World's Religious Interest Gaining Times Survey Finds

New York—(NC)—Mankind's interest in religion is increasing throughout the world, it is concluded in a survey of religious trends in virtually all major nations conducted by correspondents of The New York Times.

The Catholic Church, the survey states, is showing great vitality in North and South America, but in Europe—much of which is behind the Iron Curtain—it is either barely holding its own or suffering some losses. Even from behind the Iron Curtain, despite Red persecution, a number of hopeful signs are reported.

The Times report on the state of religion in the world includes a summarizing article from its chief foreign correspondent, C. L. Sulzberger, followed by separate reports from Times correspondents in various countries.

IN THE United States, the survey notes, Catholicism, along with Protestantism and Judaism is "thriving in a religious climate that has never been more favorable. While no spectacular religious revival is at hand, there is general agreement that a sincere quickening of interest is evident."

The Catholic Church in this country, it is noted in a separate study of religion in the U.S. by George Dugan, "stands as the bulwark of the Roman Catholic faith throughout the world." It reports the record breaking attendance at Marian Year events, steady increases in the number of Catholic school students and the rising number of persons making retreats.

In Quebec, the general survey finds Catholic churches "are packed on Sundays and other feast days with Masses held continuously." But over all, it is declared, the Church in Canada is doing little better than holding its own, while Protestantism is slipping.

In South America, it is concluded, the Church still has as strong a grip as at any time since the wars of independence in the early 19th century. It marks only the rise of Colonial America. It is added there appears to have been a trend back to the Church. The survey also restates the oft-repeated charges of discrimination against Protestant missionaries in Colombia.

THE STRUGGLE of the Church and other religions in Western Europe varies considerably from country to country, according to the survey.

In Western Germany, it states, the Church as well as Protestantism is gaining strength. Church attendance is growing, with the churches attracting many people who showed no interest in religion before war.

The Church "is not losing out" in Italy, it reports, but adds that great concern is being shown because of the decline in the number of vocations to the religious life.

If there is one country in Western Europe where religion is flourishing, the survey says, that country is Ireland. It cites the nation's packed churches, public religious activities of all kinds and the rise in vocations.

On the other hand, the survey notes that while 85 per cent of all Frenchmen consider themselves Catholics, only about 60 per cent attend Mass either regularly or occasionally. Although some 40 per cent of the people take no part in organized religious life, 57 per cent believes with certainty that God exits, 10 per cent think His existence very probable and 15 per cent probable. It notes that while only some 80 per cent of Parisians consider themselves Catholic, the figures rises to 91 per cent in the western part of the country.

IN SPAIN, it is claimed, a general feeling that the Hierarchy and the clergy are allied with the Franco regime is harming the Church's growth. It also cites Church authorities as observing that the percentage of practicing Catholics is "very unsatisfactory."

In the Netherlands, it is reported, while Protestants are apprehensive over the growth of the Church, the Church itself is alarmed by Socialist strength. Every census, it is noted, shows a rise in the number of people who belongs to no religion, which in large cities rises to as much as 50 per cent among workers and intellectuals.

FROM TIMES findings and reports from still other countries, Mr. Sulzberger concludes:

—Religious observance is "marked" in almost every country that has suffered severely from war.

—Religion has by no means been stamped out in Communist countries.

—There is in many countries a strong trend towards religious revival.

Marian Days Of Prayer Set In May

Vatican City —(NC)— Four other special worldwide Marian Days of Prayer have been designated for May, the Month of Mary, in addition to Children's Day of Prayer for Peace already announced for Sunday, May 23.

A new announcement by the Central Committee of the Marian Year stated that special Prayer Days will be held also on the other Sundays of May, all directed toward intentions set forth in the Encyclical, "Fulgens Corona," in which His Holiness Pope Pius XII called upon Catholics throughout the world to join in observing the Marian Year.

Sunday, May 2, the Central Committee said, will be observed as a Day of Prayer for the Pope's intentions. On Sunday, May 9, the Day of Prayer will be for Catholics suffering persecution. On the following Sunday, the faithful will pray for their respective countries, and on Sunday, May 30, they will offer prayers for their priests and for an increase in vocations to the priesthood and the religious life.

