

## Cardinal Costantini

### Scores 'Horrors' In Sacred Art; 'Offense To Piety'

Vatican City — (NC) — The Church does not oppose the modernization of art, but it insists that modern art be worthy of the House of God. It cannot tolerate "artistic" monstrosities inspired by a "mania for modernity" and calculated to offend the piety of the faithful.

This was the theme of an article by His Eminence Celso Cardinal Costantini, an authority on sacred art, which appeared in *Fede e Arte* (Faith and Art), an international magazine devoted to sacred art and published in Vatican City.

Cardinal Costantini scored the penetration into churches of "the figurative blasphemy of a certain type of modern art."

He defined "figurative blasphemy" as misshapen and deformed pictures, statues and other art objects which wrongfully claim a sacred character. While his article was illustrated with several reproductions of what he called "pictorial horrors," he explained that many of these works were so revolting that they could not be reproduced.

Cardinal Costantini declared that the deformation of sacred art is one of the means being used by the enemies of the Church — Communists especially — to make the Catholic religion seem ridiculous.

"Today, unfortunately," he wrote, "we are witnessing a new anti-Catholic offensive through a deformation and degradation of subjects submitted to the veneration of the faithful. An attempt is being made to render Catholic worship ridiculous."

"The Communist doctrine is not so much a heresy as an apostasy from Christianity. It is the negation of the supernatural concept of life, a revolt not against Christianity, but against all religious forms. . . . The Communist strife is waged by means of the press, politics, the motion picture, and schools, that have fallen under Moscow's totalitarianism. We must not be surprised, therefore, if Communism makes use also of the field of art and attempts to desecrate Catholic iconography and render it repugnant and ridiculous."

Scoring some artists who have presented the Crucified Christ in a debased, almost brutal appearance, Cardinal Costantini added

that others have been guilty of sacrilegious affronts also to the Virgin and the saints.

Cardinal Costantini declared that many artists, as well as various priest and religious, have a craving for modernity and believe they can justify new artistic trends which others have severely criticized.

"The Church," he said, "is not against modernity — rather it wishes it, because the Church is a living organization. However, it wishes a reasonable modernity, not a return to archaic primitivism, or the infantilism of primitive peoples, or to the cave-like and cliff-like sketching of the times of the origin of the human race."

"The Church," Cardinal Costantini added, "desires a worthy and decent modernity, but not a barbaric stammering in place of a human language."

The Cardinal was referring here particularly to non-figurative, or abstract, art. He said that such art has fallen even by strictly esthetic standards, and cannot be admitted into churches, where Christians are entitled to find representations easy to understand and apt to foster their religious devotion.

### Crowds Visit German Stigmatic

Konnersreuth, Germany — (NC) — Good Friday again saw hundreds of visitors flocking to this Bavarian village to see Therese Neumann, world-famed 57-year-old stigmatic.

The visitors came despite an appeal to refrain from visiting the stigmatic, who was reported to have recovered from a recent illness but to be still in need of rest and quiet.

Therese Neumann has bled almost every Friday since the middle of the 1920s from wounds similar to those inflicted on Christ during His Passion.

## Cardinal Grooms New Auxiliary



New York — Monsignor Joseph M. Pernicone, pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel Church, the Bronx (right), was congratulated by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, at his residence here, after being named Titular Bishop of Hadrianopolis in Asia Minor and Auxiliary to the Cardinal. A native of Regalbuto, Italy, Msgr. Pernicone, 56, is the first Italian-born Bishop in the New York Archdiocese. After entering this country in 1920, he attended Cathedral College, New York, and St. Joseph's Seminary, Yonkers, N. Y. He was ordained in 1926, and after serving various parishes, became pastor of Our Lady of Mount Carmel. He was named a Papal Chamberlain in 1945 and a Domestic Prelate in 1952. Bishop-elect Pernicone will be consecrated by Cardinal Spellman in St. Patrick's Cathedral on May 5. (BNS Photo).

### Cardinal Stritch Backs Polish Aid Drive, May 2

Chicago — (NC) — His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, has appealed to other American Bishops in behalf of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland, which he said is aiding in the spiritual care of Poles in exile "in a way which is imperative."

IN A LETTER to 57 Archbishops, and bishops whose Sees include sizable numbers of Catholics of Polish descent, the Cardinal declared: "It would be hard to contemplate what would happen if this organization were to cease to function."

