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# THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

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## Nun Manages 'Midget' Leaguers



New York—Sister Mary Roberts, a grammar school teacher and manager of the Madonna House C.Y.O. midget league, coaches her boys from the dugout during the "world series" of the New York C.Y.O. midget league on the campus of Fordham University here. Despite Sister Mary's coaching, her team lost 4 to 1, to the St. Joseph's C.Y.O. boys from Staten Island, for the Archdiocesan midget baseball championship. Sister Mary, who coached her boys in eight games during the season with only one defeat, is believed to be the only nun in the baseball managerial ranks. (EIS Photo)

## Church, School Construction Still Up

Washington—(NC)—Expenditures for new church and private school construction continued to rise in July, hitting an all-time monthly high and setting a new record for the January-July period, according to figures released here by the Department of Commerce and Labor.

DOLLAR VALUE of new church building in July amounted to \$51,000,000, up 28 per cent from July, 1953. Total cost for the year's first seven months were \$302,000,000, an increase of 22 per cent over the same period of 1953.

Private school construction also cost \$51,000,000 during July, making the total 1954 expenditure to date \$238,000,000, a rise of 31 per cent over January-July of 1953. Between the same two periods expenditures for public school building increased 19 per cent to \$1,146,000,000.

AS TOTAL new construction costs throughout the United States hit a record-breaking \$20,135,000,000 during January-July, both church and private school building were among the types of construction showing greatest increases over previous years.

## Lourdes Elevator Accident Known As 'Double Miracle'

Washington—(NC)—The most famous man at Lourdes, France, these days is Father Frederick Koch, former editor of the North Carolina Catholic, a returning pilgrim reported here.

Everyone in Lourdes knows about the American priest and "the miracle of the elevator," according to Dale Francis, director of the Bureau of Information, National Catholic Welfare Conference, who recently talked with Father Koch in a Lourdes retreat house.

Father Koch was rescued from an elevator accident by Archbishop Edwin V. O'Hara, Bishop of Kansas City. According to the Bishop of Lourdes, "This young man should be dead. His head should have been chopped off like a guillotine."

MR. FRANCIS described the event like this:

"It was in the Hotel Excelsior (at Lourdes) and in the stairwell an elevator had been installed as an afterthought. . . There was no screen, just the ordinary iron railing.

"Father Koch was hurrying up that winding stairway, leading his pilgrimage group. He looked up the elevator shaft to see if the elevator was coming. . . It came down, crushing his head and neck against the iron rail grill work. The elevator, carrying passengers, was jammed by the impact and Father Koch's head was between the loaded elevator and the iron rail.

"He was conscious only for a second. Then he sank into the darkness of unconsciousness. Archbishop O'Hara was quick-witted enough and miraculously strong. With his bare hands he tore away the iron railing and let Father Koch's unconscious body fall free to the steps."

WHEN MR. FRANCIS visited the priest three weeks later there was "only a tenderness on the back of his head. . . the X-rays showed no damage."

"In Lourdes everyone knows about everyone's miracles."

"No one could have a loaded moving elevator crush his head against an iron railing and live. Yet Father Koch not only lived but suffered no serious injuries."

"Everyone says there were two miracles. For it took a miracle of strength for Archbishop O'Hara to get Father Koch down the stairs and bring him to the hospital."

Give her a beautiful necklace and earrings set from Thomas, William & Thomas Jeweler, 531 Main St. East, Hamilton 1031-Adv.

## Geneseo Parish To Celebrate Centenary

Geneseo—A Solemn Pontifical Mass will mark the centennial observance of St. Mary's parish in Geneseo. His Excellency Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey will offer the Mass at 10 a.m., Sunday, August 15.

THE HISTORIC parish was established on a site donated by General Wadsworth in 1851 and the original edifice was constructed with funds which he loaned to the parish. General Wadsworth, though not a Catholic, was prompted to his generous act after seeing the Geneseo Catholics kneeling on the porch and lawn of a house where Mass was being offered.

The present church was built in 1889 and overlooks the beautiful Genesee valley which is rich in its history of early America.

The Rev. Peter T. Jankowski, pastor, is chairman of an extensive committee arranging the centennial program.

