

Priest Warns Harlem Against Religious Strife

New York (NC) — A Harlem pastor has warned against overexcitement concerning a "reported blast against the Catholic Church by a Harlem Congressman," and cautioned Harlem Catholics against religious conflict.

The statement by Msgr. Cornelius J. Drew, pastor of St. Charles Borromeo Church, answered a charge by Rep. Adam Clayton Powell of New York, who is a Baptist minister, that a policy "based upon pure religious bigotry" denies "Protestants equal representation in our city government."

Representative Powell announced that he and 450 fellow Baptists have formed an "action committee" to investigate the religious preferences of all New York departmental executives.

MSGR. DREW said "We must never allow the state to be controlled by any church, but we warned against any attempt to force our people up in a religious conflict by creating the impression that any church is 'trying to control our government.'"

Our Congressman has won the support of Harlem for his fight of discrimination against our people," Monsignor Drew said. "We would expect that he would fight religious bigotry with even greater zeal, not only because he is a religious leader, but also because he belongs to the majority religion and so is in a better position to prevent that type of prejudice."

THE MONSENOR said that a candidate, nominated by a political party, is "in no way connected with glorifying his church or synagogue."

"When we look over the candidates, and note that more than one are not ideal members of their religious group, we can be assured that it was not the church or synagogue that chose them," he said.

Representative Powell's move to organize his "United Protestant Political Action Unit" to investigate the religious beliefs of city government officials was also criticized by Negro news papers. Including The Courier, which called the action "a deplorably dangerous move."

"We are sorry," the Courier said, "that a group of Negroes has launched it."

Card, Stritch To Greet NCEA Parley

Washington (NC) — An expected 12,000 Catholic educators from all sections of the nation will be greeted by His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, in the course of a civic reception in Chicago on April 19 to open the four-day 51st annual National Catholic Educational convention. It has been disclosed here.

Archbishop Edward F. Hoban, Bishop of Cleveland and president-general of the NCEA, will preside at the reception. Besides the Cardinal-host to the convention, the delegates also will be greeted by Dr. Benjamin C. Willis, general superintendent of Chicago public schools; Nobel J. Puffer, county superintendent of schools, and Vernon L. Nickell, State superintendent of public instruction.

Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York will be joined by Col. Irene O. Galloway, commander of the Women's Army Corps. In delivering the keynote addresses at this opening session of the convention, NCEA headquarters here announced. There is a possibility that Irene Dunne, motion picture actress and 1949 Laelare Medalist, also will address the delegates, the announcement said.

Theme of the convention will be "Planning For Our Educational Needs." Prior to the opening civic reception, the delegates will attend a Solemn Pontifical Mass in Chicago's Holy Name Cathedral.

Mary's Shrines MARIA LAACH



This is a photo of the interior of the Abbey Church of Maria Laach (Mary by the Lake), famous shrine in the German Rhineland where Marian Year pilgrims from the Rochester Diocese will visit this spring.

New 'Secret' Bishops Reported In Red Rumania

Vienna (NC) — Rumania's persecuted Catholics have been given the consoling thought that their sufferings "are only temporary" in what is described as "the last testament" of Archbishop Alexander Cisar of Bucharest, who died last month while under arrest.

Fragments of the document reaching here, appeal to the Rumanian Catholics—of both the Latin and Byzantine rites—not to despair, but to remain faithful to the Church of Rome.

"You are not forgotten and your sufferings are only temporary," Archbishop Cisar says. "Deposed" by the Red regime in 1948, the Archbishop was the ranking Latin-rite prelate in Rumania.

The document asks Rumanians of all creeds, including the Orthodox, to resist communist pressures.

Mary's great shrines is noted for the active part the people take in the processions, the hymns, and in the celebration of Holy Mass. It is in this respect that Maria Laach is most famous today.

The majestic six-towered Basilica of Our Lady is itself a monumental testimony of the Faith—but stronger still is its rich, dynamic life within. Every Sunday, people from all the surrounding area, pilgrims and tourists from Europe and America, come to the monastery for the never-to-be-forgotten Mass.

The altar faces out toward the congregation, so all may see. Monks and people chant the Mass together, in melodies which make you almost sense the marvelous harmonies of heaven.

IN 1851, FIFTY outstanding liturgical scholars and distinguished pastors of souls met at Maria Laach for the First International Congress to study and promote this "active participation" by the people.

When that Congress met for the third time, this past year, Pope Pius XII sent his autographed message of encouragement and blessing. Cardinals Ottaviani and Frings were present; and Cardinal Lercaro addressed the group by broadcast. Bishops, major nation attendants.

Bishop Wilhelm Westermann came from Berlin. He has seen first hand how Communism has closed the parochial schools, confiscated the Catholic press, banned the Church's societies and organizations, and left the people with nothing but their Mass on Sunday.

