

Closer Diplomatic Ties Hinted For Vatican, Britain

London, England — (NC) — Possibility of closer and stronger ties between Great Britain and the Vatican was seen here by England's most influential daily newspaper following the appointment of an American prelate as Apostolic Delegate in London.

Named to the post was Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Bishop of Savannah-Atlanta, who had served from November, 1951, as Apostolic Delegate to Ireland and previously held the post of agent of the papal nunciature in Rumania. He succeeded English-born Archbishop William Godfrey, who was made Archbishop of Liverpool last November.

SAID THE LONDON TIMES — The appointment of other than an Englishman is regarded as a step toward the establishment of diplomatic ties, balancing the presence of a British Minister in Vatican City.

The Universal Catholic weekly published in London, commented meanwhile that "if any moves are going on behind the scenes to raise the Apostolic Delegation to diplomatic status, the appointment of Archbishop O'Hara, an American, is a step in the right direction."

(Unlike a papal nuncio who is a fully accredited diplomat from the Vatican to a civil government, an apostolic delegate has no regular diplomatic status, his duties being purely ecclesiastical.)

"The difficulty of a British subject holding diplomatic rank in this country is obvious," the Universal said. "An American not only disposes of that, but has the advantage of a nationality that will, perhaps better than most, commend itself to the government. It is not usual for a subject to step down in rank. There are grounds, therefore, for interpreting Archbishop O'Hara's appointment as an arrangement to facilitate a change of status in the Holy See's representation here."

THE UNIVERSAL stated that for some decades the Holy See has been faced with the increasing situation of having a British envoy accredited to her while she is denied the same facilities.

This state of affairs, the Catholic weekly added, has been even more anomalous from the fact that though deprived of the rank of Nuncio, Archbishop Godfrey fulfilled in

the eyes of Whitehall, many of the duties of an accredited diplomat. As such he was certainly held by the diplomats of Latin American countries accustomed to the tradition of having the Holy See's representative as the doyen of their corps. Not only justice, but practical goodwill reigned in the ante-room until the British government repairs the situation.

Reds Require 'Bathing Permits'

Berlin — (NC) — The ever tightening police control exercised over all citizens in Poland is underscored in a report reaching here from that communist-dominated country.

The report states that it is impossible to leave without filling out different forms and obtaining police permission. To journey from one town to another a citizen must obtain police authorization. To purchase a drug he must get the confirmation of several commissions.

Even bathing at swimming pools is controlled. The country's rivers and lakes have been placed under police supervision, the report says. In Warsaw and in the suburban localities it is forbidden to go bathing without a permit issued by a special "river commission."

Gloucester Fishing Fleet Blessed

Gloucester, Mass. — (NC) — The fishing fleet of Gloucester assembled at the state pier in this picturesque town to invoke the blessing of the Virgin Mary in a colorful religious ceremony.

Each vessel was decked out in an attractive display of flags and emblems as Mgr. Stephen E. DeMonte, aided by the protection of the Mother of God.

The statue of Our Lady of Good Voyage and the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, each mounted in a traditional Gloucester dory bedecked with flowers, formed the central theme of the procession which followed a Solemn High Mass.

Women In Unique Mission Group



Kerak, Jordan — Women of the International Catholic Auxiliaries doing mission work here are shown with a jeep received from the Catholic Near East Welfare Association in New York. The vehicle will be used in visiting their mission stations along the Jordan desert. Founded by a Belgian missionary in China in 1939, the Catholic Auxiliaries is one of the most unusual missionary societies in the Catholic Church. Although pledged to a life of poverty, celibacy and obedience, the women have no habit and dress in clothes of their own choosing. The Auxiliaries live a community life but their views are not canonical. The first American women to join the Auxiliaries took their solemn oath of affiliation at a ceremony in Chicago on June 24. Bishop Raymond A. Law, Superior of the Maryland Fathers, officiated.

Cancer Victim

Father Lord Explains Cheerful Philosophy

DETROIT — (NS) — The Rev. Daniel A. Lord, 64-year-old Jesuit priest-author and lecturer who is incurably ill of lung cancer, explains his cheerful philosophy towards impending death to an answering faith in a more abundant after-life.

Appearing over station WJZ here with Moderator George Cushing, Father Lord said that when he read the word of incurable cancer nearly the year ago, "I must admit that I got the feeling of relief."

15-To-1 Odds

Non-Catholic Girl Lost Bel, Now She's Franciscan Nun

CONCEPTION, Mo. — (NC) — You might say that the loss of a beloved Sister Mary Anne to join the School Sisters of St. Francis of Chillicothe, Mo. — but that would be only a part of the story.

Father Dominic Lavan, O.S.B., recalled that not many years ago he came upon a young woman college student kneeling and sobbing in the immaculate Conception basilica. As he began comforting her, she explained that she was making a retreat out of curiosity and because she had made a bet in which she had given odds of 15-to-1.

