

Protestants Join Cornell Newman Club In 'Christ In Christmas' Campaign

Ithaca — A "Keep Christ in Christmas" campaign has been undertaken in the Ithaca area by the Cornell Newman Club. Several Protestant groups are also taking part in the program initiated by the Newman Club.

A major part of the program has consisted of the placing in local stores of three hundred red and green posters bearing the legend "Keep Christ in Christmas — Put a crib under your tree." The posters were printed at cost by a local establishment and merchants cooperated by giving the posters prominent positions in their display windows.

Many posters have also been placed on bulletin boards on the Cornell campus. The Ithaca Railway Co. has placed posters on all its buses. The Ithaca Chamber of Commerce has lent the project its support by sending out bulletins to the city's merchants informing them of the campaign and requesting their cooperation.

IN ADDITION to distributing posters Newman Club members have set up a crib in the lobby of Willard Straight Hall, Cornell's student union building. The crib was loaned to the club by Mrs. H. LeBonte of Cayuga Heights, and a backdrop was prepared by students.

The Newman Club also plans to send letters of commendation to merchants featuring religious Christmas displays. Members are also selling Maryknoll Christmas cards as a means of combating the widespread use of non-religious cards.

As a means of informing people of the campaign, publicity releases have been distributed to local papers. The "Letter to the Editor" columns of these papers are also being utilized and radio stations WVBR and WICU have been asked to publicize the campaign.

The project was initiated by Joseph Minogue of the Cornell

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ASK MARY'S INTERCESSION



AT DEDICATION ceremonies of Friars of the Atonement to the Immaculate Mother of God in their work for the reunion of Christendom, the Rev. Alan Mohan, S.A., reads Pope Pius XII's Prayer for the Marian Year at St. John's Atonement Seminary in Montour Falls on the Immaculate Conception Feast.

Elmira DCCW Triduum Honors Infant Of Prague

An announcement has been made by Mrs. James A. Mallon, president of the Elmira Deaconery Council, DCCW, that the group will sponsor a Triduum at St. Mary's Church, Elmira, in honor of the Infant of Prague. The Triduum will open on Sunday evening, Dec. 20, at 7:45 p.m. and continue for the next two nights.

The Rev. Alan Mohan, S.A., spiritual director of St. John's Atonement Seminary, Montour Falls, will conduct the services.

MEMBERS of the DCCW and all its affiliated organizations, including parochial and interparochial organizations for Catholic women are urged to attend the Triduum as a fitting preparation for the Feast of Christmas.

Rev. Albert V. Ryan is Moderator of the Elmira Deaconery Council.

Work For Unity Dedicated By Friars To Virgin Mary

Montour Falls — The feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Mother of God was specially observed by the Atonement Friars at Montour Falls on Tuesday. In response to the recent statement of Pope Pius XII to entertain Mary in the work of Christ in the world, the Friars solemnly dedicated their present labors for unity to the Immaculate Virgin.

In the Holy Eucharist the radiant crown of the Holy Father stresses the dogma of the Immaculate Conception in a most special way, pointing out Mary's role in the plan of redemption. The Pope exhorts the faithful and those separated from the Church to raise their eyes to the Immaculate Virgin in humble prayer. For it is through Mary that the Holy Spirit will bring peace out of chaos, contrition out of hardened sinners and will draw all men to the center of Catholic Unity.

Mexican Workers Make Pilgrimages

Mexico City — (RNS)—More than a million Mexican workers paid homage to "Our Lady, Queen of Work" during their 14th annual pilgrimage to Marian shrines in the principal cities of the country.

This was almost double the number expected by the National Guadalupe Association of Mexican Workers, which organized the pilgrimages.

Largest pilgrimages was to the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe here, where half a million workers assembled. They came from almost every labor union, factory, laboratory, mill and office in the area.

Many family groups were among the pilgrims and most of them arrived on foot. Masses were celebrated at the basilica every half hour from 4 a.m. until nightfall.

A spokesman for the Association said the movement "is the Mexican workers' answer to Communism."

"Guided by the Virgin," he said, "the Mexican worker is evolving as honest, industrious and moral, and without class consciousness."

U. S. Monastery Named Archabbey

St. Meinrad, Ind. — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has honored the Benedictine monastery here by elevating it to the rank of Archabbey — one of only seven in the world. It was announced, St. Vincent at Loretto, Pa., is the only other American Archabbey.

