old Scarborough missionary from Saint Georges, spent 11 months in prison in 1948. He was ordered shot by a Red official but for some reason the governor of the area countermanded the order.

St. Michael Alumnus New Atomic Head

Ottawa, Ont. — (NC) — New Bennett, a graduate of St. Michael's College, Toronto, and president of Atomic Energy of Canada, Limited, set up to develop all aspects of atomic energy in Canada, is William J. Bennett.

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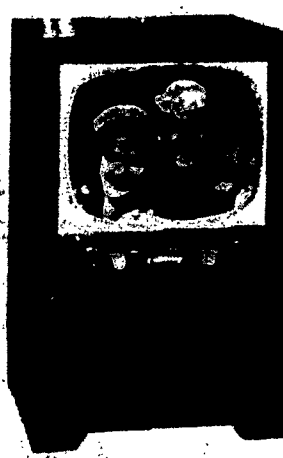
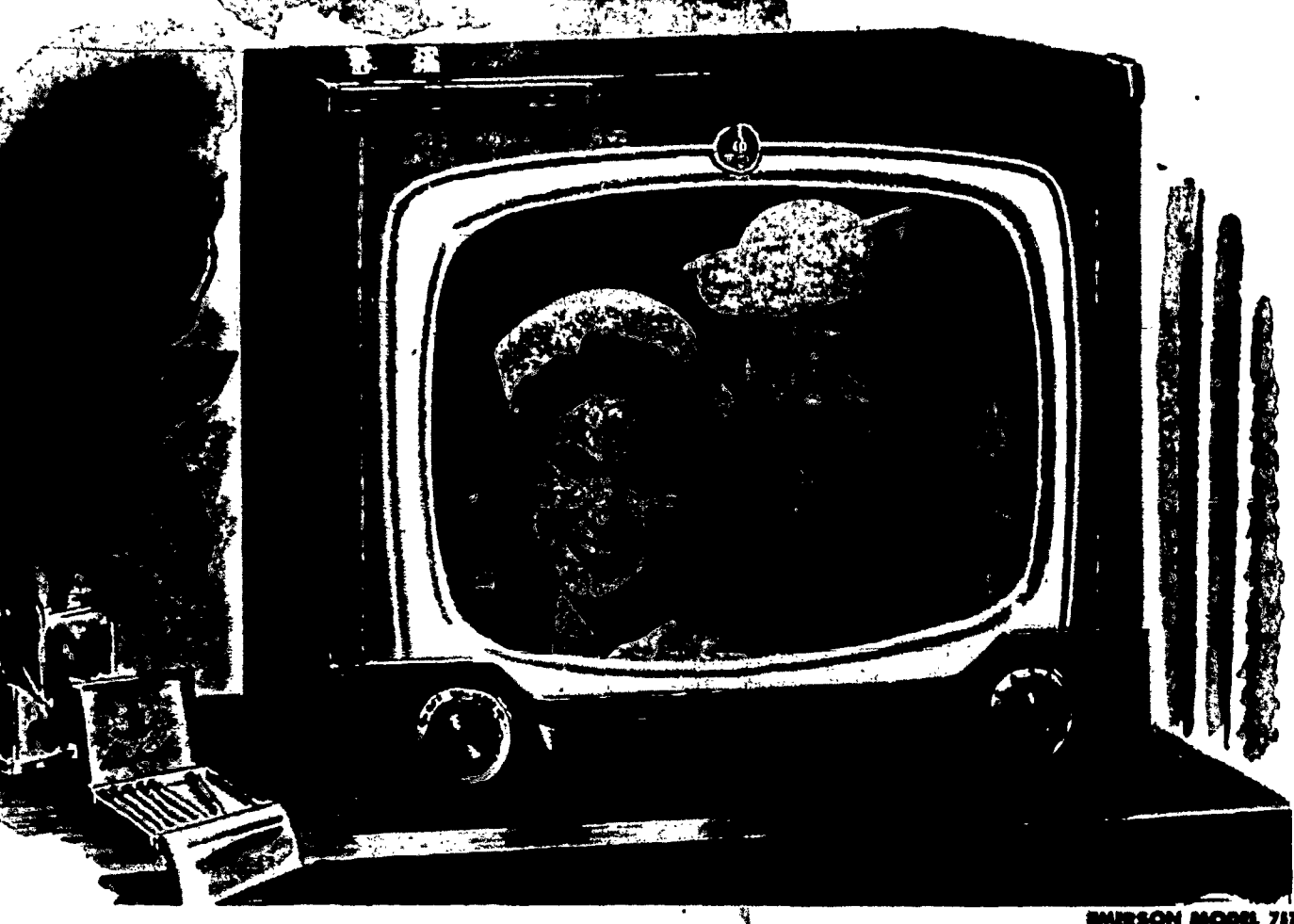
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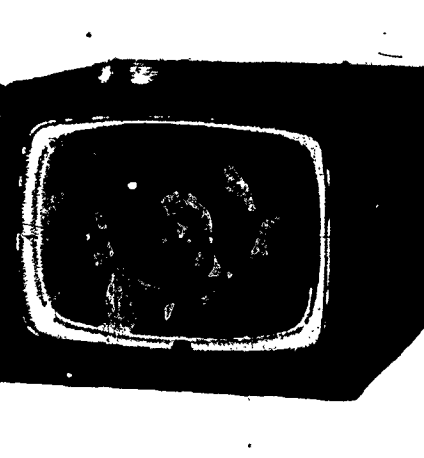
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