"She had been married a long time, the girl went on, and had heard of Catholics making retreats. She decided to make one out of curiosity. One of her college teachers warned her that a few years before a fellow teacher had made a retreat and a short time later became a Catholic. The girl said that she bet the professor 15-to-1 she wouldn't be impressed by the retreat.

"And here this retreat last ever yet and I want to lose that bet," Father Lavan said the girl told him. The girl was Dorothy Hill. Less than six months after she made the retreat, she was received into the Catholic Church and within another year entered the Sisterhood.

Moscow Frees French Priest, Held 9 Years

Paris — (NC) — Father Joseph Nicholas, French Assumptionist released after 9 years of imprisonment in Russia, is expected to arrive here soon from Moscow.

Father Nicholas was arrested in 1945 by the Soviets after their capture of Odessa, where he was trying to revive one of that city's three Catholic parishes. Tried on trumped up charges of spying, he was sentenced to eight years of forced labor. He was released from a concentration camp in Russia's far north last year after the expiration of his term, but was then forced to spend an additional year in "cable residence."

THE ODESSA parish, Father Nicholas was trying to revive in 1945 had been closed by the Reds in 1938 in spite of the fact that it had enough members to function legally according to Soviet laws. Strong pressure was brought to bear to close the church, along with two others, soon after the election of the Orthodox Patriarch Alexei of Moscow.

During his imprisonment in Russia numerous attempts were made through the French Embassy to obtain information on Father Nicholas' whereabouts and health, all of which were unsuccessful.

Father Nicholas, a native of France, adopted the Byzantine Rite after his ordination and became a recognized authority on matters pertaining to that rite. Before going to Russia, the 52-year-old priest had taught for more than 20 years at a high school in Rumania.

Former Soldier Named Archbishop

Paris — (NC) — World War II captain in the French Infantry has been named Archbishop of Besancon to succeed the late Archbishop Maurice Dubourg.

The appointment goes to Bishop Marcel Dubois of Rodez, 58, who served as a foot soldier in both World Wars and rose to the rank of a captain in World War II.

Pope To Proclaim Church Feast Of 'Queenship Of Mary'

Vatican City — (NC) — A liturgical feast of the Queenship of Mary Most Holy will be proclaimed by Pope Pius XII on November 1, according to an announcement by the Vatican press office. The proclamation will coincide with the fourth anniversary of the Holy Father's infallible definition of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin.

THE ANNOUNCEMENT made it clear that the forthcoming proclamation involves only the establishment of a liturgical feast honoring the Queenship of the Mother of God. The proclamation of a feast is not the same as the proclamation of a dogma of faith, though the former may well lead to the latter. It is recalled that the Assumption of Mary was observed as a universal feast of the Church long before this truth was defined as a dogma of faith.

Some reports have said that the new feast of Mary's Queenship will be set for May 1, but there is no confirmation of this. The Vatican press announcement recalled that the inclusion of a new liturgical feast in honor of Mary's Queenship in the Marian cycle was requested in a petition submitted to Pope Pius XII by the Mariological Congress held at Rome during the Holy Year of 1950.

Also recalled was the fact that a Marian Congress held at Rome in 1904 concluded with the crowning of a statue of the Madonna by St. Pius X, who placed an ornament of ten diamond-studded stars on the head of the image.

THE PRESS office release said that the Virgin Mary's liturgical title of Queen of Heaven indicates her functions in, and relations with the Mystical Body and the universe. It said that the Fathers of the Church, the liturgy, and the magisterium, or divinely appointed teaching authority of the Church, all attribute this prerogative to Mary.

The liturgical feast of the Queenship of Mary will be proclaimed on the day on which an International Marian Congress

Peru Stamp Aids Eucharistic Congress

Lima, Peru — (NC) — Between now and next December, all letters and parcels mailed in Peru must carry an extra stamp to help finance the National Eucharistic Congress scheduled to take place here at the end of the year.

The stamp, approved by the Peruvian parliament, shows the coat-of-arms of the Congress and is valued at five Peruvian cents, or a quarter of a United States cent. For those who wish to volunteer bigger donations, other commemorative stamps have been issued, ranging in value from the equivalent of a half to two and one-half U.S. cents.

Fatima Convent Solemnly Enclosed

Fatima, Portugal — (NC) — A new convent of the Dominican Perpetual Rosary nuns was solemnly enclosed here by His Eminence Frederic Cardinal Teleschini, Cardinal Protector of the Dominican Order.

The convent, which was named after His Holiness Pope Pius XII, was founded by Mother Louis Bertrand, and houses nine other nuns, the majority of whom are Americans. Enclosure involves setting aside part of a convent which previously may not have except under extraordinary circumstances, and which, no others, with certain exceptions, may enter.

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