Catholic Church Facts Presented In Phone Booths

Columbus, Ohio—(NC)—Citizens of this Ohio city are reading Catholic literature in buses, doctors offices, barbers shops, hospital waiting rooms, telephone booths, and any place else, a group of zealous Catholics think John Q. Public might have time on his hands.

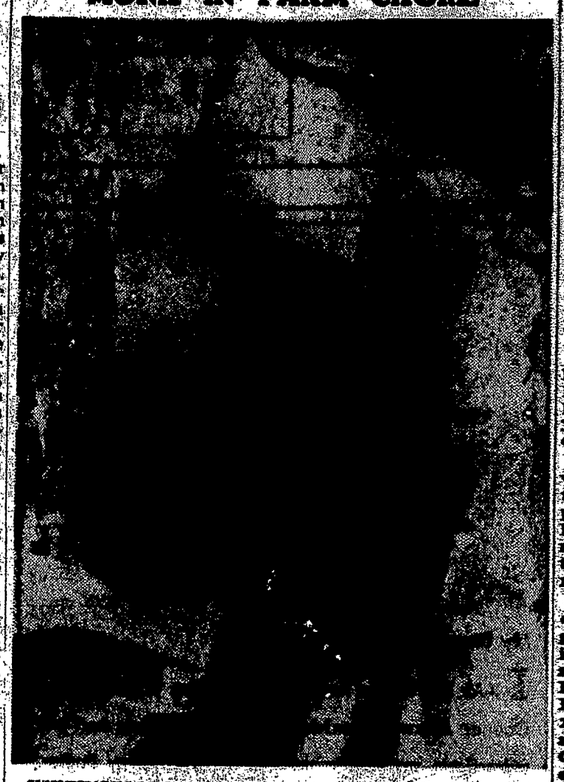
In each publication is pasted a notice inviting the reader to send for more free Catholic literature. It reads:

"If you should like to be placed on our mailing list for free Catholic literature, please fill in this form and mail to Marian Workshop, 318 Chase Ave., Worthington. No obligation is involved and no one will call on you."

The Chase Avenue address is the home of Mr. and Mrs. William Amerine, co-chairmen of the project.

Thirty-six persons have written personal requests for the publications and 26 others have requested literature through friends.

MONK IN FARM CHORE



WHITINGHAM, VT.—Father Moore, 78, patriarch of the cloistered Carthusian community near here, peers into a sap bucket to see how the sap is running during one of his chores on the farm operated by the order. Established in 1950, this community is the only one of the strict Carthusian Order in the Western Hemisphere. Father Moore was one of the two priests at the charter-house when it was founded on 550 acres of almost bare land donated by a summer resident of the town. As Dr. Thomas Vernon Moore, he was a widely known American priest-scientist in his years of teaching philosophy and psychology at various U.S. Catholic colleges. (RNS Photo)

Chaplain Koch Retires With Military Honors

Fort Slocum, N. Y.—(NC)—Retiring chaplain Col. Joseph R. Koch called soldiering "an honorable and noble profession" in a farewell address to assembled troops here.

"It represents the highest ideals of human effort—service to God, service to fellowman, and service to country," the former commandant of the Army Chaplain School here said.

Father Koch, a native Rochesterian, attended Holy Redeemer School, St. Andrew and St. Bernard Seminaries and was ordained from St. Thomas Theological Seminary, Denver, Colo., on June 13, 1926.

The formal retreat parade honoring Msgr. Koch marked the first time in the history of the Chaplain School that a commandant had been so honored.

A citation read by Col. James B. Kraft, Fort Slocum commanding officer, said Msgr. Koch had "shown to all men that those who walk in the ways of God are blessed."

"THE CAUSE OF free men whose faith is in the Almighty, and whose loyalty is to these United States, has been strengthened by your steadfast devotion to God and country," the citation read. "The door of your office and the door of your heart have always been open to those who are seeking guidance and truth. Your valor in the spiritual struggle of life has brought credit and glory to the Armed Forces of our land . . . To a priest, a chaplain, to a citizen, we extend our salute."

Msgr. Koch has served as an Army chaplain since 1928 and received both civilian and military citations for his work.

