

Quebec Censorship Board Bans 'Martin Luther' Film

Montreal — (NC) — The motion picture "Martin Luther" has been rejected by the Quebec provincial film censorship board.

A statement issued to the N.C.W.C. News Service in the name of Alexis Gagnon, chairman of the board which has its headquarters here, said:

"THE FILM 'Martin Luther' was rejected by the majority of the Quebec Board of Censors because the board feels it would be against the real interest of the population to have a film which would cause religious antagonistic sentiments."

The N.C.W.C. News Service was informed that the action was taken by the eighteen board and that all were agreed that it was appropriate to the situation.

The ban is in keeping with previous decisions of the Quebec

Lutherans Score Quebec Censors For Ban On Movie

New York — (NC) — Persons who believe in freedom of conscience "must be shocked by action of the Quebec provincial censorship board in banning the showing of the 'Martin Luther' movie," Henry Erdross, executive secretary of Lutheran Church Productions, declared here.

Mr. Erdross said the film describing the life of the founder of the Protestant Reformation, is based on both Protestant and Catholic historical sources. He commented: "We believe no person has a right to censor history" and added that the Lutheran church will appeal the censorship action. The film was produced by six U. S. Lutheran bodies.

In October, Dr. Frederick Engelmann, history professor at the Catholic University of America, reviewed the film for the N.C.W.C. News Service. He commented that the film "is a plain picture affair," not so much pro-Luther because it does not present Luther as he is known to historians, including the great Protestant historian.

censorship board "regarding films offensive to various religious groups," Mr. Gagnon said.

It was emphasized that the board's action was in no way actuated by prejudice on the part

Noted Japanese Ordained Priest

Tokyo — (NC) — A member of the Owari branch of the Tokugawa family that ruled Japan for centuries, and under which intermittent persecution of Christians took place, was ordained here to the Catholic priesthood.

He is Father Yasukuni Tokugawa, whose forebears came into power in 1603 and exercised authority until the restoration in 1868 of the empire under which religious liberty was recognized.

Father Tokugawa is a graduate of Kelo University and was formerly a pilot in the Japanese Air Force. Among distinguished guests at the reception following his ordination were his uncle, General Kōbun Takūgawa; Archbishop Peter Taitano Doi of Tokyo; and ex-Prince Tsunetsugu Kaya.

Father Tokugawa said his first Mass in the chapel of the Tokyo Interdiocesan seminary, and was expected to be assigned to a parish in the Tokyo Archdiocese early in the New Year.

Ontario Bans Nuns' Crosses In Public School

Toronto — (RNS) — Two Roman Catholic nuns teaching in the high school at Hawkesbury, a village in eastern Ontario, have been ordered to remove crucifixes and rosaries from their religious garb while they are teaching.

The ruling was issued by W. J. Dunlop, Minister of Education for Ontario, who announced that the nuns had agreed to comply.

A deputation of Protestants recently called on Dr. Dunlop to protest the employment of nuns in the school and to demand that no religious emblems be displayed there.

Dr. Dunlop's order also instructs the nuns to use their proper names in the classroom rather than their religious name prefaced by "Sister."

Legal Bar Lifted On Gift To Nuns

Quebec — (NC) — A decision of the Private Bills Committee of the Quebec Legislature has paved the way for the Little Sisters of the Poor in Montreal to accept a million dollar legacy which will be devoted to new quarters and assistance to Montreal's needy.

According to the terms of the 1929 will of Arthur Roy, wealthy Montreal citizen, two thirds of his estate was to be left to his widow for her use during her lifetime. On her death, it was to go to the Little Sisters of the Poor.

THE QUEBEC Committee was informed that the will contained certain stipulations which could not be accepted by the religious community. Mr. Roy had stipulated that one-third of the amount was to go towards cost of purchasing a site, and two-thirds towards the cost of a building for hospital care to sick and old folks but of the French language only.

According to their constitution and regulations, the Little Sisters must receive and care for needy old folks without distinction of race, color or creed. For that reason the Sisterhood requested the Quebec Legislature for a modification of the conditions mentioned in the will and to allow it to accept the legacy but through continuation of its present regulations which observe the principle of universal charity.

The Private Bills Committee of the Legislature agreed to this "in the general interest of the poor and homeless."

