

Private School, Church Building Marking Record

Washington — Construction of new private schools and church buildings rose more than a fifth over record 1953 levels in first quarter, 1954. Present indications are that both categories will top all previous annual levels in the current year.

These sharp rises occurred while total new private construction throughout the country increased only 3.9 per cent and public building declined 3.7 per cent. Total new construction in first quarter, 1954, was at an annual rate of \$361,000,000, compared with the \$34,000,000, 000 forecast for the year and the \$34,843,000,000 achieved in 1953.

PRIVATE SCHOOL construction in the January-March per-

iod totaled \$115,000,000, up 23.7 per cent over first quarter, 1953. Church building rose 21.6 per cent between the same periods to \$124,000,000.

At the same time public school construction, which had earlier lagged behind the private schools' rate of increase, appeared to be catching up. It rose 19.2 per cent to \$472,000,000 from first quarter, 1953. Between first quarter, 1952, and January-March, 1953, it had increased only 2.3 per cent, while between the same periods private school building had gone up 25.9 per cent.

IF THE SAME seasonal factors that govern all private non-residential and non-commercial building apply to private school and church construction on the basis of first quarter performance both categories will achieve a higher level this year than they did in record-breaking 1953.

Last year private school building amounted to \$425,000,000 and church construction totaled \$474,000,000. These figures compare with annual averages of \$18,000,000 for both categories during the war years and of \$318,000,000 for church buildings and \$279,000,000 for private schools in the postwar period.

Cardinal To Lead Pius X Pilgrimage

New York (NC) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will lead a pilgrimage of more than 200 Americans from 18 States to the canonization of Blessed Pope Pius X in Rome on May 29 and 30, it has been announced.

The pilgrims will sail aboard the SS United States from here on May 14 for Le Havre, France. They will travel through France, Spain and Italy before arriving in Rome. They will return to New York on June 16.

OLDEST VIRGIN STATUE



SANTA FE, N.M. — This image of the Virgin Mary, known as "La Conquistadora," or Our Lady of the Conquest, will be removed from the Cathedral of Santa Fe here in May and taken for an unprecedented tour of every parish in the archdiocese in honor of the Marian Year. The statue, first brought to Santa Fe in 1629 by the Franciscans, is believed to be the oldest image of Our Lady in any church of this country. (KNS Photo)

Catherine Of Siena

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

(Professor of Literature, Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y.) CATHERINE OF SIENA, by Sigrid Undset. Translated by Kate Austin-Lund, Sheed & Ward, 1954. \$3.50. 293 pp.

"If thy eye be single, thy whole body shall be lighted." This bright-eyed wraith of a saint saw Christ in her childhood, Christ crowned as Pope; in her youth and her first years as a Mantellate, Christ crucified and risen, her loving Spouse, was her daily and hourly teacher.

Her body became indeed lighted; she dominated over it, she punished its hard-driven reluctance by kissing leprous wounds, drinking leprous waters. And Christ gave her extraordinary powers, and re-created her heart, making it literally His own.

Is it any wonder that when the great and terrible days came of the Church's need, when evil infected the most highly placed, and despair and outrage swelled ordinary passions into tempest, and cities and states, not finding their pole star in the darkness, revolted from true Pope to false, this single-hearted Catherine saw and made others see the Mystical Christ?

SHE SAW NOT only the secrets of souls and the fates of peoples and countries in the Church, but she saw ever the triumphant and redeeming Blood of her Christ, the Church's whole treasure, of which the Pope, Christ-on-earth, was cellarer, she said.

Of the Precious Blood, she cries, "O heart, O cup which runs over and intoxicates and satisfies the desire of all love! You give joy, you throw light over reason, you fill our minds . . . O blood, O fire, love without end!"

Is it any wonder, either, that this great biography of a strong-willed, loving little Italian girl of the people, who was mother and sister of any needy man and "mamma" and "mammina" to the noble young lords of half a dozen cities, should have been written by that master re-creator of Catholic ages, Sigrid Undset?

WHO ELSE SO thoroughly understands womanly love as a sea through which a great current of sanctity may move to transform and transfigure the earthliness of the world? Who would have looked for so great a legacy from one who had spent her forces so prodigally?