Grateful Mother Of Released Boys Hurried To Church

New York—(NC)—One of the first things Mrs. Valeriu Georgescu did after learning her two sons had been released by Rumanian communists was to go to church here to offer prayers of thanksgiving.

Mrs. Georgescu walked from her New York apartment to the Church of St. Stephen of Hungary, conducted by the Franciscan Fathers, and prayed gratefully for her sons' deliverance from captivity.

THE PRAYERS followed a Munich-New York telephone call during which she spoke with her sons for the first time in seven years. The next day she was reunited with her boys, Peter, 15, and Constantin, 20.

The boys had been held by communists in Rumania. Last year, their father, a naturalized American, reported that the communists had asked him to serve as a communist spy in the U. S. in exchange for his sons' freedom. Mr. Georgescu refused what he called a blackmail bid, expressed his loyalty to the U. S. and made the matter public.

The Georgescu boys were released through the aid of the U. S. State Department. With their father, who calls their deliverance "a miracle," they were flown to New York for the joyful reunion with their mother.

Nagasaki School

Nagasaki, Japan — (NC) — One hundred and forty-one young men were graduated from the new Catholic high school founded here by the Divine Word Fathers. This was 32 more than the total at the first graduation last year.

Soviet Official Pays Tribute To Polish Catholics

Berlin—A high Soviet official has paid reluctant tribute to the staunch loyalty of Polish Catholics to the Church.

The tribute came in a remark dropped by M. Suslov, editor-in-chief of Pravda, during a visit to East Berlin. The editor of the principal communist propaganda organ in Russia took part in the Socialist Unity (Communist) party congress held in the east German capital.

SUSLOV SPOKE of his impressions in Warsaw and deplored what he called "the appalling picture" of thousands of young and old packing the churches for divine services.

This display of religious devotion by the Polish Catholics, the Pravda editor commented, presents a "sad balance" for the leaders of the Polish government because they have failed to kill "superstition" in the minds of the workers.

Suslov declared that a more effective anti-religious propaganda campaign is badly needed in Poland to undermine the position of the Catholic Church. He noted that the arrest of His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski — designed to break the allegiance of the faithful to the Church — has actually strengthened it.

Numerous reports reaching the free word from Poland have emphasized the loyalty of Catholics to the Church and their heavy attendance at divine services, despite, or perhaps because of, communist persecution.

St. Bernard Alumnus Appointed Chaplain

New Haven, Conn. —(NC)— Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford, has appointed Father Edward J. Shea to serve as national chaplain of the Daughters of Isabella, it was announced here.

Father Shea, pastor of Sacred Heart Church, Waterbury, Conn., has been chaplain of the Connecticut State Circle, Daughters of Isabella, for more than 15 years.

He is an alumnus of St. Thomas Seminary, Hartford, and St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, N. Y., and was ordained on May 21, 1921.

Vatican Newspaper

H-Bomb Offers World 'Prefabricated Hell'

By MSGR. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN

Vatican City—(NC)—The H-bomb shows that science, which promised to liberate men from a "humiliating fear of God," now offers them "a prefabricated hell in the proud civilization of fear."

This comment on the hydrogen bomb experiments was made in a front-page, unsigned article in Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily. The Vatican Press Office described the article as "authoritative."

Monsignor Sullivan

The article concludes that all the arguments, accusations and reproaches in connection with the H-bomb are not only empty but inconsistent, because responsibility for the bomb falls on all men.

THE H-BOMB ERA, the article declared, is the result of having denied "in thought and practice the only eternal premises which would absolutely rule out these overwhelming effects."

The blame for the H-bomb era, it continued must be laid to "those very men who claimed themselves able and promised to prefabricate paradise on earth with the resources of science and technology in order to redeem man from a humiliating civilization of fear of God. But they now offer a scientifically and technically prefabricated hell in the proud civilization of fear."

The Osservatore article declared that up to now it could be said that war was bigger than the weapons with which it was fought. But from now on "we must realize and state that it is a much smaller thing." Now war is waged by destroying its own theater, however large.

