

French Clergy Form Insurance Company

Vatican City—(NC)—A mutual insurance company operated for the benefit of the French clergy has received official Vatican approval.

The Sacred Congregation of the Council gave its approval of the company's constitution in a letter to His Eminence Achille Cardinal Lienart, Bishop of Lille.

The insurance company lists more than 35,000 policy holders in 51 French dioceses, two of which are in North Africa.

The company plans to establish an office in Rome for the benefit of French seminarians and French military chaplains. The company has been placed under the patronage of St. Martin of Tours.

Eagle Exhibit

The eagle symbol of strength, unity, peace, plenty, independence, fraternity and liberty, as it appears on a wide range of items is shown in a special exhibit at Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences.

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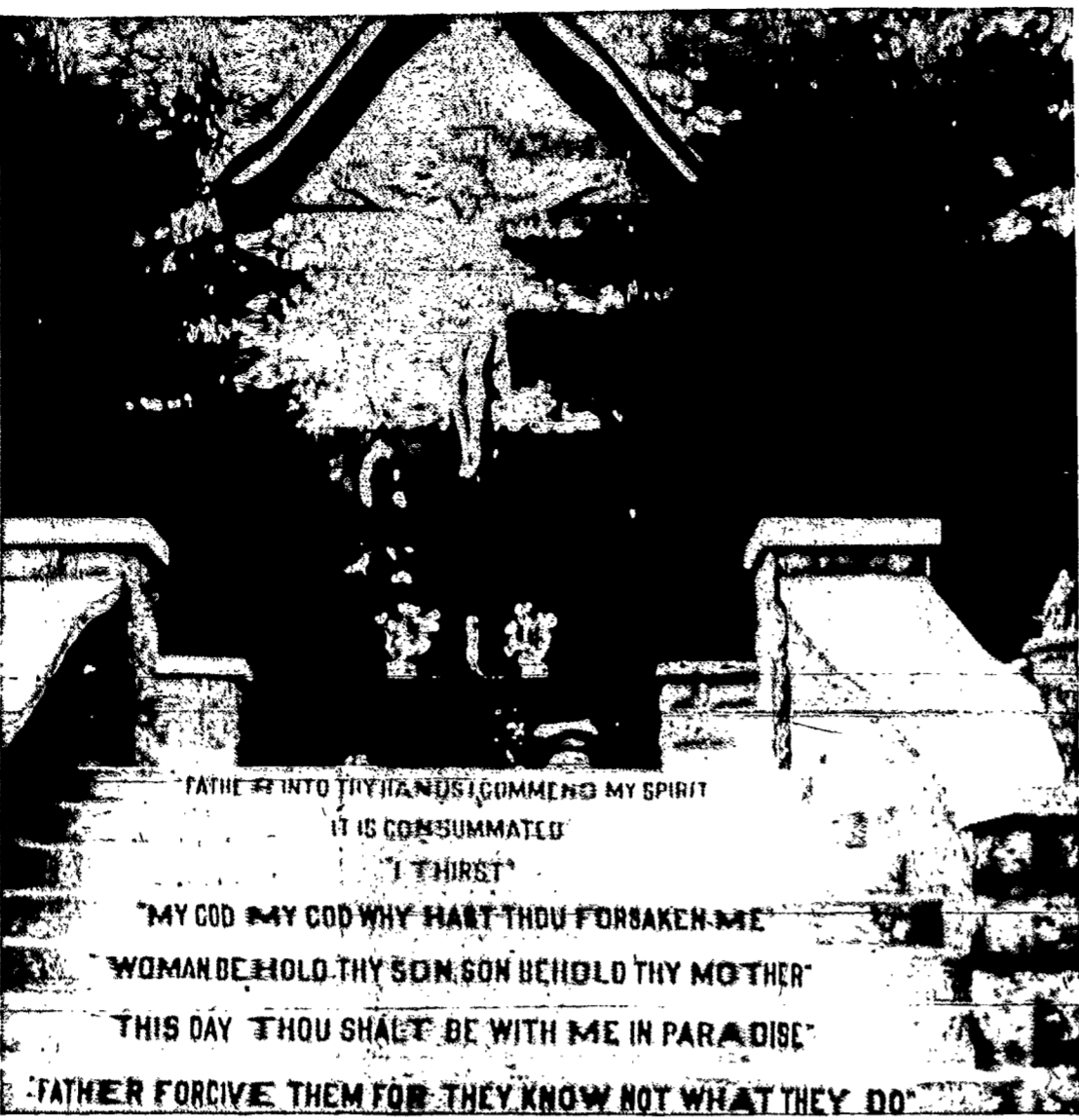
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AMONG RELIGIOUS PLACES attracting pilgrims as reported by New York State Department of Commerce is Graymoor, at Garrison, N. Y. Here at Graymoor are steps leading to the tomb of Mother Lurana, an Episcopalian nun who founded the convent of the Franciscan Sisters of the Atonement in 1898. On the steps are inscribed the Seven Last Words of Christ. With the aid of Rev. Lewis T. Watson, a young Episcopalian minister, Mother Lurana organized the order within the Anglican communion. Several years later Father Watson established a monastic order, Society of the Atonement. Both urged reconciliation of the Anglican Church with the Holy See and failing that, requested that the orders they founded be accepted into the Church. This was done in October, 1909. The following year Father Watson was ordained a priest. A national shrine of St. Anthony is located on the monastery grounds. (Religious News Service photo).