"The league differs from other relief organizations in that it centers its efforts on religious assistance, according to the prelate, continuing to send 'very

much needed' religious supplies into Poland, and helping 'very substantially' to maintain the two Polish seminaries in Rome and the one in Paris."

"Archbishop Joseph Gawlina, the Protector of the Poles in exile scattered over a wide area, is devoting himself zealously and energetically to helping provide for their spiritual needs," he said. "Without the aid which the league gives him he would not be able to carry on this work."

### Former Anglican Takes First Vows As Catholic Nun

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — A former Anglican nun took first vows in a profession ceremony in the chapel of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary's Queen of the Missions convent here.

The former Anglican nun is Sister Mary Gwen, the former Miss Gwen Shaw of London, England, who was a member of the Anglican community of the Sisters of the Cross, engaged in missionary work in the South Solomon Islands.

## Church Wins Right To Build School

Pleasantville, N. Y. — (BNS) — The Village Board of Pleasantville voted not to adopt an amendment to its zoning regulations which would have prevented construction of a new Catholic parochial school building here opposed by some of the town's residents.

The board's action cleared the way for St. Thomas school of Holy Innocents church to proceed with its plans to build a new modern structure for 350 pupils on a one-and-a-half-acre site purchased last May.

A petition that the area be rezoned to exclude the new building was filed by 142 villagers who urged a zoning law amendment requiring that a school possess at least one acre for each 100 pupils.

At a public hearing on the petition, a counter-petition in support of the church and school, signed by 1,200 persons, was presented to the Village Board.

Earlier, the Pleasantville Journal, weekly newspaper, declared editorially that it would be "a completely unethical procedure for the Village Board at this point to amend the zoning ordinance in any way that would block construction of a new parochial school."

In March, Auxiliary Bishop Edward V. Dargin, vicar general of the New York archdiocese, told the town officials that the archdiocese would close down the outgrown St. Thomas school and compel the community to educate the pupils if the plans for the new building were defeated. He said then that the new site was adequate and conformed with all current zoning regulations.

### Vatican Receives Panama Ambassador

Vatican City — (NC) — Panama's first Ambassador to the Holy See, Enrique Ismael Boyd, has begun his work here.

Because of the Pope's illness, the Ambassador could not present his credentials to the Pontiff, but he called on the Vatican Pro-Secretaries of State, Msgrs. Giovanni B. Montini and Domenico Tardini.

The Panamanian mission to the Vatican was raised from the rank of a legation to an embassy on April 6. Canadian-born Archbishop Paul Bernier is serving as Papal Nuncio to Panama.

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## U. S. Losing Cold War On Japan Movie Front

Tokyo — (NC) — America is "slowly losing the cold war on the moving picture front" in Japan, according to Richard L. G. Deverall. He is Asian representative of the Free

Trade Union Committee of the American Federation of Labor, and has offices in Tokyo.

Mr. Deverall expressed this view after witnessing the premiere showing of a new anti-American movie entitled, "Kyo-en" (Mad Feast), which attacks the morals of American GIs. He called the film "one of the most brilliant attacks on alleged subversive American influence in Japan yet produced in this country."

THE AFL MAN said the movie was one of two highlighting the cold war problem which were first shown to the Japanese during April. The other, he stated, was the Warner Brothers release of the recent H-bomb detonations in the Pacific which "illustrated the tremendous destructive, physical power possessed by the Americans."

Mr. Deverall has previously warned about other violently anti-American movies made by left-wing producers. However, he classified the new film as "the most powerful anti-American movie produced so far in Japan."

"This new film," he said, "tears at the heart of the American people and their GI boy friends; money-hungry Japanese cabaret owners who will sell their souls to the Americans to garner dollars; drug addiction; GI sex promiscuity; and the depiction of the American impact on Japanese as leading to the utter destruction of ancient Japanese culture, the degradation of Japanese morals, and the debasement of Japanese women."

"THIS MOVIE," Mr. Deverall added, "is being distributed by North Star Film Distributors — also official outlet in Japan for Soviet Films. The director is well-known as a leftist and skilled anti-American. And this new anti-American movie, like many of those produced last year, will go to Peking for Chinese soundtracking. Even now the Japanese-produced anti-U. S. movies are being shown in China to prove to the Chinese people why they must 'liberate' Japan from the Americans, who, as pictured, are all sex maniacs."

H-bomb movies can in no way compare with anti-American movies such as "Kyo-en." Mr. Deverall commented. He said the

U. S. material is "secularistic, materialistic," while the leftist Japanese material "has an appeal to the spiritual, the moral, and the sentimental which has not yet been matched by the U. S."