Expelled Nuns Arrive In Hong Kong



Hong Kong — Two Spanish nuns arrive here after being expelled from Communist China. They are Sister Dolores Ulbarri, 72, of Aizu, who spent more than 41 years in China, (left), and Sister Maria Pilar, 54, of Zcharri. They are being greeted by Spanish Father Blaise Miguélez of Hong Kong. The sisters, who operated an orphanage in Amoy, Fukien Province, have been under house arrest for three years. They were believed to be the last two foreign missionaries in Amoy. The scene here has been repeated many times over the past few years as expelled Catholic missionaries reach Hong Kong from the China mainland. (RNS Photo)

Colonel's Cure At Lourdes 'Miraculous', Says Bishop

Paris — (NC) — The cure of a French colonel's draining abscess during a pilgrimage to Lourdes in 1950 has been declared miraculous by Bishop Auguste Gaudel of Frejus and Toulon.

Completely cured after bathing in the waters of the Lourdes spring was Col. Paul Pellegrin of Toulon. For a year and a half, Colonel Pellegrin had suffered from a fistula—a deep ulcerous hole draining off pus from a liver abscess—which physicians had given up hope of healing.

AFTER TWO years of study, a commission of 29 physicians unanimously joined Dr. Leuret, director of the Lourdes Medical Bureau, in a report declaring that no medical explanation for the cure could be given, and that it defied any natural process. Last February, the national committee in Paris—in which the Lourdes medical bureau submitted its conclusions—confirmed the earlier decisions and transmitted the case to ecclesiastical authority.

In its turn, applying the general rules announced by Pope Benedict XIV, a canonical commission decided that Colonel Pellegrin's cure possessed miraculously all the required conditions:

—There was really a serious illness and medical treatment was

Pope Pius Urges Television Become Christian Force

Rome — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has called on the entire Italian episcopate and the nation's Catholics to take the lead in shaping the structure of the nation's infant television industry.

"The goal we wish to set for you is this," the Pontiff declared, "that television may be not only morally unobjectionable but may likewise become a force for Christian education."

THE PONTIFF'S plea came in a statement addressed to the Italian bishops on the eve of Italy's first regular telecasts.

Terrific television "both a precious and dangerous instrument," the Pope called on the Bishops to set up on a national scale a central office that would channel all experiences and provide uniform norms and guidance for the industry in the matter of programming.

He asked Catholics to "go forward united and in harmony" in this matter.

"In this field especially," he said, "the union of Catholics constitutes their strength."

Inaugural television programs from Milan, Rome and Turin went on the air January 3 for an estimated 15,000 Italian owners of television sets. Experimental programs have been televised for about two years.

"We recognize fully this new conquest of science," the Pope said. "It is not difficult to understand the innumerable advantages of television and the many services it can provide man for his perfection."

"Television," he said, "can serve to bring the family together again in the home, and to keep them from the dangers of unhealthy pleasures."

At the same time, he warned it is "frightening to think that through the medium of television it is possible to introduce into the home the same poison of materialism and hedonism that only too often appears on the screen."

His Holiness told the bishops their work would fall far short of satisfying his desires if it is limited to a defense against evil and is not a vigorous assertion of good as well.

On the part of Catholics, he called for the formation of a collective conscience that will know how to discern essential dangers and will hold itself to judgments

of ecclesiastical authorities on the morality of televised presentations." He urged parents and educators to stay alert so as not to be too late in averting "the spiritual ruins of lost innocence."

He noted that already "the necessities of daily life tend to keep family members away from home more and more of the time and to upset the natural development of family life."

In an appeal to all who have anything to do with television—the industry, government officials, the clergy and the public—the Pope asked that their energies be sent toward preserving and protecting the family as the "cell of society and the sanctuary for the education of the child."

THE RELATION of the family to television was a recurring theme in the Pontiff's address and he stressed that the medium must be oriented to the spiritual good of parents and children alike.

Otherwise, he warned, nothing could be more fatal to the nation. "We cannot do less," he said in another part of his address, "than proclaim to all those who share the responsibility of television that their duties and responsibilities before God and Society are most serious."

He noted that much of television entertainment is done by means of films, and therefore the medium was potentially more dangerous than movies.

"The bad influence of films," he said, "can now invade the home itself."

Charity Drive Sets Record

New York — (NC) — The 1953 appeal of the Catholic Charities of the New York archdiocese brought in a total of \$2,408,912, highest in the history of the annual drive. It was announced here by John A. Coleman, executive chairman of the Cardinal's Committee of the Laity.

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