New York State's Religious Shrines Attract 750,000 Visitors In Year

Albany, N. Y. — More than three-quarters of a million people visited the six largest Roman Catholic shrines in New York State last year, according to State Commerce Commissioner Edward T. Dickinson.

The National Shrine of the North American Martyrs at Auriesville, a 900-acre site in one of the most scenic areas in the Mohawk Valley, drew the greatest number. Rev. Louis A. Devaney, S.J., the shrine director, estimated that during its six-month season beginning on the first Sunday in May and ending in October, attendance was more than 400,000.

It was at Auriesville that the first American saints, Isaac Jogues, Rene Goupil and John La Lande were martyred in 1642. St. Isaac Jogues was also the discoverer of the Empire State's famous body of water, Lake George. He saw it on the eve of the feast of Corpus Christi and called it the "Lake of the Blessed Sacrament."

FATHER DEVANEY noted that to the pilgrim making the Stations of the Cross along the winding Hill of Prayer on the shrine grounds, it must be a profound spiritual experience to know that on this very path St. Isaac Jogues suffered torture and death for the Faith. Or that, in the nearby ravine, St. Rene Goupil lies in an unknown grave. Built on a hill, the shrine overlooks the placid Mohawk River. In the mammoth circular Church of Our Lady of Martyrs, which seats 6,000, special Masses and memorial services are held. The New York State Thruway, Routes 5 and 58 pass directly in front of the shrine.

At Fondra, not far from Auriesville, is a memorial shrine to the young Indian maiden, Catherine Tekakwitha. (A memorial shrine to her is temporarily ascribed to honor a person not yet canonized by the Church.) Catherine's cause for beatification is being pursued in Rome. Several thousand persons annually visit her shrine. July 29, 1956, was the 300th anniversary of her birth.

Called the "Lily of the Mohawks," Catherine was born in 1656 in the village where, only a dozen years before, Father Jogues and his companions were killed. She was baptized at the age of twenty, and though persecuted because of her Catholicism, she continued to live a life of purity and sanctity. A small museum of Mohawk Indian artifacts is connected with the memorial shrine.

TWO OTHER shrines, the Basilica of Our Lady of Victory at Lackawanna, a suburb of Buffalo, and St. Frances Xavier Cabrini shrine in upper New York City, accounted for almost 300,000 pilgrims. Our Lady of

St. Anthony's Shrine on Route 9, near Peekskill in the Hudson Valley. This shrine is part of Graymoor, motherhouse of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement. The Friars reported that 25,000 persons visit it each year.

St. Christopher's Inn, a shelter for homeless men of all races, creeds and color, and the chapel of Our Lady of Atonement are other points of interest at Graymoor.

This religious community was founded in 1898 by the late Rev. Paul James Francis, S.A., then a member of the Episcopal Church. In October 1909, however, he and the other Friars were received into the Catholic Church. Father Francis originated the Ave-Maria Hour, a religious program heard regularly on 400 radio stations throughout the country.

Pope Voices Hope For German Unity

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Plus XII hopes that the still unsettled questions of German unification and the nation's eastern boundary will be solved gradually and in a way that will provide the "basis for a true peace."

The Holy Father voiced his concern in regard to Germany's partition during a 40-minute special audience granted to German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer here.

ALTHOUGH THE Pope did not specifically use the term unification, he referred to it when he called for a settlement of the problem of the area "that lies east of the Federal Republic." (The Soviet occupation zone is there.) He was also understood to refer to unification when he urged a general solution of Germany's problems that would be supported by all states and interested groups.

The Holy Father praised the patience of Chancellor Adenauer during the difficult postwar years.

"IF THE CONDUCT of the affairs of state has always been a serious and difficult task," the Pope said, "it must have been doubly difficult for you, Mr. Chancellor during the seven years you held that office. There are few examples in history where a nation and a state have succeeded in emerging from devastating ruin as have the German people and their nation after the last war."