FROM THE BEGINNING of its existence the Church has been trying to limit both in time and space the evils of war, the article said. The Church tried to safeguard cultivated fields, promote truce and peace and protect workers, women and children. With the spread of the evil effects of gunpowder and mechanics, the appeals of the Church became more impassioned.

However, from the renaissance on, the world no longer heeded the warnings of the Church, like in "the dark middle ages," the Osservatore article said. In this, the renaissance meant a return to pagan times, to a pagan conscience and pagan customs and to a progressive abhorrence of the Church and religion.

The result, the article declared, was:

"To the unheeded Christian teaching of the sovereign force of right there entered the logical and incontestable need for the sovereign fight of force."

Mass For Yanks Held In Luxembourg

Luxembourg City— (NC) —A special memorial Mass for American soldiers buried in the U. S. military cemetery at Hamm, Luxembourg, was offered in the Church of the Holy Cross here on Passion Sunday by Father Jacques Schmit.

Among those attending the Mass were Wiley T. Buchanan, Jr., American Minister to Luxembourg, and Mrs. Buchanan; Daniel Gaudin, Counselor of the U. S. Legation, and Mrs. Gaudin; Andree Wolff, president of the American-Luxembourg Society; and members of the Legation staff.

Father Schmit parish priest of Hamm, was responsible for inaugurating in 1945 the custom of offering Mass on the Feast of All Saints for the American soldiers who died on Luxembourg soil.

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Soothing the bloodspeckled Holy Countenance is the mantle of heroic mercy for our Little Sisters of the Poor in Istanbul to the aged men and women abandoned by family and friends. Have you an alms for these wonderful ladies? For $15 they can keep one for a whole month. Their daily "soup kitchen" feeds hundreds. Here your $1 will go far.

THINK OF HIS SUFFERINGS WHEN YOU MAKE YOUR WILL.

"LORD, STAY WITH US"

At Emmaus the two disciples thus invited Him to sup with them that first Easter night. Ask Him to your Easter table by setting a place and sending the cost of one meal to us to help feed thousands of His countrymen REFUGEES from the Holy Land. We welcome FOOD PACKS ($10). For each we can still offer a ROSARY of OLIVE SEEDS from the GARDEN of His sufferings.

APRIL DOLLARS to our SEVEN CLUBS will aid seven great mission needs. Club members give $1-A-MONTH. CHRYSOSTOMS will help educate seminarians among our refugees. ORPHANS BREAD will feed the tots with the Chaldean Sisters in Baghdad. The LEPER FUND will go to the Assisian Sisters at Shertallay, India. BASILIANS miles go to the school of the Dominican Sisters at Akra, Iraq. Deposits in MARY'S BANK will train our Holy Land novices. CHAPEL-OF-THE-MONTH will be built in Luxor, Egypt, and MONICA GUILD will furnish its altar and sanctuary.

THEIR STATION KEEPING

Many will keep the night watch at the repository Holy Thursday night. Our Adoration Sisters keep their station the year around before the Blessed Sacrament enthroned in their convent at Marathakkara, India. They plead for help to meet the expenses of Perpetual Adoration. $1 will help. Your donation of $100 will be like an endowment to meet these expenses for an entire day, year after year.

SISTER ANSELM will hold a very special place in her heart and prayers for the gentle friend who helps her now with $150 to meet the costs of her one year training as a novice with the Adoration Sisters at Vazhappally, India. Won't you help?

EXILED WITH THEIR LORD

That's the lot of a large community of destitute Armenians on the outskirts of Aleppo, Syria. Driven from their homes in Turkey over 30 years ago, their misery has never ceased. Won't you help us give them at least the consolation of a modest chapel of their own for the liturgy of their own rite. $1, $10 or $100—any gift will win their grateful blessing. Ask for "Nation In Exile" which tells the history and explains the rite of the Armenians.

FROM JERUSALEM a seminarian, ANIM, seeks someone to sponsor him by sending in any installments $100 yearly for the six years training. Won't you share his poverty and future labors?

"I THIRST"

For souls like these of the wayward girls in the care of our Good Shepherd Sisters in Lebanon. Their heroic work doesn't appeal to the native people who consider these hapless girls as outcasts. Your $10 gift will support one for a month. You'll do a great charity.

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