Officers of the centennial Mass who will assist Bishop Casey are: Rt. Rev. Msgr. James C. McAniff, V.G. Arch Priest; Rev. William J. Naughton, Deacon; Rev. Robert J. Fox, Subdeacon; Rev. Edward J. McAniff, Master of Ceremonies. Other officers of the Mass will be students from St. Bernard's Seminary.

FOLLOWING THE Mass, Dinner will be served at the New York State Armory with Mr. James Donohue as Master of Ceremonies and Porter E. Chandler as speaker.

On Monday, August 16, there will be a High Mass for deceased priests and parishioners of St. Mary's.

Laymen assisting Father Jankowski in the centennial celebration are serving under Vice-Chairman J. Ryan, as General Chairman and Fred Quirk and Jimmie Welch, Vice-Chairmen.

## WORLD MOURNS EMILIE



Expressions of grief and condolence came to the Dionne family from Italy and churchmen throughout the world at the death of Emilie Dionne (above) one of the world-famous Dionne quintuplets. One month after she had begun a period of retreat and contemplation with the Oblate Sisters of Mary Immaculate, she died at their convent in St. Agathe, Quebec. She was buried beside her grandparents in the small cemetery at Corbeil, Ontario. (NC Photos)

## 20-Year-Old Quint Buried in Rural Parish Cemetery

Corbeil, Ont., Aug. 9—In the little cemetery of Sacred Heart parish here in this northern Ontario town lies the body of Emilie Dionne, 20-year-old Quintuplet, who died suddenly at St. Agatha, Quebec.

Burial followed a solemn requiem Mass chanted in Sacred Heart Church by Father W. H. LaFrance, parish priest. At side altar, Masses were offered up by Father G. Savoy, O.M.I., of the University of Ottawa, long a friend of the family, and Father M. Belanger, O.M.I., of Ottawa, former chaplain of the Quintuplets. At the main altar, Father LaFrance was assisted by Father V. Pilon of Mattawa, former parish priest of Corbeil, and Father W. Brackey of River Valley, Ont., friend of the family.

EMILIE WAS buried in a gray steel and bronze casket. She was dressed in her favorite powder-blue frock with a lace collar and had a white crucifix and rosary clasped in her hands.

The four surviving Quintuplets were attired in simple black frocks.

A bushland setting of birch and pine trees formed a background for the simple little country parish cemetery.

Among the many messages of condolence received by the family was one from His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, whom the Quintuplets had visited in New York in 1953.

"I am sorry that Emilie's death has occurred," Cardinal Spellman said. "Her inability to attend funeral Mass after her death and your religious consolation."

Other expressions of condolence included those of Their Eminences Paul-Emile Cardinal LeGer of Montreal and James C. Cardinal McGuigan of Toronto, and from Premier Leslie Frost of Ontario.

FROM THE DILIGENT parents and Quintuplets in Buenos Aires came two messages of condolence, one to the Dionne parents and one to the four surviving Dionne Quintuplet sisters. Although the Canadian and South American Quintuplets had never met they had exchanged birthday and Christmas messages. The Diligent Quints are 11 years of age.

Burial of Emilie was in the family plot where the parents of both Mr. and Mrs. Olga Dionne also are interred. A brother of the Quintuplets, Leo, who died as a baby in 1930, is buried there too. Of Emilie's four grandparents buried near her, only the two grandfathers were alive when Emilie and her four sisters were born.

The parish not having an official grave digger, the grave also was interred. A brother of the Quintuplets, Leo, who died as a baby in 1930, is buried there too. Of Emilie's four grandparents buried near her, only the two grandfathers were alive when Emilie and her four sisters were born.

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## Madonna Placed Atop K-2 by Italian Climbers

Milan, Italy—(NC)—A miniature statue of the "Madonna of Milan" was placed atop Mount Godwin-Austen (K2) when it was conquered by a group of Italian mountain climbers, it is reported here.

The miniature statue was given the mountain climbers by His Eminence Alfredo Cardinal Schuster, Archbishop of Milan, when they left here on their venturesome expedition.

Mount Godwin-Austen, reaching an altitude of 28,239 feet, is the second highest peak in the world, exceeded in height only by 29,022-foot-high Mount Everest.

The Italian team which succeeded in its difficult climb of the mountain in northern Kashmir was led by Dr. Ardito Desio, professor of geology at Milan University. The expedition was under the protection of the Madonnas of Milan.

