

Minister Reports Protestants Turning To Catholic Church

Toronto, Ont.—(NC)—Many Protestants "tiring of the unchartered freedom of churches with practically no discipline are glad to put themselves in the hands of an exacting, uncompromising priesthood and an infallible church," the Rev. A. G. Reynolds, of Elmville, told the annual meeting of the United Church Board of Evangelism and Social Service.

The United Church is Canada's largest Protestant denomination and is made up of the former members of the Methodist Church and a section of the Presbyterian Church in Canada. Dr. Reynolds is the author of the controversial booklet "What's the Difference?" in which he set out what he considered the difference between Catholicism and Protestantism.

Dr. Reynolds declared that many persons had been bored and sickened "by the manifold varieties of dreary, mushy and loquacious Protestant worship and bewildered by the torrent of private opinions and contradictory platitudes from Protestant pulpits."

He spoke at one of the board's closest sessions. A report to the address "Toward a Positive Protestantism" was released on a motion by Dr. J. R. Mutchmor, board secretary.

Dr. Reynolds told his fellow ministers that Roman Catholicism is "thriving on the lukewarmness and hardness of much Protestantism."

"Many (Protestants) have turned to a church that promises them the unchanging miracle of the Mass and the one voice of authority and truth. Many people who crave spiritual security and certainty have turned to a church that claims to be omnipotent through her sacraments," he said.

"Many people whose faith needs buttressing have been fascinated by a church that exploits to the full, color and symbol gesture and ceremonial spectacle and drama," he added.

Dr. Reynolds said that the United Church's official publication, The Observer, had denied a report that Protestantism was

Record Church Construction Continues

Washington, D. C.—(RNS)—Church construction activity, hitting a pace of nearly two million dollars a day during what normally is the slow season for building operations, set a new record for the month of February, the Departments of Labor and Commerce reported.

A total of \$53,000,000 worth of construction was undertaken by churches in February, compared with \$41,000,000 in the same month a year ago.

For the first two months of this year religious building activity was 30 per cent higher than in the corresponding period of 1952.

Construction by the non-public schools and colleges, most of which are church-affiliated, also set a new mark in February with \$39,000,000 worth of new buildings put in place. This surpassed last February's total by \$1,000,000 and put 1953 construction activity five per cent ahead of last year.

Non-public hospitals, orphanages and other institutions undertook \$29,000,000 worth of new construction in February, \$3,000,000 above the same month last year.

Publisher Lists Writers' Contest

New York.—(NC)—Sheed and Ward Publishing Company here has announced a competition for novice Catholic writers, offering the chance to have one or more of their works in a forthcoming selection, "New Catholic Writers."

Contributions should not be over 4,000 words long, according to a spokesman, and should be in the hands of the publisher by July 1, 1953. It is preferred that the writers have not had a book published, though one book will not disqualify them. The works can be any type of writing, the announcement said.



THEY PRAY FOR YOUR HELP—Huddled together in small groups at a South Vietnam refugee camp, these victims of war say the Rosary. Fleeing from Communist domination, they brought with them their most precious possessions, their children and their Catholic faith. Give generously to the 1953 collection of the Bishops' Welfare and Emergency Relief Fund so that they may be supplied with food, clothing, tools and medicine.

U. S. Ship Carried 50,000 Refugees, Mostly Catholics, From North Vietnam

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR

Saigon, South Vietnam.—(NC)—The Admiral said "Well done!" to the good ship General Howe. More than 50,000 refugees from North Vietnam echo his words. The USNS General R. L. Howze of Military Sea Transportation Service brought them here.

The ship left for Seattle, after five months on the mercy-run, carrying Vietnamese refugees from Haiphong to the south. Most of the refugees were Catholics.

(More than 40 U.S. ships from Task Force 90 have taken part at various times in this operation, called "Passage to Freedom." They have now carried a total of 225,000 refugees.) For Father (Lt.) Joseph L. Rerius, USN, of Trenton, N.J., chaplain on the Howze, those were five inspiring, happy months.

