

Cause Of Italian Nun Illustrates Time, Work Involved In Canonization

By MONSIGNOR JOSEPH SULLIVAN

Vatican City — (NC) — How much time elapses before a cause for beatification, then for canonization, reaches its final conclusion with the solemn ceremonies of inscribing a new name on the Church's roll of infallibly proclaimed saints?



This is a question impossible to answer. Some causes may never advance beyond their initial stage. Some, such as those of St. Theresa of the Child Jesus, or St. Maria Goretti—to take two modern examples—are completed in a remarkably short time.

Many others may be held up indefinitely because of interruptions. Sometimes there are factors which often may well be a sign that the moment is not opportune—or even that God does not will the cause to go forward quickly, or at all.

THE CAUSE for the beatification of Venerable Maria Assunta Pallotta — brought up again before the Sacred Congregation of Rites after a lapse of more than 20 years—serves as a timely illustration of the time and work that is involved in such matters.

The Congregation met here to take up the matter of two miracles allegedly wrought through the intercession of the Italian nun who was born in 1878 and died on April 7, 1905. Her cause was first introduced at the Congregation on July 25, 1923, and on February 28, 1932, she was declared to have practiced virtue to a heroic degree.

What the reasons were for the interruption in the cause was not stated by the Congregation, but they may have been many. Some may have been intrinsic in the cause itself. Others may have been due to outside factors. It may have been that God did not favor until recently petitions addressed heavenwards through the intercession of the Servant of God.

ON THE OTHER hand, perhaps there have been instances considered miraculous in the opinion of those working for the nun's cause in her own religious

community, but which did not sufficiently impress the experts of the Congregation. It may also have been that on the local level the person principally charged with the work of advancing the cause—this involves making investigations and preparing reports—may have become ill or have been otherwise impeded.

Many reasons would explain the delay in the progress of the cause. At any rate, there are now two miracles acceptable to the Congregation, one of which had been recognized in an ante-preparatory session in 1946. In May of this year, the Commission of Medical Experts at the Congregation accepted the second one. It concerned an acute mastoid infection in the case of a certain Lucia D'Arcangelo. The first reputed miracle concerned a case of acute osteoperiostitis in a man named Luigi Foderini.

MARIA ASSUNTA Pallotta was born into a humble family at a town called Force, in the Diocese of Montalto, which is located in the Marche region of east central Italy. In 1896, at the age of 20, she entered the community of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary at Grotteferata in the Alban Hills, just south of Rome, and not far from the Papal summer residence at Castelgandolfo. She made her first vows in 1900.

Four years later, on February 13, 1904, Maria Assunta made her final vows in a convent at Florence, and a month later she departed for China. Slightly more than a year later, on April 17, 1905, she died at Tung-Eul-Kou, Shansi.

Many causes have even more extended interruptions before progressing further. Some reach beatification and then do not go further, even after the passage of centuries. Some appear to stop for internal or external reasons shortly after being introduced, or after the decree regarding the practice of virtue to a heroic degree.

It remains to be seen what will be the further progress of this cause of Maria Assunta Pallotta now that it has begun to show signs of real life once more. In this, as well as other causes, the effect of one or two world wars must also be taken into account as impeding much of the normal work which might have been done upon them.

Senator Assails 'New Epidemic Of Persecution'

Washington — (NC) — Senator Thomas C. Hennings, Jr., castigated communist Poland's stepped-up campaign against the Church as deserving "the strongest condemnation of all peoples who believe that spiritual values are the bases of human progress."

THE MISSOURI Senator, who indicated he has received hundreds of protests from persons of all denominations since the ouster of His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, Primate of Poland, two months ago stressed his strong disapproval of "this new epidemic of persecution, harassment, suppression and imprisonment of religious leaders behind the Iron Curtain."

The legislator also made public a letter to Chief U. S. Delegate Henry Cabot Lodge, Jr., at the United Nations in which he asked Ambassador Lodge to "make it abundantly clear" that the United States will not countenance "continued religious attacks and persecution of religious leaders and that we denounce such action as contrary to the Charter of the United Nations."

