

National Shrine To Rank Among World's Churches

Washington — (NC) — A Catholic Church being built here will be one of the ten greatest edifices in the world.

The National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception will have a total building area of 7,500 square feet on one floor. Its central dome will have more than twice the diameter of the central dome of famed St. Mark's in Venice, Italy. Its total volume will be approximately 7,000,000 cubic feet.

Not only because of its size, but also because of its importance, and because of the unity and simplicity of its plan, the shrine will rank among a half-score of the greatest churches anywhere, according to its architects, Maginnis and Walsh of Boston.

WORK ON THE Upper Church of the Shrine will begin in 1954, which has been proclaimed a Marian Year by His Holiness Pope Pius XII to celebrate the centenary of the promulgation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. The Blessed Virgin is Patroness of the United States under the title of her Immaculate Conception.

To raise funds for work on the great church, the Bishops of the United States are holding a nation-wide appeal. In most parts of the United States, the appeal will be made on December 6, the Sunday nearest the Feast of the Immaculate Conception, December 8.

In the Diocese of Rochester the collection for the National Shrine will be taken up in all churches on Sunday, November 29.

The massive foundations of the Shrine are completed. These enclose a magnificent Crypt Church, which, by reason of its gross area, is the largest crypt church in the world.

The completed Shrine will have a length of 459 feet and a width of 240 feet. It is cruciform in plan and its dominant feature will be a great dome located at the crossing of the nave and transepts. The dome will be 108 feet in diameter, and the cross atop it will be 237 feet high. A campanile, or bell tower, rising to the left of the facade will be 316 feet high.

THE UPPER Church of the Shrine will have a seating capacity of 3,000, and a total ca-

capacity of 6,000. Its great sanctuary will seat all of the some 200 members of the American Hierarchy, plus several hundred other members of the clergy, and still have ample room for the most colorful of religious ceremonies.

The structure of the building will be completely masonry. There will be no structural steel columns or beams used. In this respect it is being built in a manner similar to the great ecclesiastical monuments of the past which have endured for centuries. The entire ceiling area will consist of great vaults and domes that support not only their own weight but that of the roof as well. The thrust and weight of these vaults and domes will be carried to the foundations through great piers and massive walls.

Pakistan Welcomes Native Cardinal

Karachi, Pakistan — (NC) — High government officials and members of the diplomatic corps joined Catholics in giving a warm welcome to the first native of Karachi to become a Cardinal.

It was the first visit of His Eminence Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, to his birthplace since he received the Cardinal's hat earlier this year.

On hand to welcome the Cardinal were Abdur Rashid, acting governor general of Pakistan, Archbishop Alcuin van Miltburg, O.F.M. of Karachi and the Indian High Commissioner here. The acting Governor General gave a luncheon in the Cardinal's honor.

Cardinal Gracias was born here in 1900 when Karachi was part of the Bombay archdiocese which he now heads.

Rep. Velde To Seek Clergy Advice

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Rep. Harold H. Velde, describing organized religious groups as "the greatest single force combating Communism" here and abroad, announced that he was calling for advice from American churchmen on the work of the House Un-American Activities Committee.

The Illinois Republican, chairman of the Committee, disclosed he had written to "leaders of the Protestant, Catholic and Jewish faiths" to arrange for conferences with them.

NO DATES have been set, he said, but favorable responses have been received from the National Council of Churches, the National Catholic Welfare Conference and the American Jewish Committee.

Rep. Velde said he "realized that the greatest single force combating Communism in the United States and throughout the world was the organized religious groups and that the Committee could profit greatly from the advice and counsel of such persons."

Mr. Velde made no mention of a possible investigation of Communism among the clergy. He had aroused much criticism earlier this year with a suggestion that the clergy offered "a field" for inquiry.

He later denied any intention to investigate the clergy as such. His Committee has since heard Methodist Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of Washington and a California Methodist pastor, the Rev. Jack R. McMichael.

It also has heard testimony from some ex-Communists concerning the alleged Communist connections of some U. S. churchmen.

MR. VELDE'S announcement that he wanted general advice from religious leaders on the broad subject of his Committee's activities, rather than comment limited to the question of Communism among the clergy.

He said he hoped to obtain advice and suggestions which might be offered relating to the work of the Committee on Un-American Activities.

COLLEGE MISSION QUEEN



New Rochelle, N. Y.—Miss Terry O'Malley of Brooklyn, N. Y., reigned as "Mission Queen" here as students of the College of New Rochelle observed World Mission Day (Oct. 24). The 20-year-old senior, whose father, Walter O'Malley, is president of the Brooklyn Dodgers baseball club, was chosen in an election in which 800 girl students paid 25 cents each for the privilege of voting. Proceeds of the election were donated to Catholic World Missions. (RNS Photo)

Harlem Pastor Pleads Against 'Panic Selling'

Brooklyn, N. Y. — (NC) — A plea against "panic selling" of housing when Negroes move into white areas was made here by a famous Harlem pastor.