This Bishop (probably marked to be a martyr) concluded his deeply moving lecture: "If one witnesses and experiences again and again the throttling grip of Antichrist, then one ceases to consider these questions as merely academic; they have become a matter of life and death. Holy Mass is our meeting place with God. We must understand it, appreciate it, take part in it; else we fail to achieve our supreme destiny."

AT FATIMA, Mary told us the fate of the world is in our hands. AT MARIA LAACH, she has shown us the way to restore this world to Christ: through intelligent and sincere and active participation in the Mass. What a tragedy and a pity if we who call ourselves Catholics continue to disregard the Vicars of Christ and the Mother of God.

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What Public Wants Doesn't OK Smut

Cincinnati (NC) — Members of the news staffs of local papers, magazines, radio and television stations were warned that "obscenity, detraction, the inducement to sin of scandal, cannot be justified by the simple argument that it is 'news' or 'what the public wants'."

The advice came from Cincinnati's Archbishop Karl J. Alter to the Salesian Guild, which attended its annual Mass and breakfast in Our Lady of Cincinnati College. The Archbishop told the group that "the reported who reports only what is shameful or exaggerates the indecent presents a distorted and unreal picture of his community, and thus violates the principles of his own profession."

Mohammedan Island Becoming Catholic

Cebu, Philippines (NC) — A Philippine island, once a stronghold of Mohammedanism, is rapidly becoming one of the most Catholic.

Mindanao, second largest in the Philippine group, is one of the few places in the world where Mohammedanism is in retreat.

The current influx of settlers from the crowded islands to the north has resulted in a Catholic majority. Only the bravest Christians could venture here 50 years ago.

What Public Wants Doesn't OK Smut

Nestled in the rolling hills of southern Germany, towering up over the waters of a quiet lake, stands a fortress-like monastery dedicated to our Lady. Long ago, back in the eleventh century, Benedictine monks selected this secluded spot as their home for prayer and work. In the subsequent centuries, the Abbey of Mary by the Lake (that is what Maria Laach means) has achieved world fame for many different reasons: its art, its educational work, its publication, the exemplary life of the monks.

In the difficult circumstances of the Hitler regime, Bishop Francis Bornemann said, "I thank God that I am fortunate enough to possess Maria Laach within my diocese. In these critical days, when the dangers to the Faith are so menacing, I thank God that I have this great citadel of spiritual life and energy."

Every year, priests come here in hundreds and the faithful in thousands. They come to receive spiritual enlightenment and strength, and go back to their work with new vigor. Maria Laach is the spiritual fortress of the Rhineland.

THIS GREAT Abbey has been the strongest voice to speak out for the program of soon-to-be canonized Pius X and his plan to "restore all things in Christ."

Over fifty years ago, Blessed Pius X said that the "primary and indispensable source of the true Christian spirit is the active participation by the people in the prayers of the Church." The curse of our worship today is that we have allowed it to be some silent, a spectacle we merely watch.

Pope Pius XI in his turn emphasized that "it is most necessary that the faithful should not be silent spectators, but should sing with the clergy and choir."

And now our present Holy Father Pius XII (may God preserve him) has given us evening Mass and an easy fast for Communism; he has granted Germany and France to use their mother-tongue in administering the Sacraments; he has restored the Holy Saturday ceremonies to a time and a way of doing them so all the people can attend and understand; but most of all, Pius XII has given by his own example his approval and praise to those who let the people of God take an active part in the worship of God.

WHAT HAS been the reaction of most of us to all of this? For the most part we just don't seem much interested.

Perhaps that is why Mary has to visit our world so much so recently. At Lourdes, at Fatima, long before at Guadalupe, she has always asked, "Let the people come." And every one of

BOOKS ABOUT MARY

for Marian Year Reading

- A LIFE OF MARY CO-REDEMPTRIX**
By Peter A. Borch, S.M.
A simple, positive portrayal of the life of Mary that weaves within it the narrative of the Mission of Co-Redemption. It draws only from the Gospel story and supported commentaries to record what Catholics may believe about Mary. \$2.00
- OUR LADY'S LITANY**
By Albert Blomquist, S.V.D.
For all who believe that Mary is all things the Litany says she is — and yet do not know exactly why — Father Blomquist explains each and every verse, and draws from these attitudes and actions the reader will be urged to apply to his own Christian life. \$2.75
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- THE LIFE OF MARY AS SEEN BY THE MYSTICS**
By Raphael Brown
Here is an unusual biography of Mary from her very own words as revealed to four great mystics of the Church. \$2.50
- OUR LADY OF LIGHT**
By Conzelmann, S.V.D. and G. de Foville, S.O.
An indispensable sourcebook for all who would know more and speak with authority of Our Lady of FATIMA. \$2.50
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