

General Washington Said:
**Don't Burn Pope's Effigy,
 Thanked Catholics Instead**

(N.C.W.C. News Service)
 Cambridge, Mass.—The Commander in Chief of American forces today ordered his troops to stop plans to burn the Pope in effigy at traditional Guy Fawkes' Day observances. He called the custom "ridiculous and childish."

That's how this story might have been dated and written 178 years ago. The commander in chief was General George Washington. He had come to Massachusetts from Virginia only five months before to take military command of the seven-month-old American Revolution.

And General Washington took over the rough, undisciplined troops with a firm hand. When he learned that his soldiers planned to burn the effigy on November 5, 1775, by burning a "scarecrow" of the Pope, he quickly issued an order. In it, he reminded the men they were fighting "in defence of liberty."

He called the Guy Fawkes Day plan "so monstrous as not to be suffered or excused" and the officers and men who planned it "void of common sense."

HIS ORDER was delivered to "ill-fed, ill-clothed, and ill-paid" soldiers entrenched outside the city of Boston where the British had holed in. These soldiers, who had fought courageously to take the city but had been repulsed at Bunker Hill, now faced a New England winter's wait, holding Boston in siege.

In his order General Washington gave the disgruntled troops a common sense reminder: America was depending on Catholic allies in its revolt for freedom; the most successful campaign against the British had thus far been conducted by Catholic Canadian forces.

"It is our duty to address public thanks to these our brethren rather than 'to be insulting their religion'" General Washington said.

Records also reveal that more than 38 per cent of the soldiers in Washington's armies were Catholics of either Irish birth or Irish descent. They had joined in the Revolution, despite the discriminatory statutes then in force against them.

General Order

Head Quarters, Cambridge, November 6, 1775

As the Commander in Chief has been apprized of a design form'd for the observance of that ridiculous and childish custom of burning the Effigy of the pope—He cannot help expressing his surprise that there should be Officers and Soldiers in the army so void of common sense, as not to see the impropriety of such a step at this juncture: at a Time when we are soliciting, and have really obtain'd, the friendship and alliance of the people of Canada, whom we ought to consider as Brethren embarked in the same Cause, The defence and the general liberty of America: At such a juncture, and in such Circumstances, to be insulting their religion is so monstrous, as not to be suffered or excused; indeed instead of offering the most remote insult, it is our duty to address public thanks to these our Brethren, as to them we are so much indebted for every late happy Success over the common Enemy in Canada.

—General Orders, 1775-1776; Paper of George Washington; The Library of Congress

But regardless of these facts and the General's order, a group of Revolutionary soldiers carried out the Guy Fawkes Day custom which their ancestors had long practiced in memory of England's notorious "Gun Powder Plot." (The plot in which Guy Fawkes, a Catholic, was accused of attempting to blow up the House of Parliament, was falsely interpreted as a Vatican-directed plan against England, and resulted in the death of many Catholics.) An effigy of the Pope was burned that night on the hills south of Boston.

THE INCIDENT, however, was one of a series that marked a turning point in the position of Catholics in America—long regarded as the objects of Puritan distrust and their religion considered as "subversive of society," according to historian Father Paul J. Folk, C.S.C. Father Folk noted that with the Revolution "the condition of American Catholics began to improve."

