

NCCM To Meet Every Other Year

Washington (NC)—The National Council of Catholic Men announced that it will hold its open conventions every other year, instead of annually as in the past. At the same time, it said that NCCM Executive Committee voted at its November meeting to accept the invitation of Archbishop Richard J. Cushing to hold its next convention in Boston in 1955.

CHRISTMAS



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'Weeping Madonna' Statue Reported in Sicilian Town

Rome (NC)—The Vatican's traditional attitude of reserve in regard to alleged miraculous happenings has not been in any way altered by reports concerning the "Weeping Madonna" of Syracuse in Sicily.

According to reports, a terracotta bust statue of the Virgin in the home of a humble couple, Angelo and Antonina Giusto, was observed on August 29 to have begun shedding tears which, on analysis, were found to be of the same composition and density as human tears. The alleged phenomenon continued until September 1. Subsequently hundreds of miraculous cures were claimed as immense crowds were attracted to the town.

The "Weeping Madonna" continues to attract thousands of pilgrims. However, the space given to the story in the Italian press has greatly diminished, and the Vatican City newspaper, *Osservatore Romano*, has yet to print a word about it.

EVEN REPORTS of apparently real miracles have not disturbed the traditional reserved attitude with which Vatican circles regard such startling reports. Both in what may be called semi-official Vatican quarters and in ordinary, everyday ecclesiastical circles, the attitude tends to skepticism, if anything.

Marian Year Prayer

Here is the text of the prayer composed by Pope Pius XII for recitation during the Marian Year. He has granted a partial indulgence of five years every time the prayer is recited devoutly with a contrite heart. Readers may clip this prayer and keep it in their prayerbooks.

Enraptured by the splendor of your heavenly beauty, and impelled by the anxiety of this world, we cast ourselves into your arms, O Immaculate Mother of Jesus and our Mother, Mary, confident of finding in your most loving heart appeasement of our ardent desires, and a safe harbor from the tempests which beset us on every side.

"Though degraded by our faults and overwhelmed by infinite misery, we admire and praise the peerless richness of sublime gifts with which God has filled you, above every other mere creature, from the first moment of your Conception until the day on which, after your Assumption into heaven, He crowned you Queen of the Universe.

"O crystal Fountain of faith, bathe our minds with the eternal truths! O fragrant Lily of all holiness, captivate our hearts with your heavenly perfume! O Conqueress of evil and death, inspire in us a deep horror of sin which makes the soul detestable to God and a slave to hell!

"O well-beloved of God, hear the ardent cry which rises up from every heart in this year dedicated to you. Bend tenderly over our aching wounds, Convert the wicked, dry the tears of the afflicted and oppressed, comfort the poor and humble, quench hatreds, sweeten harshness, safeguard the flower of purity in youth, protect the holy Church, make all men feel the attraction of Christian goodness. In your name, resounding harmoniously in heaven, may they recognize that they are brothers, and that the nations are members of one family upon which may there shine forth the sun of a universal and sincere peace.

"Receive, O Most Sweet Mother, our humble supplications, and above all obtain for us that, one day, happy with you we may repeat before your throne that hymn which today is sung on earth around your altars: You are all beautiful, O Mary! You are the glory, you are the joy, you are the honor of our people! Amen"

WRS First On Scene To Aid Pusan Fire Victims

Seoul, Korea (NC)—First voluntary relief group to give food and clothing to the Pusan fire victims was War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Hugh McLoone, War Relief Service representative in Korea, offered supplies to a hastily formed disaster committee at its first meeting the morning after the fire.

Ruins were still burning as the Catholic organization moved to help thousands of Koreans already impoverished by three years of war.

"Fortunately we had already set up nine feeding stations in Pusan, distributing milk and rice," Mr. McLoone said when interviewed by telephone. "They are a godsend now for families who have lost everything in the fire."

AN ESTIMATED 100,000 persons were rendered homeless by the fire, which began early in the evening and raged until morning. A high proportion of these had gone to Pusan as war refugees and were living in straw shacks or packed into tenement rooms. Some had fled from communist-ruled North Korea.

A Maryknoll Sisters mobile clinic, a dispensary on wheels provided by War Relief Services (N.C.W.C.) was driven to Pier 2, where large numbers of homeless persons assembled the day after the fire.

The fire, which began in a refugee shack, swept downhill, driven by a 30-mile-an-hour wind, and swept from street to street to devour large and small buildings.

"Base Chapel," a large brick auditorium used by the U. S. Army as a downtown chapel for the past three years was burned. Father (Lt. Col.) Stephen Stolz

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YOUR GIFT TO CHRIST'S POOR

Monsignor McMahon on his recent visit to our mission and refugee camps saw the arrival of this shipment of powdered milk at one center for our REFUGEE babies and school children. The Sisters' sincere reflection of joy it will bring to the hungry lots and the destitute parents when they learn what their kind American friends have sent them. The Holy Father must send at Christmas a FOOD PACK (\$10) to thousands of such families living in misery and sickness in these countries. With your help we can. For each gift of \$10 or more for a Christmas pack we offer a ROSARY made of OLIVE SEEDS grown in the GARDEN near the Mt. of Olives.