"I remember how thrilled I was, the first time I offered Mass for the refugees," he

said. "We had more than 2,000 aboard, and no single area on deck was large enough for the crowd. Before Mass the refugees recited the Rosary. You could hear them throughout the ship. Then, during Mass, they sang hymns in Vietnamese and afterwards the Salve Regina."

The crew watched, fascinated, from mastsheads, crossbeams and even the crew's nest.

"In that sea of faces beneath them, they saw genuine faith and piety," Father Rerius recalled.

"That night the rosary was recited on deck and below decks," he said. "Night after night, the ship resounded with the refugees' prayers."

In January, Lt. A. "Chon" Gutierrez of Gallup, N. Mex., welcomed the 200,000th refugee carried by American ships. This was Tran-Duc-Hoa, aged 62, accompanied by his wife, two

daughters, married to Vietnamese soldiers, and two grandsons.

THE FAMILY had spent one month on the Vietnam-guarded coast, hoping to escape by sea. Later they escaped by an inland route to Haiphong.

They were honor guests for the voyage. Invited to lunch in the officers' wardroom at 11:30, they came politely but would not eat.

The officers wondered what was wrong. The answer was simple.

They were all fasting, preparing to receive Holy Communion at Father Rerius' noon Mass.

Clubhouse Given Milwaukee.—(NC)—The clubhouse of the Marquette Woman's League, an organization of Milwaukee Catholic women, has been given to Marquette University.

It will be converted into a real dance hall for coeds.

Laetare Sunday

Bishop's Relief Drive Expected To Top \$5-Million Goal

Washington.—(NC)—Confidence that the \$5-million goal set for the 1953 Laetare Sunday campaign to assist the world's homeless, hungry and needy will be over-subscribed was expressed here by Mgr. Edward E. Swannstrom, executive director of War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference.

At the direction of the U.S. Archbishops and Bishops, WRS-N.C.W.C. is conducting the campaign, which will be staged on Laetare Sunday, March 20, in some 13,000 parishes in all the archdioceses and dioceses of the nation.

MONSIGNOR SWANSTROM based his expression of optimism on preliminary reports received from campaign diocesan directors in all sections of the nation. He recently completed a swing around the country, during which he met with 89 diocesan directors in a half-dozen key cities.

The new message of the pathetic need of refugees, fugitives from communist-persecution and other homeless and hungry overseas, forcefully has been brought before the American people," Monsignor Swannstrom said.

"Indications are that the generous heart of this nation's Catholics again will open and there will be an outpouring of sympathy for the unfortunate of other lands. I look for one of the most generous responses in years to the coming campaign on March 20."

The Monsignor said that American Catholics apparently have taken justifiable pride in the fact that the worldwide relief organization of the U.S. Archbishops and Bishops has taken its place as the leader among the nation's voluntary agencies in carrying out a mission of mercy for the needy, and that they intend to maintain this record.

HE RECALLED that gener-

osity of U.S. Catholics enabled WRS-N.C.W.C. to carry on a program of relief valued at some \$43-million in 1952—a program which saw each dollar expended from the Bishops' Fund multiplied 14 times as the result of participation in U.S. government surplus food programs and similar arrangements.

The Monsignor said it is apparent that American Catholics well understand the need for assistance to the hundreds of thousands of refugees from communism in Vietnam and from the islands off the coast of China, and are ready to come to their aid. He pointed out that WRS-N.C.W.C. already has established a program to resettle some 600,000 Vietnam refugees and has set up relief programs for the refugees from the islands off the coast of China.

"It seems to be well understood now throughout the world that the only criterion for assistance from the stores of War Relief Services—N.C.W.C. is need, regardless of race, religion or country of origin," Monsignor Swannstrom said.

The children's phase of the Bishops' Fund campaign is progressing satisfactorily, Monsignor Swannstrom said. The students of the nation's Catholic schools are called upon to make sacrifices during Lent and to contribute pennies, nickels, and dimes to the campaign.

Contributions of the youngsters have totaled more than \$1-million each year. In some dioceses, the school children's Lenten donations have matched dollar-for-dollar the contributions made by adults to the Laetare Sunday collections.



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