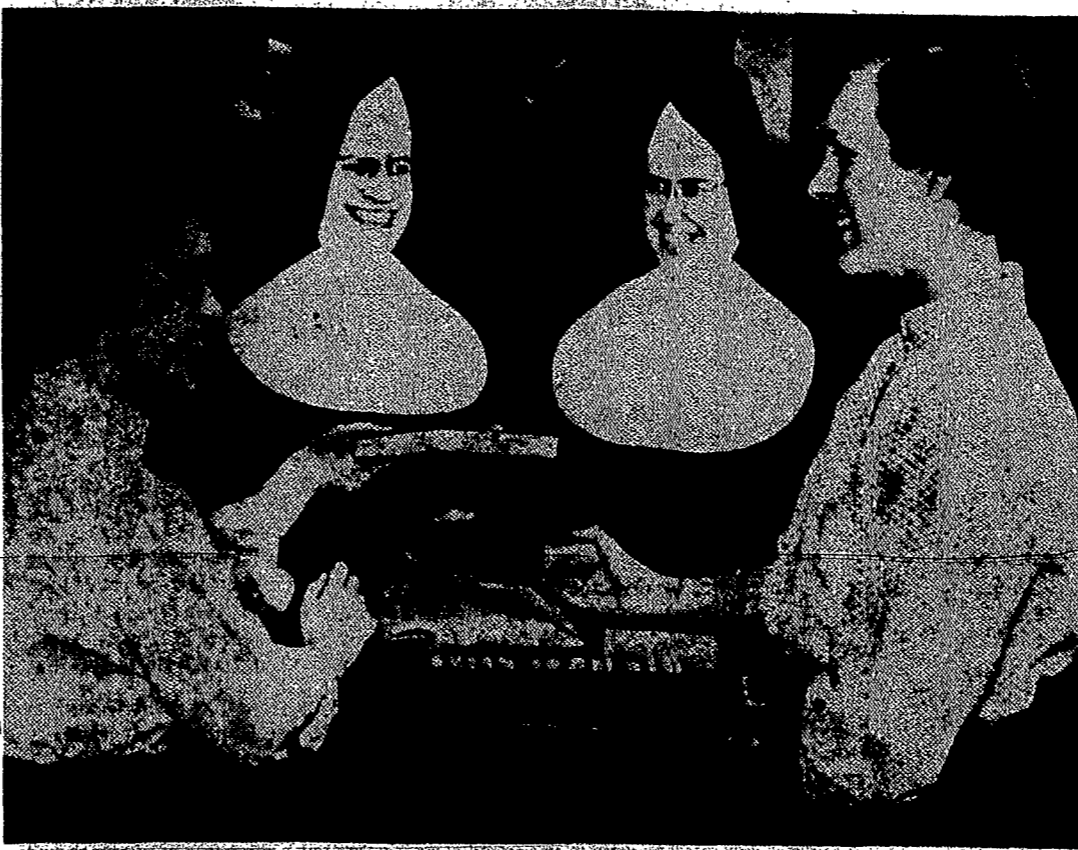
Throughout the Revolution, Catholic Americans proved their patriotism to such an extent that, years later, President Washington was to write them: "I presume that your fellow citizens of all denominations will not forget the patriotic part which you took in the accomplishment of our Revolution and the establishment of our government, or the important assistance which they received from a nation in which the Roman Catholic faith is professed."

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TWIN NUN LIBRARIANS



Nasareth, Mich.—These identical twin nuns, librarians at the Nasareth College Library here, are a constant source of bafflement to students. They are: Sisters Mary Catherine Siena (left), and Mary Thomas Aquinas, members of the Sisters of St. Joseph in Michigan. Being helped with their selection of books are students Collette Blon of Saginaw and Jane Casey of Chicago. The nuns are serving together in the same assignment for the first time since they entered the religious life ten years ago. (BNS Photo).

Editor Reports

**Persecution Charges
 In Latin America
 'Fabricated Myths'**

La Crosse, Wis.—(NC)—The much publicized charges by some Protestant groups of persecution in South America "are largely fabricated myths," a priest-editor declared here on his return from a six-week, fact-finding tour of Latin American mission areas.

Father Anthony P. Wagener, editor of The LaCrosse Register, newspaper of the LaCrosse diocese, told a dinner meeting of the LaCrosse State College Newman Club.

"Many Protestant missionaries are genuinely dedicated in their efforts to improve the social conditions. It is unfortunate that the indiscreet activities of a few should jeopardize Latin American-U.S. friendship and relations."