Monsignor McMahon also visited Damour, a village on the coast of Lebanon. While he was with the refugees there four years ago he started a school for the children in an ancient building. This also was his chapel. The homeless flock has grown since. The priest begs for help to put up a small chapel costing \$1,000. Won't you send a mite to Jesus for Christmas for His humble home among His own poor. The altar costs \$75; sacred image, \$30; linen, \$15.

HAIL MARY IMMACULATE
Have you thought of sending a present to the Immaculate Heart of Mary for Her great feast this week, Dec. 8. Nuns would be more cheerful for the children in an ancient building. This also was his chapel. The homeless flock has grown since. The priest begs for help to put up a small chapel costing \$1,000. Won't you send a mite to Jesus for Christmas for His humble home among His own poor. The altar costs \$75; sacred image, \$30; linen, \$15.

Our pitiful plea for the homeless victims of the recent earthquake on the islands of Greece met with little response. Have you a mite for these miserable Catholic brothers. We need \$2,000 to rebuild their chapel. We must buy food and medicine, too.

CHRISTMAS GIFT WORRIES?
There is a much easier way than fighting the crowds. Send our GIFT CARD. It will tell friend or loved one, priest or nun that you have arranged for a missionary to offer Mass at Christmas time for them, or that you give in their name a gift to a mission chapel; such as Mass bell, \$5; altar, \$25; vestment, \$50; altar stone, \$10; candle, \$10; altar, \$75. We'll gladly send it direct and will enclose a seasonal card of FLOWERS FROM THE HOLY LAND.

Perhaps, for MARY'S FEAST you'd like to help another Mary. We have SISTER MARY EMMA who begs for help for her two years of training (\$100 yearly) with the Sisters of the Sacred Hearts of Jesus and Mary in Lebanon. She and her poor parents will bless you every day. You'll share in her missionary labor.

TOYS FOR JESUS!
Yes, if Jesus is anywhere on Christmas Day He will be with the thirty lots at the Tubercular Hospital at Gaza, which Monsignor McMahon visited a few weeks ago. The pathetic sight touched him deeply. He pleads for help to rush a few dollars in time for the priest to buy a few toys and picture books for Christmas.

HAVE YOU PUT GOD IN YOUR WILL?
ST. NICHOLAS
On his day we are thinking of another Nicholas. A poor lad who has just begun six years training for the priesthood at the Greek seminary in Rome. His grateful prayers and a daily remembrance in his future Masses are pledged for a friend who will send him the yearly cost (\$100) of his studies in any installment. Won't you put your promise in his stocking?

JOIN GOD'S CHRISTMAS CLUBS
Our members send \$1 MONTHLY to one or more of our SEVEN mission support clubs. DECEMBER DOLLARS to the LEPER FUND will help our Damien Institute in India. BASILIANS will go to our refugee schools. CHRYSOSTOMS will train seminarians in Palestine. The CHAPEL-OF-MONTH is the little mission chapel at Trivellura in India. Its altars will be adorned by MONICA GUILD. Our novices in the Holy Land will await your deposit in MARY'S BANK. ORPHAN'S BREAD will feed the girls at Debeane, Lebanon.

THE PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM AND TEN OTHER MISSIONARIES WILL OFFER MASS AT BETHLEHEM'S CRIB FOR YOU ON CHRISTMAS. THEY THANK YOU FOR YOUR MASS OFFERINGS.

Near East Missions
Send all communications to:
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
400 Lexington Ave., at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

Mass Offered In British Harbor

London (NC)—Mass was offered for the first time in the harbor at Sunderland, big east coast city port, on the deck of the United States destroyer Lewis Hancock.

The Mass was celebrated by Father Stephen Stack, pastor of Sunderland's dockside parish of St. Patrick in the Hinton Dock. Arrangements for the Mass were made by the destroyer's Chief Engineer, Lt. Harold Smith, a Catholic from Connecticut.

U. S. Envoy Caffery Saved Life Of Ex-King Farouk

New Orleans (NC)—If Jefferson Caffery, United States Ambassador to Egypt, had not accompanied King Farouk in his escape from Alexandria, the king probably would have been murdered, Father Henry Ayroul, S.J., an Egyptian, said at Loyola University of the South here.

Ambassador Caffery a Louisianian and a convert to the Catholic Faith several years ago, has great prestige among the Egyptians, Father Ayroul said.

"He is a good man, a praying man, and a peacemaker," the priest said of Mr. Caffery. "Had he not accompanied King Farouk from his Alexandria palace to the harbor to escape when the revolutionists ordered him out of the country last July, Farouk certainly would have been murdered. But no one dared shoot with the American Ambassador so near."

Father Ayroul is one of six Egyptian Jesuits in the world.

Did you ever hear of a supper "HURRY-UPPER"?

Well, a "supper hurry-upper" is a Christmas shopper (feminine gender, of course) who arrives home late from her gift search, laden with bundles and also with the problem of what to feed the family when they pop-in with appetites-a-kinde! Yes, a hurry-up meal is in order... if she is a smart "supper hurry-upper" a meal that features Arpeko Frankfurts, because they're thoroughly cooked, ready to eat once they've been heated thru. Keep Arpeko Frankfurts on hand during December, ladies... serve 'em with baked beans or a salad... they'll prove to be real wife-savers when it comes to whipping-up a tasty, ten-minute meal!

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