Trailer Chapels Go To Refugees

Wuerzburg, Bavaria — (NC) — Fifteen trailer chapels, donated by Belgian Catholics, are now ready to tour German towns and villages where thousands of expellee and refugee Catholics live far from churches.

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Blind German Girl Joins Church In Italy

Assisi, Italy — (NC) — Many eyes were tear-dimmed here when a blind young woman, a convert from Lutheranism, was solemnly baptized in the Church of the Seraphic Institute for Deaf-Mutes and the Blind by Bishop Giuseppe Placido M. Nicolini of Assisi.

HIS EMINENCE Guiseppe Cardinal Siri, Archbishop of Genoa, was among priests and friends gathered to hear Dr. Marianne Wilke, a German-born university graduate who had come to Italy to study the language, renounce the religion in which she had been reared and to see the waters of Catholic baptism poured upon her head.

The young woman entered the church in the wake of a procession headed by a priest carrying a cross. Behind him walked Bishop Nicolini with an escort of other priests. She advanced to a kneeling stool on which a bouquet of flowers had been laid. Among those standing nearby was her mother, Eugenie Nieding, who claims not to believe "in anything."

When the Bishop demanded Marianne replied in a firm voice: "I ask for the Faith." what it was she sought, Dr. adjuring her former religion, the young woman bowed her head to receive baptism. Her godmother was Maria Morisi, a Catholic friend who had guided her initial steps toward the Church.

The ceremony over, Dr. Marianne left the church, to return at once. All rose to their feet as the new Catholic Christian advanced between her mother and godmother. The Bishop himself came forward to welcome her and to administer a second sacrament —Confirmation. Mass was then celebrated.

Special places were reserved in the church for members of the Institute for Deaf-Mutes and the Blind and for a large group of friends of the newly-baptized, among them a number of professors with whom she had become acquainted since coming to Italy.

Reds 'Gave' Yanks Free Electric Power In Korea

Indianapolis, Ind. — (NC) — Electric power produced by communists was supplied free to U.S. forces in Korea.

This odd fact was reported here by Father (Maj.) Joseph Casey, Air Force chaplain from Indianapolis who has just returned from the Far East.

Early in the war when U. S. forces did not have adequate power producing facilities, Father Casey related, they tapped transmission lines and used power generated by the Reds. "The Reds didn't dare pull the switch on us," he added. "They knew we'd bomb their dams and hydro-electric plants if they cut us off."

Later, the chaplain explained, the dams and plants were bombed, but not until after the U.S. had used Red power for many months without receiving an electric bill.

FATHER NILUS HUBBLE

Aquinas Graduate, Passionist Priest, Enters Navy Service

Dunkirk—The Rev. Nilus Hubble, C.P., of St. Mary's Monastery, left Dunkirk on March 24th to assume his duties as a Navy chaplain.

Father Nilus is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Earl Hubble of Hilton, N. Y. Before entering the Passionist order, he attended Hilton grammar school and Aquinas High School, Rochester, N. Y. He entered Holy Cross seminary in West Lake Road in September of 1940, and was professed as a Passionist in St. Paul's Monastery of Pittsburgh, Pa. on August 15, 1943.

Father Nilus persued his studies of philosophy and theology at St. Mary's monastery here from 1943 to 1945, and again from 1948 to 1949, and at the Passionist Monastery in Springfield, Mass. He was ordained to the priesthood at the Passionist Monastery in Jamaica, L. I., on June 2, 1950, and spent another year at the Springfield Monastery in the study of sacred eloquence.

Assigned to St. Joseph's Monastery, Baltimore, Md., in 1951, he did mission and retreat work, specializing in conferences with high school and college students. He has been stationed here at St. Mary's Monastery since August of last year.

Father Nilus volunteered for the service some months ago, and recently received his commission as Lieutenant junior grade. He will report to the Great Lakes Training Center, Ill., where he will take up temporary active duty at the naval hospital until May, when he will report to the naval school at Newport, R. I.

Many Red Front Meetings Planned For Free World

Lond, England — (NC) — Many Communist-sponsored international meetings have been scheduled throughout the free world for the next twelve months.

Soviet Orbit, an anti-communist weekly review published here notes none of the following are professedly communist, but all are of obvious Red inspiration:

April. An International Lawyers Congress to be held in Mexico City under the auspices of the International Association of Democratic Lawyers.

April 11-19. An International Student Chess Tournament in Oslo, Norway, arranged by the International Union of Students.

April 15-21. An International Architectural Students Conference in Rome, Italy, under the sponsorship of the International Union of Students.

July 3-7. An International Conference of Metal and Engineering Workers called by the World Federation of Trade Unionists.

August 1-11. An International Medical Students Seminar announced by the International Union of Students to be held in Oslo.

October. Central American and Caribbean Youth Festival to take place in Guatemala under the aegis of the World Federation of Democratic Youth. The same organization is sponsoring a South American—Youth and Student Festival at Santiago, Chile.

November. A World Peasant Youth Congress which is expected to be held in Jakarta, Indonesia.

February, 1955. Asian Student Games under the auspices of the International Union of Students, which may take place in Calcutta, India.

Among special communist-organized observances scheduled for the year are an International Children's Defense Day under the direction of the Women's International Democratic Federation; and an International Students' Day slated for November 17 under the same auspices. The Council of the I.U.S. will hold a meeting in Moscow at the end of August.

