

Religious Vocation 'Gimmicks' Scored

Chicago — (NC) — Elementary school sisters were advised to toss "gimmicks" for gaining vocations into the waste basket and to concentrate on teaching a sense of vocation to Catholic youngsters "simply, but straight."

Many vocation gatherings sponsored by religious to stimulate interest in vocations, particularly for girls, are "pious style shows," Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester told Sisters attending the National Catholic Educational Association Convention here.

Speaking to 3,500 teaching nuns, the Bishop criticized as "superficial and unlikely to attract vocations worth having in religious life" literature which concentrates on attractions of religious life — "handball, picnics and what else not" — which "have nothing to do with the case."

"Any young men or young women likely to be attracted to the religious life by the whimsicality of a nun's habit or dramatic flair of a monk's habit is unlikely to be worth much as a religious," Bishop Wright said.

"Our boys and girls are not only more sophisticated but also more idealistic than these advertising techniques give them credit for being," he said.

The prelate urged the Sisters, especially during the Marian Year, to urge meditation on the Blessed Mother as a powerful means of instilling a strong sense of vocation in all youth. He particularly urged them to purge their Marian Year instructions of all "irrelevant legends," and asked that the theology concerning the Blessed Mother be given the children "simply, but straight, from the very beginning of education." He said pious legends about Mary "do her scant credit and souls little

Cardinal's Stamps Exhibited in Manila

Manila — (NC) — The famous "Religion and Poetry on Stamps" collection of His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, was included among exhibits at the international stamp exhibition here. The Cardinal's collection has won awards at several international stamp exhibitions in the past.

Youth Cleanup Newsstands In Syracuse

Syracuse, N. Y. — (NC) — Catholic youth in this central New York city is quietly on the move in a war against indecent literature.

Seventy boys and girls, working in teams of two under the direction of six priests, have been canvassing selling points of indecent comic books, pocket editions, digest-type novels and magazines, asking proprietors if they will allow them to bundle the objectionable publications for return to distributors. The youngsters are equipped with lists of condemned periodicals.

A large number of 30 stores in the city's north side, starting point of the drive, agreed to cooperate. They will receive plaques to display their cooperation. Those who don't go along with the idea will be approached again. In all instances, the youngsters are instructed to "appeal but never argue."

The drive got underway quietly about two months ago and has snowballed to the point where two parishes in other parts of the city have formulated similar programs. A similar campaign has been carried on since December in Oswego by the Legion of Mary and another drive in Canastota is being conducted by a children of Mary committee.

THE PROGRAM, carried out here as a voluntary Catholic youth project and conducted without fanfare, "has been inspiring," according to the six priest-directors.

Father Frank L. Sammons, assistant diocesan Catholic Youth Organization director, said: "One of the most gratifying elements of the drive is the fact that here we have a major offensive against juvenile delinquency being conducted by youth itself."

Restaurant Head Assists Hospital

Stamford, Conn. — (NC) — A \$75,000 gift has been made to the St. Joseph Hospital Building Fund here by Thomas E. Saxe Jr., head of the White Tower restaurant chain. A member of St. Aloysius parish in nearby New Canaan, Mr. Saxe gave the sum for an auditorium in the hospital.



FATHER JULIUS BUSSE, Passionist priest of Detroit, Mich., and former Army chaplain, whose life was despaired of a few months ago, but made remarkable improvement that "cannot be explained by physicians. When death seemed imminent, Father Busse, was quoted from his hospital bed as saying, "I welcome death, I consider it a privilege to die of cancer." The Passionist priest is now eating solid foods for the first time since November.

Cancer Doomed Priest Reported Better, Father Lord Arranges For Cobalt Cure

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

A marked improvement has been noted in the condition of one priest whose physicians just days ago said he was at the brink of death from cancer, while another priest cancer victim has disclosed he will undergo cobalt radiation treatments next month.

Father Julius Busse, a Passionist and former Army chaplain, in Mercy Hospital at Parsons, Kans., with abdominal cancer, has shown such improvement that he has been allowed solid foods, including steaks, for the first time since November. Father Busse has been fed intravenously in recent months.