## Heinemann's Kin Converted To Faith

Passau, Germany—(RNS)—Uta Heinemann, 26, daughter of Dr. Gustav Heinemann, president of the Synod of the Evangelical Church in Germany, has been converted to the Roman Catholic faith, the Passau Catholic diocesan newspaper announced here.

The paper said that Miss Heinemann became a Catholic after six years of study in Evangelical theology. It added that she is now studying Catholic theology in Munich.

Dr. Heinemann, former West German Interior Minister, recently headed a group of six German Protestant churchmen who visited Moscow at the invitation of Russian Orthodox Patriarch Alexei.

## 63 Million Catholics Now Live Under Communist Yoke

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

With the ceiling of north Vietnam to the Reds now in progress, the communist colossus will have under its domination well over three-quarters of a billion people, 63,503,000 of them Catholics.

From its Russian base this communist giant has placed the imprint of its merciless dictatorship on almost 600,000,000 additional people in the past 15 years. About 55,500,000 of these are Catholics. More than 100,000,000 other Christians—mainly Orthodox—are among the Iron Curtain captives.

AS THE SYSTEMATIC withdrawal of French forces is being made in north Vietnam, an estimated 13,000,000 more people will topple behind the expanding Iron Curtain. About 1,200,000 of these are Catholic.

Before Russian-based communism launched its new and mighty drive for world domination at the beginning of World War II, it controlled the lives of less than 20,000,000 people in the Soviet Union. Now it controls 78,950,000.

Communism's biggest conquest in population came with the fall of the China mainland with its 45,000,000 people to Mao Tse-tung. Its biggest conquest in Catholic population came with the seizure of Poland with an estimated 21,500,000 Catholics. Other: Iron Curtain countries with sizable Catholic populations are: Czechoslovakia, 9,500,000; Hungary, 8,000,000; Yugoslavia, 5,500,000; China, 4,000,000, and Rumania, 3,000,000.

As the communist colossus strode across each country it wielded a savage sickle which cut the Catholics from the Vicar of Christ in Rome and also cut them from their own Bishops and priests. This huge almost "pastorless flock" constitutes about 15 per cent of the total Catholic body, estimated at around 450,000,000.

## Population Statistics For Red-Ruled Lands

Based on the latest available information, here is a chart giving the Catholic and the total populations of the countries now controlled by the Communists.

COUNTRY	TOTAL POPULATION	CATHOLIC
Albania	1,175,000	100,000
Bulgaria	7,160,000	56,000
China	450,000,000	4,000,000
Czechoslovakia	12,340,000	9,300,000
Estonia	1,133,000	2,000
East Germany	18,541,000	2,000,000
Hungary	9,500,000	6,125,000
North Korea	9,100,000	26,000
Latvia	2,000,000	500,000
Lithuania	3,000,000	2,200,000
Poland	25,000,000	21,500,000
Rumania	16,000,000	5,000,000
Russia	200,000,000	8,000,000
North Vietnam	15,000,000	1,200,000
Yugoslavia	17,000,000	5,500,000
GRAND TOTALS	784,950,000	63,503,000

## 'Worst Since '30s' Moscow Launches Atheist Propaganda Drive On Religion; Attacks Pius XII

Berlin—(NC)—The Russian people are now being subjected to the most vigorous and concerted anti-religious propaganda since the late 1930's.

A variety of Russian books, pamphlets, papers and broadcasts reaching here indicate that the Kremlin regards religion as a growing threat which must be dealt with on a systematic, nation-wide basis.

Long working on the thesis that religion is "the opium of the people" the Communist hierarchy apparently is now regarding religion as an "emotional dope habit" that is getting out of hand.

THE ANTI-RELIGIOUS propaganda is directed at all faiths—Christian, Moslem and Jewish—with particular efforts to discredit the Orthodox and Catholic religions.

Included in the anti-religious propaganda was a Moscow broadcast ridiculing His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

At the same time the Kremlin disseminated a number of pamphlets making slashing attacks on the Holy See and the Pope. They are entitled: "The Apostle of Betrayal," "Papal Tears," "Arrivals out of Darkness," "The Twilight of Foreign Gods," and "In Satan's Service."