"That is why we are losing the movie cold war," he added. MR. DEVERALL said that not only are American GIs shown in the new film "in the most revolting scenes," but "enormous amounts of American equipment were seemingly used by the pro-Chinese producers." He asked: "Can the Department of Defense explain how Americans and American equipment in Japan are used to cut America's throat in the Far East?"

Last year, Mr. Deverall published a 430-page book in Tokyo, "The Great Seduction," which gave a documented report of the way in which the communists are using bad sex conduct on the part of GIs in their anti-American propaganda.

### Catholics Plan Dallas University

Dallas — (NC) — A diocesan-wide campaign was launched here today for \$2,000,000 with which to establish the University of Dallas.

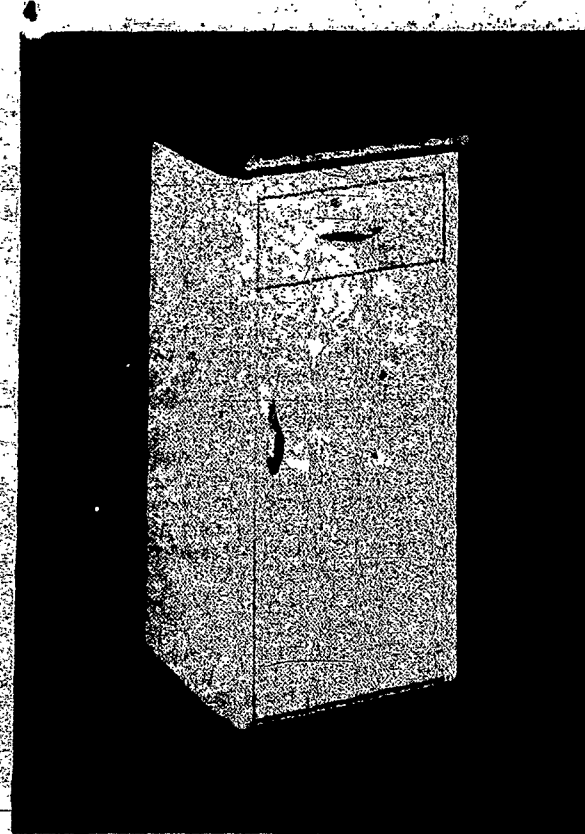
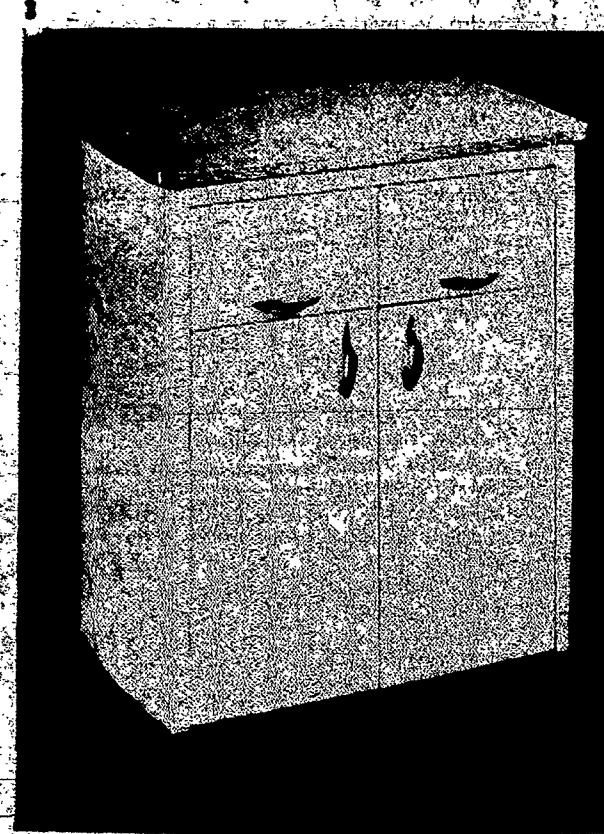
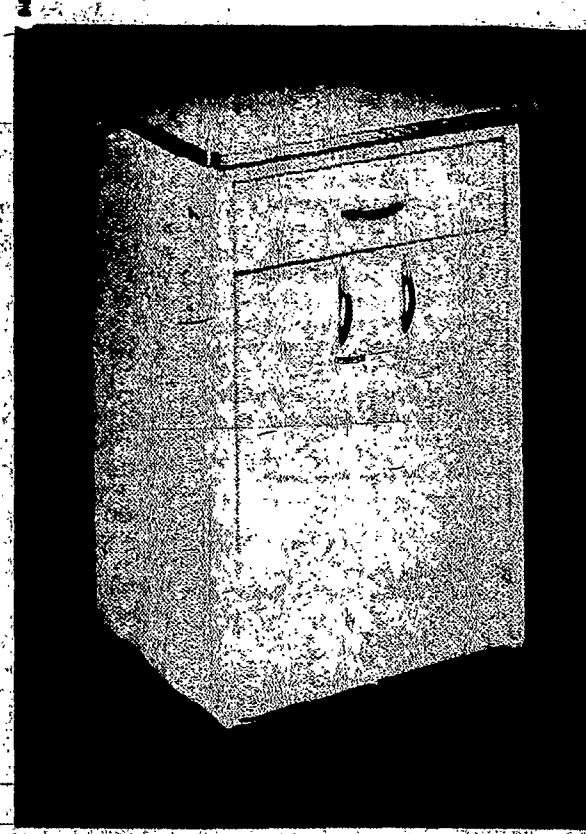