Yet all Sigrid Undset's powers spelled success in this undertaking; she knows history, she knows womanhood, she knows the faithfulness of Christ. Our first pictures of the sanctified figure of a true prelude to the strange sight of Catherine on her knees beside a condemned innocent on the scaffold, receiving the severed head, won by her for Christ, into her beautiful hands.

SHE WHO SAW the allegiances and treacheries of family life medieval and modern can see most clearly the deviations and strengths of the family of Christ, and can word the great moment of the Pope's riding out of Avignon with his weeping French cardinals on the road to Rome, peered.

Party Committees Named To Aid Cenacle Sisters

Committees arranging for the fifth annual card party for the benefit of the Convent of the Religious of the Cenacle to be held on Thursday, April 22, at 8:30 p.m. at the Columbus Civic Center have been announced this week.

Honorary Chairman is His Excellency Bishop James E. Kearney. Mrs. William W. Winans, Jr. is Chairman and Mrs. Elmer O'Brien is Co-Chairman.

Mrs. Lewis J. Boyce is Chairman of the Patrons Committee and Mrs. Charles H. Renaud and Mrs. Frank Whalen are Co-Chairmen, assisted by the following Committee:

The Misses Ellen Ashe, Mary Ashe, Alma Cloney. THE MESDAMES Harry B. Crowley, H. Raymond Drysdale, E. Donald Durand, Donald F. Greenfield, Philip H. Goeltz, Stanley J. Lane, Leo F. LeFalm, Richard Mack, Edward J. Maheis, Ronald J. McDonald, Arthur B. O'Brien, Norman J. Pfaff, Frank M. Richardson, Carl E. Samuelson, Carl A. Trescott, Edward L. Zimmer.

Miss Josephine Kanty is Chairman of the Ticket Committee, and Miss Bessie Hector is Co-Chairman, assisted by the following Committee:

THE MESSES Margaret Lynch, Geraldine Moyan, Nora Hajjar, Rosalie Nesser, Miss Margaret Devereaux, Ruth Segerson, Marie Roulan, Elaine Kalb, Martha DeVons, Mary Pieuch, Frances Becker, Dorothy Keller, Joan Fitzgibbons, Kathleen O'Hara, Mary Wintish.

The Mesdames Joseph Bayers, Bertram Elmman, Louise Lynd, Marion Schenk, Marilyn Zimmer and John Matile.

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Fire Captain's Will Benefits Seminary

St. Bernard's Seminary is among beneficiaries named in the will of Clarence T. Mangan, 62 Kron St., retired captain of the Rochester Fire Bureau. The will was admitted to probate by Surrogate Michael L. Rogers.

Capt. Mangan retired 8 1/2 years ago. He died Feb. 18 at the age of 73. He made the will in St. Mary's Hospital three days before his death. He left realty valued at more than \$10,000 and personal property estimated at more than \$5,000. He was survived by no relatives.

The undetermined remainder of the estate, less debts and taxes, was willed to St. Bernard's Seminary. That gift is in memory of Capt. Mangan, his deceased first wife, Mrs. Justine Mangan, and his deceased second wife, Mrs. Edna L. Mangan.

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Public High School Graduation Slated In Catholic Hall

Meredith, N. H. — (NC) — The townsfolk here in Meredith finally settled the argument of where the public school graduation will be held in June. The auditorium of St. Charles' Catholic Church will be the scene of the exercises.

The argument started some weeks ago. After securing permission from the Catholic parish, members of the graduating class petitioned the school board for permission to hold the graduation there. The students' principal argument was that the Church auditorium was sufficiently spacious to accommodate all relatives and friends of the graduates.

In reply, the school board announced it had decided unanimously that the exercises would be held in the Town Hall, which cannot accommodate more than 300 persons.

The argument finally was carried to the townspeople. The pros and cons of the argument were explained at a town meeting, after which the townsfolk voted overwhelmingly to let the students have their way and hold the exercises in the Church auditorium.

Marriage Stability Cited In Spain

Madrid, Spain — (NC) — The stability of marriage in Catholic Spain was seen reflected here in reports for 1953 which showed that while 218,712 marriages took place that year, only 909 suits for annulment or separation were filed with ecclesiastical authorities.

The year 1952 is the latest for which figures are available. The statistics appeared in the new "Handbook of the Church in Spain," the first official Church yearbook to be published since before the Civil War and the most complete ever to have appeared.

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