

# U. S. Bishops Bid For War Victims On Laetare Sunday

Boston—(NC)—Citing the urgent needs of homeless, hungry and destitute refugees in all parts of the world, Boston's Archbishop Richard J. Cushing expressed a fervent hope that the 1954 Laetare Sunday campaign of the Bishop's Fund for Victims of War will be the most successful ever staged.

The Boston prelate spoke at a meeting in his residence of directors for the campaign from the two archdioceses and nine dioceses in the New England area. The session was the "kick off" of a series of similar meetings which will be held in key cities throughout the nation in preparation for the campaign.

UNDER THE direction of the American Hierarchy, the campaign will be conducted in most of the 15,000 parishes across the nation on March 28, Laetare Sunday, by War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati, chairman of the N.C.W.C. administrative board, in a letter to each member of the Hierarchy, has appealed for support of the campaign. The pathetic conditions under which millions of refugees, expellees, escapees and other needy exist today in Europe, the Near and the Far East were described at the meeting by Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, WRS-N.C.W.C. executive director, who last fall made a globe-girdling inspection tour of refugee and relief installations.

THE MONSIGNOR reminded the directors that it was the success of the Bishops' campaigns in past years which enabled the American Hierarchy to distribute through WRS-N.C.W.C., during the ten years of its existence, 556,224,841 pounds of clothing, bedding, medicines and other relief materials valued at \$212,364,319 to the needy of 63 countries throughout the world. He stressed that the distributions are made on the basis of need, without regard to race, creed or national origin.

The Monsignor also reminded that through the Bishop's agency of mercy for war's destitute, 156,056 Catholic displaced persons have been resettled in the United States and its territories, Canada, Australia and South American countries.

## Cardinal Urges Aid To War Victims Fund

New York—(NC)—Grim pictures of the ravages of war wrought in Korea and of the suffering among homeless refugees in other parts of the world were painted here by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

The Cardinal spoke at a meeting of directors in eastern seaboard archdioceses and dioceses who will conduct the eighth annual campaign of the Bishops' Fund for Victims of War on Laetare Sunday, March 28. Sponsored by the American Hierarchy and conducted by War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, the campaign will be carried on in parishes throughout the nation for the benefit of refugees, expellees and escapees in all parts of the world.

Cardinal Spellman told the luncheon meeting in the New Weston Hotel that the relief need overseas was never greater than it is at the present time and he called for wholehearted support of the campaign. Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, WRS-N.C.W.C. executive director, who briefed the diocesan directors regarding the campaign, disclosed that the generosity of American Catholics resulted in the shipping of more than 10 million pounds of clothing donated in the 1953 Thanksgiving clothing collection to 20 countries overseas.

High Court Upsets Church Zoning Ban  
Indianapolis—(RNS)—Churches may not be refused building permits because of the lack of parking facilities, the Indiana Supreme Court has ruled. The 3-2 decision held that such refusal violates the constitution's freedom of worship guarantee.



HIS. EMINENCE Francis Cardinal Spellman and Monsignor Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, inspect the poster to be used in the 1954 Bishops' Fund Appeal for the victims of war. The eighth annual nationwide collection will be taken up in 15,000 Catholic parishes of Laetare Sunday, March 28. Left to right in photo are representatives of dioceses in New York State: Rev. Joseph P. Conway, Albany; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph E. Toomey, Syracuse; Monsignor Swanstrom; Cardinal Spellman; Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph F. Luker, Ogdensburg; Rev. Leslie Whalen, Rochester.

## 'Chain Prayer' Typists Belong On Chain Gang

New York—(NC)—"People who circulate chain prayers almost deserve to be sentenced to chain gangs," Father Joseph E. Manton said in a radio sermon attacking superstition.

"Give a moron a typewriter and he will compose a chain prayer. By deliberately breaking a chain prayer and becoming a missing link, you prove that you are not a duplicating monkey but an independent man." The widely known Boston Redemptorist priest advised on The Catholic Hour, produced by the National Council of Catholic Men and carried by the NBC network.

"Superstition is unworthy of man and insulting to God," he said, scoring such practices as fortune telling, "good luck" charms, and "bad luck" numbers. "TELL YOUR fortune! It seems just as logical to predict a man's future from the egg-stains on his vest as the tea leaves in his cup. In both cases part of him goes to the cleaners

picture and presumes to take His place. . . We talk so freely and so glibly of our luck, of good luck and bad luck. There is no luck. Whatever happens, happens only because God wants it to happen or because God (having given men free will) at least permits it to happen. . . "So the sin of superstition is that it gives to some ridiculous object the power that belongs only to God. I am the Lord Thy God. Thou shalt not have strange gods before Me!"