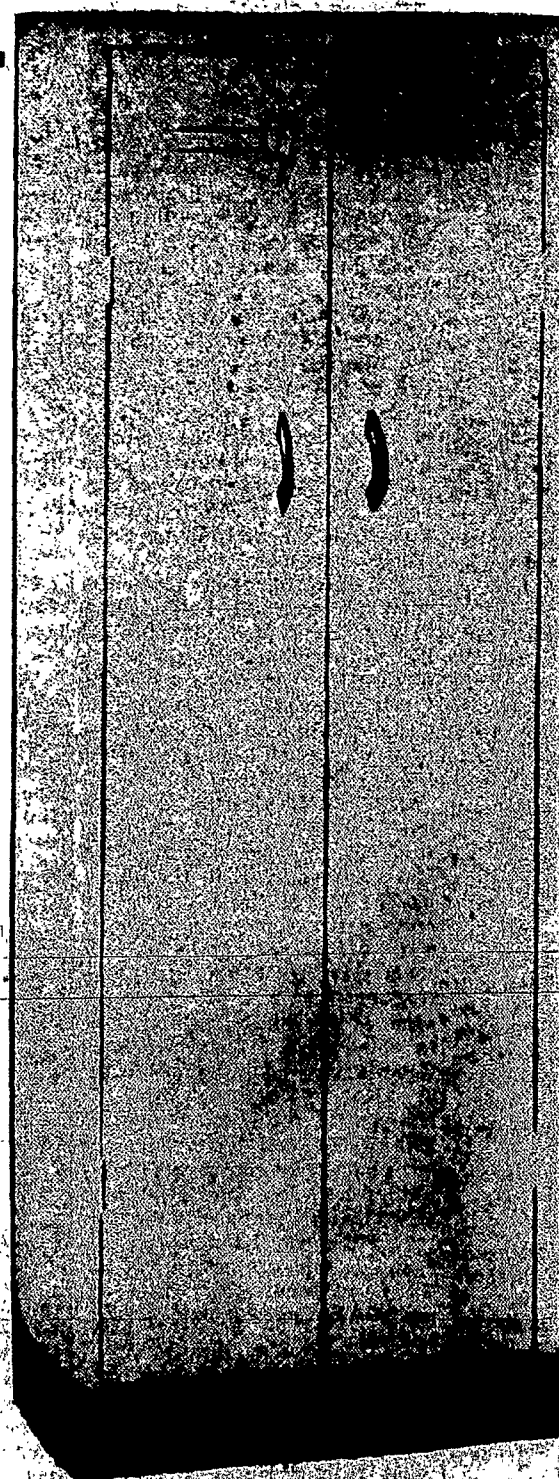
Coadjutor Bishop Thomas K. Gorman of Dallas-Fort Worth, honorary chairman of the campaign, said the university "will benefit every Catholic in the diocese."

The University of Dallas will be under the sponsorship of the Sisters of St. Mary of Namur who have conducted schools in this diocese for more than 80 years. It will provide facilities for the higher education of Catholic young men and women, and will make it possible for more nuns to receive teachers' certificates and degrees sooner, thus helping to relieve a critical shortage of teachers facing parochial schools.

Chicago Feature — More than 1,700,000 persons assembled at Masses in Churches of the Chicago archdiocese on Easter Sunday. It was estimated here, it compares with an estimated at least 1,400,000 received Holy Communion at the Masses.

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