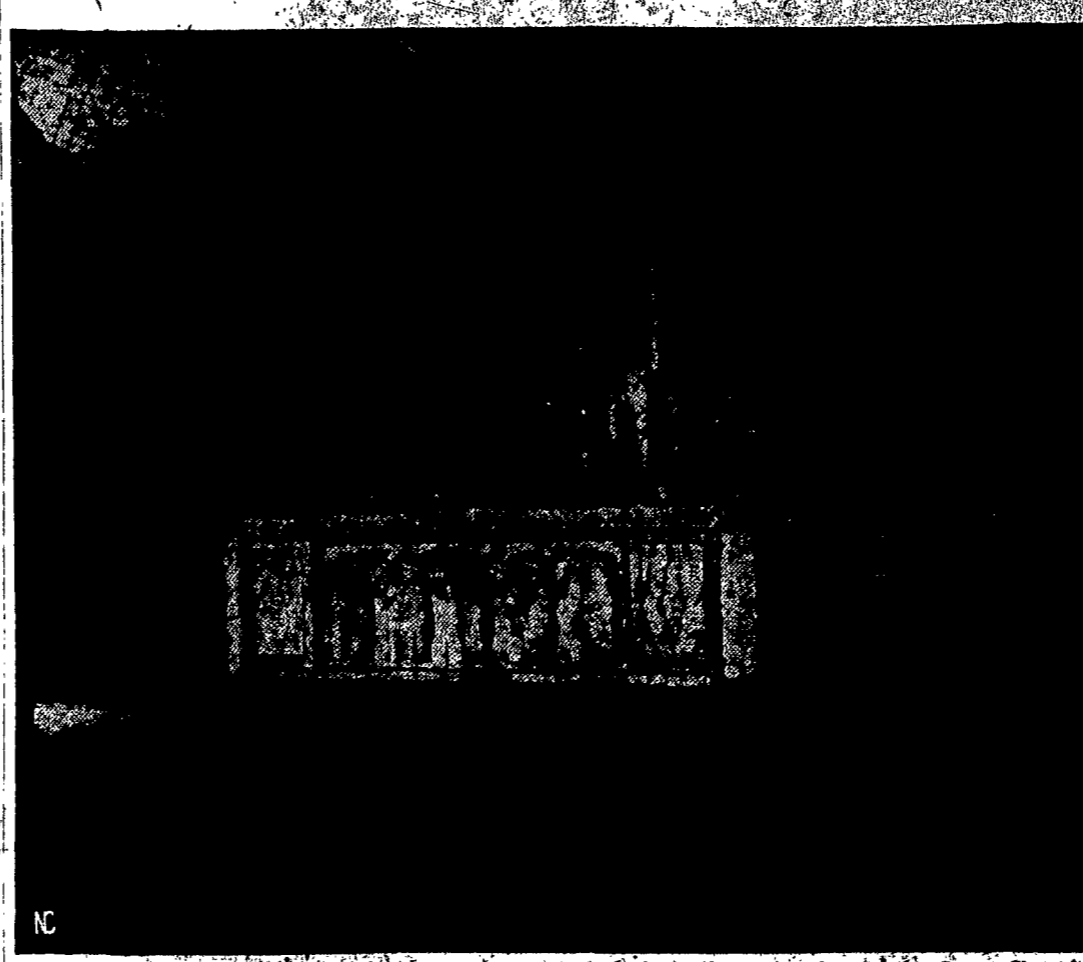
IN REPLY, Ambassador Lodge wrote that he "certainly" shares the Senator's concern "over the continuing denial of human rights and fundamental freedoms behind the Iron Curtain."

He said also that he has been bringing these violations of human rights before the open forum of the United Nations "at every possible opportunity."

Meanwhile, thousands of Catholic diocesan and parish organizations and social groups throughout the country have been deluged the embassy of communist Poland in Washington with protests against the Reds' treatment of Cardinal Wyszyński.

Half-Billion Church Building Forecast
Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — American religious groups will spend at least half a billion dollars on new buildings in 1954, the Department of Commerce and Labor predicted here.

THIS IS THE FAMOUS 'MARY ALTAR'



Maybe you have heard of the "Mary Altar." This is it. It is the main altar in the Crypt Church of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, Washington, D.C. Catholics of the United States will begin the construction of the great Upper Church of the Shrine in 1954, the 100th anniversary of the promulgation (1854) of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception. A national appeal to raise funds for this work will be held in most places in the United States, on Sunday December 6. The "Mary Altar" takes its name from the fact that women throughout the United States who have the first name of Mary contributed the money for it. The altar is a solid, 5,000-pound block of semi-transparent Algerian onyx.

