

10,000 Negroes Joined Catholic Church In 1953

Washington—(NC)—With almost ten thousand Negro converts to the Church last year, Catholic Negroes in the U. S. increased by over 24,000 during 1953.

A report by the Commission for Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and the Indians, revealed that the current estimated Negro Catholic population is 457,996.

THE REPORT also revealed that of 343,410 Indians in the U. S., 108,364 are Catholics. In summarizing a year's mission work among the Negroes the report noted "a genuine and widening view for their spiritual welfare and an encouraging response on their part."

Converts account mainly for the two and a half per cent increase of Negro Catholics noted last year, with conversions in larger northern cities "remarkably numerous." Total converts reported in 1953 were 9,428. Infant baptisms during the year numbered 17,578, and school enrollments increased by about seven and a half per cent. Mission schools had 77,217 children enrolled last year. In many of the Southern schools, the report noted, non-Catholic Negro pupils form a large part of the enrollment.

SPECIAL WORK for the Negro is being carried on in 70 dioceses of 37 states with 467 churches, 664 priests, 330 schools, 12 hospitals, 24 clinics, 22 institutions for orphans, delinquents and industrial trainees, and 25 welfare centers.

The full-time services of over 3,000 priests, nuns and lay workers are required to operate those institutions.

During the past year nine new churches were added along with eight new schools.

The larger number of the missions and parishes are located in the 16 southern states where ten million Negroes live.

The report noted that in northern states the population of Negro Catholics is steadily increasing "due to an unending stream of migrants flowing into the large industrial centers." In Southern dioceses where bishops are persevering in work for the Negroes despite meagre resources, the report said, "progress is less apparent because many of these hard-won converts have been steadily moving away to the North and to the West."

Jealousy Betrays Inferiority Complex

New York—(NC)—Jealousy, according to Father Joseph T. V. Snee, assistant vicar for religious for the New York archdiocese, "is the infallible sign of an inferiority complex."

Speaking on the "Christian in Action" program over the ABC radio network, Father Snee said: "If we had the right slant on this whole matter we would rejoice and be glad at the success of others: We may sometimes wonder why we were not made the recipients of these favors. It might be quite conso-ling to realize that we will not have to answer to God for their neglect."

Big City Press Scored For Movie Ad Displays

(N.C.W.C. News Service) Catholic publications in the nation's two biggest cities have taken the daily press to task for the low moral quality of movie advertisements.

In New York, the Jesuit weekly, America, criticized the "distinguished and admired" New York Times for "stooping to a type of advertising one might expect on burlesque billboards" within the past two years.

IN CHICAGO, the New World, official archdiocesan newspaper, said "New Yorkers are lucky—Chicago hasn't had a truly responsible home paper for almost eight years."

Both publications objected to the illustrations and wording of film advertisements carried in the daily papers. America said it asked experienced newsmen: "Were we getting puritanical... or had the Times been letting down the bars?"

"They agreed that our impressions were right," said the magazine. "It seems that the Times is now accepting movie advertising copy it would have judiciously tempered some while back."

'Rag-Pickers' Apostle Aids Public Housing

Paris—(NC)—When the French government wished to launch a bond issue for construction of 12,000 emergency housing units, it turned to a famed priest to make the initial appeal over the national radio.

Father Pierre, known as the "rag-pickers' apostle" for his efforts to overcome France's severe housing shortage and to aid homeless victims of February's bitter cold wave, was the government's choice. No one contested his selection, because of his tremendous popularity.

He shared the microphone with only one other speaker, Reconstruction and Housing Minister Lemaire. Father Pierre holds no official post. After Father Pierre opened a department store exhibit of a model of the emergency housing units to be erected in a suburb, visitors to the exhibit covered the interior with bank notes pinned to the walls.

Recently, Father Pierre addressed the Anglo-American press of Paris, explaining his ideas on housing.

New Tax Bill Ups Gifts For Churches

Washington, D. C.—(RNS)—The House Ways and Means Committee recommended that the amount an individual income tax payer is allowed to deduct for charitable contributions be increased from 20 to 30 per cent of his net income.

The provision was included in an 875-page revision of U. S. internal revenue laws reported to the House after more than 12 months of hearings.

HOWEVER, THE extra 10 per cent deduction would be permitted only on contributions made to "a church, a convention or association of churches, or a religious order; a regularly established educational institution; or a hospital."

Otherwise, the existing 20 per cent limit on deductions for charitable contributions will prevail. The committee said the additional 10 per cent deduction was to apply "to any contributions to the specified types of organizations, even though contributions to other organizations account for the full amount allowable under the 20 per cent limitation."