FATHER WAGENER said he expressly investigated the most publicized of the Protestant charges and "I was unable to substantiate a single bona-fide case of Protestant persecution in South America." He said he found a number of instances of "suppression of Protestant activities," but added the suppressions were "a direct result of the Protestant group taking an active part in the country's internal political affairs."

He said he investigated the report of the stoning of a Baptist temple in Bogota, Colombia. He reported that "a number of responsible Colombian and American residents in Bogota have well founded suspicions that the Baptist group deliberately instigated the stoning episode to gain favor and arouse sympathy in the United States."

Father Wagener said the Baptist group interrupted a religious procession and aroused the anger of Colombian youth, who stoned the temple. He said: "This incident was in no way master-minded by native priests or responsible Colombia officials."

The priest-editor declared that those Protestant groups which restrict themselves to religious activities and refrain from interference in domestic politics "are unchallenged in their

proselytizing."

Methods employed by some Protestant groups in Ecuador "are jeopardizing friendly relations" with that country, Father Wagener said. He cited the case of a radio station in Quito, one of the most powerful in South America. He said the station is maintained by some 40 U.S. Protestant denominations and is used for "violent propaganda purposes."

FATHER WAGENER said one American firm engages in proselytizing in connection with its work in South America. He said of this construction firm working in Peru: "There is much evidence that this company through offers of jobs and money is persuading Peruvians to defect from the Catholic Church and join the Protestant religion. This activity is resented deeply by the Peruvian Church and State leaders."

The priest-editor said that some Protestant mission groups are using "educational bribes" in proselytizing. They operate schools and require that students be enrolled in a Protestant sect, Father Wagener said. Some submit to this pressure, he said, because of "the prevailing intense desire" of the South American upper classes to learn English.

**Marriage Course
 Draws 1,600**

Toledo, O.—(NC)—The preparation-for-marriage course, being conducted at seven centers within the Toledo diocese, has attracted 1,641 young men and young women who are seniors in high school or out of high school and unmarried.

The course runs for 10 weeks, with one evening session each week. Each session consists of a 30-minute presentation of the subject by a speaker, followed by an hour's question period.

**El Paso Bishop Urges Workers Quit
 Communist-Controlled Labor Union**

Silver City, N. M.—(NC)—A warning against membership in a union "whose leadership and ultimate aims are Communist" was again given to mine workers here by their Bishop—this time by

radio after union leaders had refused to let the Prelate give his views at a union assembly. Bishop Sidney M. Metzger of El Paso told the miners that "if they have been deceived and now actually belong to such a (Communist) union they have a serious obligation owed to God and country to disaffiliate and join another sound and decent union of their own choice."

EVENTS HERE clearly indicated that the Bishop was referring to the United Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers union of duty to "speak out openly" on the union situation because "our strike here and whose local government" has made a thorough investigation and proof of actual Communist affiliation or at least the acceptance of Communist

teaching is officially attested by public record."

(In Washington the National Labor Relations Board has ordered a hearing to determine if Maurice E. Travis, an official of the International Union of Mine, Mill and Smelter Workers, filed a false non-Communist affidavit. A former New Mexico local official of the union was convicted on similar charges. The union was expelled from the CIO on charges of Red domination.)

"THE BATTLE against Communism is the concern of every single American regardless of political or religious belief or station in life," Bishop Metzger said. "It is time for action but it is not the action of violence that is needed. There is no justification for revenge, violence or condemnation against any person or group of persons."

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Ritefit acetate and rayon Crepe Dress 8.95
 Straight slenderizing lines, smart front detailing, rhinestone button trim combine to make this Ritefit acetate and rayon crepe dress a favorite. Navy piped with rose pink. Sizes 24 1/2 to 30 1/2. *Dress Department, Aisles 9 and 10, Basement*

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 Tailored 8-gore nylon skirts in black, navy, brown or green. Sizes 18 1/2 to 24 1/2. *Sportswear, Aisles 7 and 8, Basement*