A number of other anti-religious publications have recently been released by the Kremlin. With a combined printing of almost a million copies, they include: a new edition of Lenin's "Socialism and Religion," "Religious Beliefs and their Harmfulness," and "Religion: the Enemy of Science and Progress."

The book "Religious Superstitions and Their Harmfulness," by P. Povelkin lays the spread of religious practices in Russia to the recent war.

"THE WAR HAS contributed to no small extent to the spread of religious and other superstitions," he writes. "The temporary occupation of a part of the Soviet territory by German fascists invaders led to a certain spread of bourgeois ideology, notably to the revival of religious and other superstitions. The imperialist invaders did their utmost to poison the consciousness of the Soviet people with bourgeois nationalist and idealist religious propaganda."

"The strength of religious habits and prejudices is very great," the author states. "The task of overcoming them is complex and difficult. One cannot let it be fulfilled spontaneously. One cannot wait passively till the survivals of the old society die by themselves. It is indispensable to conduct an active struggle against them, because they are harmful for society, because they are hampering our people in their movement toward communism."

THE BOOK ALSO tears away the premise on which various "progressive Christian" and "patriotic Catholic" groups are built in the Iron Curtain countries—that Christianity and communism can work hand in hand.

"Some churchmen and Protestant sects are trying to spread the absolutely false idea," the book declares, "that religion and communism have common ideological foundations, that the Christian gospel and communism are related teachings, that Christianity has been aspiring for a long time to communism."

"It is absolutely unnecessary to say that Christianity, as well as any religious ideology, have nothing in common with scientific, marxist, communist ideology, which forms the basis of the revolutionary class struggle."

"The Communist Party of the Soviet Union and the Soviet State cannot consider religious superstitions indifferently. The Communist Party is propagating an atheistic materialistic conception of the world. It organizes political and cultural education to overcome the religious prejudices among the whole population of the Soviet Union."

## Abp. John Noll Critically Ill, Suffers Stroke

Fort Wayne, Ind.—(NC)—Archbishop John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, here. His condition is critical, his physician and hospital officials reported.

Archbishop Noll, one of the best known members of the American Hierarchy, was admitted to the hospital shortly after he had offered Mass in his private chapel.

## Prelate's Condition 'Greatly Improved'

Fort Wayne, Ind.—(NC)—The condition of Archbishop John F. Noll, Bishop of Fort Wayne, who is a patient in St. Joseph's Hospital, here, is "greatly improved," his attending physician has reported.

Archbishop Noll was admitted to the hospital after suffering a cerebral hemorrhage in his head. He is being treated with a restorative and prophylactic regimen of the Sisters of Our Lady of Victory.

The Archbishop has retained consciousness, and was able to receive the Sacrament of Extreme Unction on Wednesday and Holy Communion on Thursday morning, it was announced.

Born in Fort Wayne 79 years ago, Archbishop Noll has been Bishop of Fort Wayne since 1925. He is distinguished as a writer, an editor, a speaker, an educator and an administrator. He is the founder and editor of the great national Catholic weekly newspaper, Our Sunday Visitor, and also of The Family Digest, the Acolyte and The Priest magazines. He has served a total of 19 years on the Administrative Board of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

## Atheism Drive Spreads To All Soviet Republics

London—(RNS)—The anti-religious campaign started recently in Moscow has spread to all 16 republics of the Soviet Union, amid Communist complaints that church attendance in at least one republic is increasing.

Newspapers and radio stations throughout the U.S.S.R. have been playing up criticism of local organizations for their slowness in promoting atheism.

TYPICAL WAS an article published in the Stavropolskaya Pravda and quoted by the local radio station in Stavropol. The article accused local officials of lack of interest in the anti-religious campaign.

It also reported that the number of churchgoing persons in the Russian republic, the most important of the 16, was increasing. It added that among the churchgoers were school children.

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"some of whom even serve during the performance of church services."

The newspaper said this was an important problem because churchgoers were distracting the Soviet people from their work.

"Religious beliefs," it said, "are a remnant of the cursed capitalist past and hinder the progress of Communism in the Soviet Union."

THE PAPER also complained that farm workers were neglecting their fields to attend church and asserted that others became weak from religious "feeling."

"The struggle against religious survivals and the alienating of the Communist education of the workers," it said, "is an important task for the party and the Government. (Communist youth group) and other public organizations and cultural and educational bodies, as well as the Soviet nation."