"THIS AMENDMENT by the committee," the report added, "is designed to aid these institutions in obtaining the additional funds they need, in view of their rising costs and the relatively low rates of return they are receiving on endowment funds."

Only two years ago Congress raised from 15 to 20 per cent the amount of charitable contributions deductible from income for tax purposes.

Faith 'Flowering' In Philippines

Los Angeles—(NC)—Catholicism is "flowering" in the Philippines and economic prospects there are highly encouraging, according to a veteran American missionary who arrived back home on a visit.

He was Father Cuthbert Billman, O.M.L., a native of Boston, who said "the religious climate has changed considerably from the pre-war attacks on the Church by politicians to the present where you have a President outrightly stating, 'I am a Catholic.'"

100 YEARS OF PROGRESS



St. Meinrad, Ind.—St. Meinrad's Archabbey, a Benedictine monastic community started here in 1854 by four monks who came to America from the Abbey of Einsiedeln in Switzerland, will mark its 100th anniversary on March 21, Feastday of St. Benedict, patriarch of monks. The progress made by this community is shown in these two photos. At top is a replica of the original abbey—a primitive Hoosier backwoods cabin; while bottom shows a striking airview of the abbey as it appears today. St. Meinrad's, whose community now comprises 250 monks, has been instrumental in giving the Catholic Church some 1,773 priests. Its superior is the Rt. Rev. Ignatius East, O.S.B., who was named abbot 24 years ago. In honor of its centenary, Pope Pius XII last year raised St. Meinrad's to an archabbey.

Cardinal Mindszenty Trial Foes Purged By Communists

Budapest (NC)—The Hungarian communist government announced that Gabor Peter, former chief of the political police, whose evidence helped convict His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, has been sentenced to life imprisonment.

In addition the Red regime announced a nine-year prison term for purged Minister of Justice Gyula Decsi, who was in charge of the Cardinal-Primate of Hungary's interrogation after the Cardinal's arrest in 1948.

Both officials were tried by the Supreme Military Court on charges of "anti-state and anti-

Court Upholds Ban On 'French Line', Injunction Refused

Chicago—(NC)—The Superior Court here has backed a Chicago Police ban on "French Line." Judge Frank M. Padden refused to issue an injunction overriding the ban as

requested by RKO Studios, producers of the condemned film. Judge Padden reached his decision without viewing the motion picture. He said his decision was based on a point of law rather than whether or not the movie is immoral.

The decision, he said, was made because there was no "immediate emergency" and RKO Studios has "adequate access to legal action" if it wishes to challenge the right of Chicago authorities to ban the movie.

RKO did not announce what further action it will take but newspaper commentators said it is "a virtual certainty" that the company will continue its efforts to have the ban lifted.

THE PICTURE was banned by Police Commissioner Timothy J. O'Connor who revoked a permit issued by the Police Board of Censors after he had personally viewed the film. The commissioner said his action was based on the opinion that showing of the movie "would be contrary to public morals and decency and especially harmful to the youth of this community."

The commissioner said he has received over a hundred letters commending his action and no letters of criticism.

New Church School Building Increases

Washington—(NC)—New church and private school construction continued to show a sharp increase over record 1953 levels during February, Labor and Commerce Department figures released here indicate.

New public school building, whose rate of increase had earlier lagged behind that of private schools, appeared to be catching up.

A 23 per cent rise over February, 1953, to \$38,000,000 marked last month's private school construction. Public school building between the same periods rose 15 per cent to \$156,000,000. The combined January-February increase over 1953 was 22 per cent for private schools and 18 per cent for public schools.

New church and other religious construction also continued at high levels in February.

High Court Bars Banning Book Sale

Trenton, N. J.—(NC)—The New Jersey Supreme Court, by a unanimous vote, sustained a Superior Court ruling prohibiting the prosecutor of Middlesex County from banning the distribution of books, reputed to be obscene.

Superior Court Judge Sidney Goldman, previously had ruled that "The Chinese Room" by Vivien Connell was not criminally obscene. The book was selected for a test case by former prosecutor Matthew F. Melko of Middlesex County, in a move to outlaw the sale and distribution of similar books.



Another Sibley Basement Scoop

GIGANTIC SALE OF TOPPERS

\$25 all of famous name fabrics with styling and details usually found in 39.98 to 45.00 coats



- Rich materials... every coat new in fashion
- Note the collar, sleeve and button details
- You'll appreciate the beautiful linings
- Shown are five of eight styles to select from
- Lovely spring colors: ice blue, pink, coral, nude, beige, aqua, red and navy... in misses' sizes 8 to 18

Coat Department, Aisles 11 & 12, Basement OPEN THURSDAY EVENING UNTIL 9... SIBLEY, LINDSAY & CURR CO.