St. Meinrad, part of the Swiss-American Congregation of Benedictines, is planning for a centennial celebration next October. In the century since its founding, the Benedictine Fathers have started four new foundations directly from St. Meinrad.

First of these, New Sublac Abbey in Arkansas — founded in 1878 — now has a daughter-house of its own in Texas. The second foundation from St. Meinrad was started in 1890 in Louisiana, and is now St. Joseph's Abbey. The third and fourth foundations — started by the present superior of St. Meinrad, Archabbot Ignatius Esser, O.S.B. — are Marmion Abbey at Aurora, Ill., founded in 1933, and Blue Cloud Abbey in South Dakota.

The South Dakota foundation, started in 1950 for missionary work among the Indians, is named in honor of the Indian chief Blue Cloud, who persevered in the Faith for 50 years without priest or church.

Ministers Approve Communism Probe

Somersworth, N. H. — (NC) — Seven Protestant clergymen of the Evangelical Ministers' Fellowship of the Rochester-Dover area have issued a statement approving investigation of Communism among the clergy.

The ministers declared themselves willing to submit to investigation, pointing out that "a Bible-believing Christian cannot be a Communist."

Speaking for himself after the statement had been issued, the Rev. Ralph Townsend of East Rochester, a Baptist, declared: "Communism among the clergy is deeper than it seems to be. Communism exists among the clergy and we should find it and remove it."

Working Hours

Berlin — (NC) — To rebuild their church destroyed by bombs during the war, members of St. Andreas parish in Halberstadt, Soviet zone of Germany, have voluntarily contributed 50,000 hours of work during the past seven years. The parish is in charge of the Franciscans who came to Halberstadt 730 years ago.

"We will get the immaculate Mother of God in softer men's hearts, to incite their wills, so that having perceived the truth, they may accept it."

It is the confident hope of Pope Pius XII and Catholics all over the world that this present Marian Year will witness the great return of separated Christians to the Fold of Peter, so that the prayer of Christ for Unity may be soon realized.

Apostleship of Prayer
By JAMES J. LYONS, S.J.
National National Secretary

The New Japan
After the first glorious days of missionary activity in Japan, persecution wiped out the Church in Japan, leaving only the memory of St. Francis Xavier and the martyrs who shed their blood for the love of the name of Christ.

When Japan was reopened to the West two hundred years later, Christian missionaries again attempted to win the hearts of the Japanese people for the Kingdom of Christ, but one hundred years of hard labor brought only the most meager results.

ONE MISSIONARY who returned from there in 1938 said, "There can be no hope of converting the Japanese nation until they have suffered some terrible, extreme humiliation. Until they lose their proud confidence in a divine destiny to supreme greatness in this world, they will be deaf to the teachings of the meek and humble Christ." The Second World War left them prostrate in abject defeat, a broken-hearted people. There is no doubt that they have become more humble.

It was on the occasion of the International Pilgrimage to the shrines of St. Francis Xavier in 1949 that the changing attitude of the Japanese people with regard to Catholicism was shown in a striking and public way.

In the numberless places rich in Christian memories up and down Japan, the authorities of the prefectures and municipalities, themselves pagan for the most part, had prepared for the event for months' dedication of memorials, festivals for the people, erection of commemorative parks, exposition of old Christian documents, distribution of short biographies of the saint to school children, official receptions for religious authorities, and so on.

THE CATHOLIC manifestation literally became the affair of all believers and non-believers alike. Throughout the Pilgrimage, in the large cities, tens of thousands crowded stadiums and public squares for the Pontifical Masses.

The Emperor's brother, Prince Takamatsu, gave a discourse in praise of the great traditions represented by Xavier. The press of the entire country daily reported the events and published long articles on the Catholic Church in Japan and abroad.

Today, the number of Baptisms has increased more in eight years (1945-1953) than in the eighty previous years since the re-establishment of Catholicism in Japan. Though still a small minority in the mass of eighty-five million Japanese, the Church exerts an influence far out of proportion of the number of its members.

THE INCREASING prestige of the Holy See, the decisive influence of the Virgin, he said, "the Mexican worker is evolving as honest, industrious and moral, and without class consciousness."

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