Magr. Cornelius J. Drew, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church in Harlem, declared that "there is a presumption in favor of the newcomer that he will prove a good neighbor."

"He has the right spirit in trying to bring up his children in a better neighborhood," Monsignor Drew said. "He must get a good salary and be a steady worker, to be able to save up enough to move into this better neighborhood."

"It is foolish as well as wrong not to remain long enough to discover that he and his family are not undesirable or inferior."

Church In East Germany Struggles To Keep Going

Berlin — (NC) — The Communist regime of Eastern Germany has, during recent months, refrained from open attacks on the Catholic Church inside the "German Democratic Republic," but there are no indications that this represents more than a temporary policy.

Some light on the intentions of the Communist regime has been thrown by its deputy prime minister, Walter Ulbricht, who told his party's central committee that "it would be utterly wrong to interpret our 'new course' (in the school question) as if we were willing to make concessions to reactionary ideologies."

THIS MEANS, according to an editorial in Petrusblatt, weekly newspaper of Berlin diocese, "that Christian teaching, as heretofore, remains excluded from all schools in Eastern Germany."

"Whoever had hoped," the editorial continued, "that the 'new

course' (proclaimed by the Communist regime last June) would remove or at least lessen the unbearable pressure on the consciences of parents, teachers and children is thus doomed to disappointment."

Ulbricht's announcement means, in effect, that Marxist materialism remains the guiding ideology in East German schools—from grade school to university. At the same time, public life in general remains permeated by Communist ideas. The controlled press continues to attack the West German Bishops as "warmongers" and tools of "American imperialism." Echoing the general Communist line, the Pope and the Vatican are represented as "reactionaries." The recent persecution of the Church in Poland is justified as "legitimate defense" against "enemies of the State."

Priest-Worker Problem In France Still Unsolved

Paris — (NC) — No final settlement of the problem of France's priest-worker movement has been announced following the annual meeting of the Assembly of French Cardinals and Archbishops here.

The Assembly discussed the matter, but its decision has not been made public. One or more French Cardinals will soon leave for Rome to submit the results of the Assembly's deliberations for the Pope's approval.

THE ASSEMBLY, however, issued an official statement on a matter closely related to the priest-worker movement. Catholic Action among the working class.

The statement strongly reaffirmed the necessity of lay Catholic Action among workers and called on all priests to assist it.

While recognizing the need for close cooperation among all workers to better their standard of living, it warned against class unity imposed in a totalitarian manner, that is, for example, by the Communist Party. It also warned Catholic workers against those who want to make the Church an instrument of any political or economic group.

In a separate statement the Assembly condemned the so-called "Youth of the Church" movement, against which it had previously issued several warnings.

THE OVER-ALL picture remains dark, therefore, despite the granting of a few liberties to the Church — liberties which should have never been taken from her in the first place. How Catholic life struggles to keep going "under Communist rule" is reflected in the little fortnightly paper "The Lord's Day," which, under a license of the Communist press office, is published in Leipzig for circulation in the Communist-ruled German eastern zone.

IN REGARD TO the priest-worker problem, current evidence points to the following probable solution:

The priest-worker apostolate will continue. That is, especially trained priests will continue to take jobs in factories and other places and live among the workers in an attempt to overcome their traditional distrust of priests and the Church. Recent statements by several prelates, including His Eminence Maurice Cardinal Felin, Archbishop of Paris, have given a clear indication of this probability.

But it appears certain, according to the same sources, that the movement will be more strictly regulated than in the past, that priest-workers will be governed by a new precise set of rules and that their training will be more directly supervised by the hierarchy.

American Sailors Confirmed In Spain

Valencia, Spain — (NC) — Thirty-three American sailors from the attack carrier USS Coral Sea were confirmed by Archbishop Marcelino Olaechua Lizaga of Valencia in the century-old cathedral here.

A large group of U. S. naval officers and enlisted men were among some 500 Spaniards who witnessed the ceremony. Arrangements for the ceremony were made by Father (L. Cdr.) Leroy J. Calkins, O.S.M., the Coral Sea's Catholic Chaplain.

Reds To Sell Religious Art

Valencia — (NC) — The Hungarian communist regime is trying to sell its religious art masterpieces, according to reports reaching here.

The masterpieces, including paintings by Raphael and Murillo, were reportedly removed from Budapest's National Art Gallery as "inconsistent" with Marxist ideology.



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