Host Parents Want German Youth Back

Washington — (NC) — The 79 American couples who acted as 'host parents' to German and Austrian teenagers during their year's schooling under the sponsorship of the National Catholic Welfare Conference have recommended "nearly unanimously" that the exchange program be continued.

In addition, all but five of the host families indicated they were so pleased with their experience that they would welcome a youngster for a year in their home if they had it to do all over again.

The German-Austrian high school project is part of the information program of the U. S. Department of State. Under it, a limited number of youngsters who have a good command of English and show exceptional leadership potentiality are selected for a year's schooling in America while living with representative American families.

The N.C.W.C. cooperates with the State Department in selecting the Catholic students. With the help of the National Council of Catholic Women, they are placed with Catholic families, and scholarships are secured for the visitors in Catholic schools wherever possible.

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Apostleship of Prayer

By REV. JAMES J. LYNCH, S.J.

The North Countries

During the month of April, the Holy Father asks all Associates of the League of the Sacred Heart to unite their prayers with his for the Church in Scandinavia, Iceland and Finland.

Scandinavia includes the three kingdoms of Denmark, Norway and Sweden. These countries together with the two republics of Iceland and Finland are the one section of Western Europe which is still considered mission territory by the Church.

BEFORE THE TIME of Lutheranism, the Church was most flourishing there. St. Willibrord was the first to evangelize Denmark in the early eighth century. The greatest and most successful apostle to that land was St. Ansgarius more than a hundred years later, and he also made missionary excursions into Sweden.

Englishmen preached the Faith to the Norwegians, and they in turn converted Iceland in the tenth century. Finland received the Gospel from Russia, and Catholicism there received the great impulse in the twelfth century under the influence of Swedes, though they were invaders. The fifteenth century was the golden age of the Church in Finland. It was Sweden, again, who in the sixteenth century, destroyed the Church in Finland, forcing Lutheranism upon the people.

IN DENMARK, the eleventh century was the great age of the Church. King Canute the Great encouraged his subjects to be good Catholics, and his nephew, St. Canute, who followed him on the throne died in defense of the Faith. In the sixteenth century, King Christian III and his kingdom turned Lutheran as a result of German influence, and the King did everything he could do to destroy the Church also in Norway and Iceland.

The great names in the history of the Church in Norway are King Haakon the Good, a tenth-century monarch, and St. Olaf II, who ruled during the earlier part of the eleventh century. In the sixteenth century, Norway and Denmark were ruled by one king, and Catholics suffered persecution until the end of the eighteenth century.

In the year 1000, Catholicism was the official religion of Iceland. In the sixteenth century, the same Christian III sent his soldiers to impose Lutheranism by force.

IN SWEDEN, the homeland of St. Bridget, it was King Gustave I who forced Lutheranism on the people and, when his daughter Christiana, who succeeded him was converted to Catholicism, she was forced to abdicate and go into exile.

Since the end of the eighteenth century there has been religious quiet in Scandinavia, but the situation of the Church has not improved in any other way.

Among the four million people of Denmark, there are only about 25,000 Catholics; among the three million people of Norway, there are only 5,000 Catholics; among the seven million of Sweden, 18,000; among the four million of Finland, 2,000; among the 145,000 of Iceland, 500; so that in the entire region, inhabited by nineteen million people, there are only 51,000 Catholics, which is about one quarter of one per cent of the population.

THERE MAY seem to be little hope of bettering the situation in the immediate future. Norway, for instance, still has a law forbidding Jesuits to enter the country. But Norway is one of the countries that has ratified the European Human Rights Covention. Mr. Caspersen, Secretary General of the Norwegian Division of the World Federalist Movement, admitted to an editor of **America** that there was a grave inconsistency between Norway's adherence to the Covenant and its treatment of the Jesuits. And a prominent Norwegian journalist wrote a long editorial on Norway's "McCarran Law" against the Jesuits. The king, the government and six of the country's seven Lutheran bishops favor a change in the law.

These are more than faint indications of the dawn of better day for the Church in Scandinavia.

DIOCESE DEDICATED TO MARY

Some 12,000 priests, religious, nuns and laity assembled in Milwaukee's Civic Arena for the first evening Mass there when the Archdiocese of Milwaukee was formally dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary. A 20-foot statue of the Blessed Mother, flood-lighted in blue rose, surmounted the altar. Archbishop Albert G. Meyer preached the dedicatory sermon.

'IN GOD WE TRUST' STAMP

In an unprecedented televised radio program the United States Postoffice Department introduced the nation's first regular stamp bearing a religious tone. The new 3-cent Statue of Liberty stamp, with the inscription "In God We Trust," was hailed on a program which featured President Eisenhower, Secretary of State Dulles, Postmaster General Summerfield and leaders among the nation's three largest religious groups. Shown from left are His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Mr. Dulles, President Eisenhower and Mr. Summerfield.

Research Grant

Brooklyn, N. Y. — (NC) — The National Institute of Arthritis and Metabolic Diseases has awarded a $9,190 grant to Dr. John Bairrdi, St. John's University scientist for study of the blood disease which Cardinal Stepinac is suffering in Yugoslavia.

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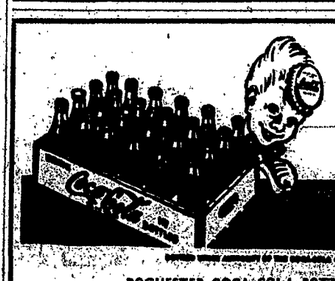
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