## Gis Take Courses At Mission College

Nagoya, Japan—(NC)—Over 100 American soldiers and civilians eager to utilize their spare time working toward a college education are taking courses at Nanzan University conducted here by the Divine Word missionaries.

The soldiers and other army personnel come from the Nagoya Air Base by bus and private car four nights a week to attend classes in French, German, Spanish, Japanese, history of European literature, and philosophy of education. "I get a great bang out of this," said one airman. "I'm an American attending a university in Japan. I study Spanish under an English-speaking German professor hailing from Argentina. How international can you get?"

## Building Work In Religious Field Rises

Washington—(NC)—1954 promises to be another boom year for religious and nonpublic educational building. U.S. Labor and Commerce Department figures indicate. Eight million more dollars were spent on construction of religious buildings and seven million more dollars on construction of private schools in January, 1954, than in January, 1953, the two departments report.

THE FIGURES represent a 23 per cent increase in religious construction and a 22 per cent increase in private school construction. Sixteen million dollars were spent on social and recreational buildings showing an increase of 45 per cent over January 1953.

Private hospitals, whose higher priority enabled them to continue some building during the Korean War, showed a decrease of four per cent. Private school and religious construction will probably continue to increase until the building curtailed during the Korean War has been completed. Construction with the lowest priority during the war years, private social and recreational construction showed the biggest jump-in-percentage between the two years.

Public hospitals and institutions showed a decrease of 38 per cent in the comparative percentage. Public educational building, though showing an increase of 17 per cent over January of last year, did not increase as much as did private educational construction.

## Cardinal Gilroy Given Auxiliary

Sydney, Australia—(NC)—Msgr. James Carroll, Australia's leading authority on canon law, has been appointed Titular Bishop of Atenia and Auxiliary to His Eminence Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney. Announcement of the appointment by His Holiness Pope Plus XII followed the recent nomination of Archbishop Eril O'Brien, former Auxiliary to Cardinal Gilroy, to the Archbishopric of Canberra-Goulburn.

## 'Only Two Who Care' Priest And Dog Are Prison Visitors

Washington—(NC)—Visiting day for one 17-year-old boy at the National Training School for Boys now means two visitors—a priest and a dog, "the only two who really care what happens to me."

Formerly the priest had come alone and listened to the boy's plea to "pray for Smokey, Father; pray that I'll find him again." The boy (a federal prisoner listed as "incorrigible") had told the priest: "Without my dog, I don't care what happens to me."

FATHER MYER TOBEY, S.J., who knew the story of the boy and Smokey, prayed in all his Masses that the dog would be found. The mongrel boxer had been taken from the boy in Florida where he was arrested for a car theft. The Jesuit knew that only when Smokey was returned to him would the boy drop the belief that "everyone is against me."

Then things started moving. At the Washington Training School where the boy had been shipped, the superintendent notified Miami police; an intensive search was carried on; the dog was found in the local pound; and an airline flew Smokey to Washington and to his master.

On the steps of the training school, Smokey "went crazy with joy" and knocked the boy down. Hugging his dog on the cement steps, the "incorrigible" boy ignored newspaper reporters and orled.

Father Tobey knew why Smokey had once saved the boy's life when he was swimming. And Smokey became his only friend. An orphan, tossed from one foster home to another, and finally into reform school, the boy found work in the Jesuit printing plant at Woodstock College, Md. Father Tobey first met the boy there, Smokey sitting by his side as he worked.

THE PRIEST knew that the boy "needed someone who would care about him" and the three became friends. "Next to Smokey," Father Tobey said, "I came first." When the boy returned to the Maryland Training School for Boys, he wrote letters to the priest and told him: "If they take my dog away from me, they'll take my life away." When the boy thought he was losing Smokey, he ran away from the

## Family Joins Bridal Mass Across Sea

Portland, Me.—(NC)—A Chinese couple were married at a Nuptial Mass in this Maine city while thousands of miles away in Formosa their families joined with them at a Mass offered by the bride's uncle. Dr. and Mrs. William Chen Kang Chai, both recent converts to the Catholic faith, exchanged vows at St. Joseph's Church here. On their wedding day, Father John Mac, uncle of the bride, offered his Mass for them in a Formosa chapel. Mrs. Chai is a graduate of Our Lady of Mercy College. Dr. Chai is a research assistant at the Jackson Laboratories in Bar Harbor, Me.

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