Japanese Admiral, 84, 'Loses' To Daughters, Enters Church

Tokyo — (NC) — One of Japan's most distinguished navy officers has been received into the Catholic Church. He is 84-year-old Vice Admiral Kazuyoshi Yamaji, who was a staff officer during the Russo-Japanese war of 1905 and served at one time as personal attendant to Emperor Taisho, father of the present ruler.

Referring to the fact that four of his married daughters and their families are Catholics, while a fifth daughter, Shizuko, last summer made her final vows as a Religious in the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart, the admiral said: "I have lost an engagement to my family. My only regret is that they did not win it years ago."

Admiral Yamaji was instructed by Father Anthony Colussi of the Salesian Church here and was baptized by Canadian-born Bishop Louis Prosper Durand.

Chaplains Needed Despite Korea Truce

Washington — (NC) — There will be no let-up in the need for chaplains as a result of the Korean truce, Bishop William R. Arnold, Military Delegate, told the American Bishops at the annual meeting here.

The Bishop, who was at one time Army Chief of Chaplains, submitted to the Bishops the annual report of the U.S. Military Ordinatee, described as the most far-flung diocese in the world.

EVEN IF American troops are recalled from overseas, Bishop Arnold said, "they will not be demobilized. And they will need chaplains—and as never before—for morale is never so low in a military organism as when it is marking time day by day at home or abroad."

Bishop Arnold reported that there are now 1,924 Catholic chaplains working under the jurisdiction of the Ordinatee. They are serving military personnel in this country and throughout the world as commissioned chaplains of the Armed Forces, Veterans Administration, Civil Air Patrol and as civilian auxiliary chaplains, he said.

The Bishop gave the following breakdown on the chaplains: 417 are in the Army; 243 in the Air Force; 279 in the Navy; one in the merchant marine; 44 are United Nations chaplains; 673 are auxiliary chaplains; 195 Veterans Administration chaplains, and 132 Civil Air Patrol chaplains.

The Bishop's report showed that the largest number of U.S. Catholic chaplains abroad are stationed in Japan, 50 of them; 37 are in Germany; 26 in Korea, and 17 in France.

One of the most formidable canonical activities which must be carried on by the ordinarate is that connected with the marriage of service personnel. Bishop Arnold reported: "EACH MORNING mail bag brings at least 50 requests for a check on the free status of former or present military personnel who wish to contract," the Bishop declared.

The hundreds of marriage records which arrive each week constitute an even greater problem," he said. "Each one must be examined for validity, and legality by determining the source of jurisdiction, the witnesses,

and dispensations, the testimonials, etc. At present in our archives there are 133,000 marriage records on file."

The Bishop also related that the Military Ordinatee is constantly called on for assistance by the local curiae in obtaining factual evidence in cases of presumed death relative to the disappearance of principles. Mothers and fathers and wives send requests for help in contacting their dear ones who are negligent correspondents.

Mrs. Bob Hope Plans Pilgrimage

Chicago — (NC) — A worldwide pilgrimage to Churches dedicated to the Blessed Mother during the 1954 Marian Year was started here by Mrs. Bob Hope, wife of the famous comedian.

Mrs. Hope visited the Shrine of the Perpetual Novena to Our Sorrowful Mother during a stay in Chicago. She was accompanied to the Shrine by Father James R. Keane, O.S.M., founder of the novena, and told him: "I have made a resolution to visit as many Churches dedicated to the Mother of Christ as possible during the Marian Year, which Pope Pius XII will inaugurate in December. I will pray for world peace and for my family."

Mrs. Hope told Father Keane that besides visiting Churches dedicated to the Blessed Mother in the United States and Canada during the year, she hoped to climax her personal pilgrimage by visits to the Basilica of St. Mary Major in Rome, the Shrine of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal, and the Shrine at Lourdes in France.

Mission Display
Kyoto, Japan — (NC) — Hundreds of Catholics and non-Catholics were attracted to a missionary exhibition here which climaxed a three-week publicity drive through the Kyoto Diocese.

Each one must be examined for validity, and legality by determining the source of jurisdiction, the witnesses,

and the witnesses,

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