And in St. Louis, Mo., Father Daniel A. Lord, S.J., author, lecturer, newspaper columnist, radio personality and playwright, stricken with cancer of the lungs, announced he will take cobalt radiation treatment in Toronto, Canada, next month.

SOME MONTHS ago, Father Busse won the heart of the nation. Told by his physicians that he was the victim of incurable cancer with only a short time to

live, Father Busse in an interview read all over the country said: "I consider it a privilege to die of cancer. It gives me time to prepare for death. It is God's will."

Since that time, Father Busse has been deluged with mail from well-wishers. Among those who extolled the priest's resignation to the will of God and pledged to remember him in their prayers was His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

There has been little change in the condition of 65-year-old Father Lord since he was told, about two months ago, that there was scant hope for a cure of cancer that has attacked his lungs. At the time he was told, Father Lord expressed his

thanks to God that he would be able to continue with his work. Nor has he curtailed any of his activities.

THEN CAME A sudden change.

'Romish' Practices Banned From Anglican Parish

(N.C.W.C. News Service)

London — (NC) — The confusion sometimes created in the Church of England (Anglican) because of conflicts between "high church" and "low church" elements is illustrated in a case involving the vicar of St. Mary's Anglican church at Tyne Dock, near South Shields, in the north of England.

The vicar has been officially forbidden by a special court of the Anglican diocese of Durham to install a statue of Our Lady in his church. He was ordered to remove a tabernacle, a ciborium, a sanctuary bell, some candleholders and a crucifix from his church.

THIS REPRESENTS a partial victory for a low church "puritan" group led by a Miss Margaret Whitton who are opposed to what they regard as "Romish" superstitious practices. They argued before the court that the statue of the Virgin might become an object of adoration or worship, particularly as the vicar, the Rev. Richard L. Hilditch, had taught the children to say the "Hail Mary."

In their zeal, the puritans wanted to strip the church of almost everything. They named thirty "Romish" articles they wanted removed. However, the court refused to go to the limit they demanded.

The court allowed the vicar to retain five crucifixes, six candleholders, and incense, even though

the latter two were "technically illegal." The court also permitted the church to retain the practice of the Stations of the Cross, and the use of a "confessional." Evidence was submitted that "confessionals" are not compulsory at St. Mary's, and meanwhile the vicar undertook to stop reciting the Hail Mary.

THE COURT ruled, however, that the tabernacle and the ciborium were illegal ornaments which could not be retained, even though the Bishop had sanctioned them. On the other hand, the court decided that as various authorities, including the Bishop, has sanctioned reservation of "the sacrament," this vicar could retain the sumby, a small cupboard used for reservation before the tabernacle was installed in 1947.

The case cannot yet be written off as closed. Both the vicar and his puritan parishioners have decided to appeal the court's decision. The battle thus continues between the two groups in Tyne Dock — one which stresses the "Catholicism" of the Anglican Church, and the other which emphasizes the church's place among the reformed Protestant bodies.

Children's Peace Prayer

Paris — (NC) — Pope Pius XII has composed a special prayer for the worldwide Children's Day of Prayer for Peace which will be observed on Sunday, May 23.

THE POPE'S PRAYER FOLLOWS:

Dear Jesus, You were once a child like us, and we are told that You loved to have little children around You. And so we, the children of all nations of the world, come now to offer You our thanks and to raise to You our prayer for peace.

You wish to be with us at all times and in every place. Make of our hearts Your dwelling, Your altar and Your throne. Grant that we may all become one great family, united under Your protection and in Your love. Keep far from everyone, young and old, selfish thoughts and deeds, which separate the sons of Our Father in Heaven from one another and from You. Let Your grace be for all a shield against Your enemies and those of Your Father. Forgive them, Lord, for they know not what they do. If men, by Your help, love one another, there will be true peace in the world, and we children shall be able to live free from the fears of the horrors of a new war.

We beg Your Immaculate Mother Mary, who is also our Mother, to offer You this prayer of ours for peace, for that surely You will grant our petition. Thank you, dear Jesus.

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