In noting that German recovery is still not complete, the Holy Father said, "Germany still waits for the solution for many problems that represent an almost superhuman burden. We recommend to the German people that perseverance, shrewdness and patience with which we have seen the Chancellor face these problems in past years."

Mr. Daniel

Seven-year-old Robert had been cautioned that when neighbors came to the house it was his duty to pay them attention. Some time later an old school friend of mine, a Mrs. Daniel, dropped in to visit.

Robert solemnly shook hands with her, and in his best drawing room manner, remarked, "How do you do, Mrs. Daniel. I've just been reading about your husband in the den of lions."

Wall St. Journal.

TURED AWAY in the scenic Holderberg Mountains on Route 156, near Altamont, about 17 miles west of Albany, is the La Salette Shrine. It has a natural setting similar to the site of the Apparition of Our Lady of La Salette in France here, the pilgrim can relive the exciting story which took place in that little French village.

On Sept. 19, 1846, the Blessed Virgin appeared to Melanie Mathieu, a shepherdess of 15, and to Maxim Gaud, a shepherd boy of 11. Our Lady, seated on a large stone and weeping bitterly, spoke to the children charging them to tell the people that great suffering would ensue if they continued in their evil ways. She promised Divine mercy if the world repented.

People soon flocked to the French shrine. Miraculous cures occurred at the spring near the site. The Bishop who investigated the miracle founded the Order of the Missionaries of Our Lady of La Salette to carry out her wish that the manifestation be made known to all people. The Order received the approval of Pope Plus IX, and his successor, Leo XIII, had a basilica built on the mountainside. The shrine near Albany is part of this world-wide mission.

Scores of churches, shrines and other places of religious interest to all denominations are listed in "New York State Vocations," a free 196-page guide issued by the State Department of Commerce, 112 State St., Albany 7, N. Y.

APOSTLESHIP OF PRAYER

The General Intention recommended to the prayers of all Associates of the Apostleship of Prayer for the month of August is "Victory over Obstacles to Conversions."

Conversion to the Church is opposed by those not of our Faith, by men for the most part sincere in their belief that Catholicism is not the way to God. We struggle with them for the attention of souls. What are we laymen to do when a chance, or the grace of God, involves us actively in this struggle? When we find ourselves somehow as a spokesman and defender of the Catholic Faith?

Because Jesus Christ was new, because redemption was new, the mark which would identify the human instrument of redemption had to be new. It would be the mark of love.

"A new commandment I give you, that you love one another: that as I have loved you, you also love one another. By this all men know that you are my disciples, if you have love for one another."

Paul the Apostle, with all the eloquence at his command, warns us that there is no substitute for love. Oratory from the pulpit of angels cannot take its place; knowledge cannot take its place; prophecy cannot take its place; miracles cannot take its place.

GOD WHO made all men tells me to love them as I love myself. If I am to be a one of Christ's men, then I have to want their salvation as I do my own. I must work for their eternal happiness as I work for my own. And I must let them know, somehow, that that is the way I feel.

Historian Explains Conversion On Radio

Stockholm, Sweden — (NC) — Dr. Jens Jagerstad, a history teacher here, told the state radio audience what led him, his wife and two sons to be received into the Catholic church. Father Paul Schmidt, S.J., of St. Eugeenia's Church, Stockholm, baptized them more than a year ago.

"One of my neighbors asked if he might see the script," Dr. Jagerstad said when asked if there had been any comments after the broadcast. "Several people said they had heard the program, and there were sympathetic accounts in the papers," he continued.

Dr. Jagerstad is general editor of an historical study, now being compiled by a group of Scandinavian scholars. It was the study of medieval history, Dr. Jagerstad said, that first attracted him to Catholicism.

Pope Receives Pierre Poujade

Castel Gandolfo, Italy — (RNS) — Pierre Poujade, leader of an anti-tax movement in France, was given a 15-minute private audience by Pope Plus XII at the Papal summer residence here.

Vatican sources said it was "a purely courtesy audience granted to a French Catholic, not to a political figure."

Obstacles To Conversion

how, that that is the way I feel. The failure comes when we lose our mark of identification. The existence of so many infidels in the world is a proof that Christians as a whole have somehow lost it. The existence of materialism in Christian lands is a witness that millions have ceased to seek it. The division of Christendom into hundreds of sects betrays the awful fact that even the baptized have forgotten what makes them Christians.

Those who look for the sign of love come face to face with sounding brass and tinkling cymbals: an unchristian thing; and because men have lost their identification with Him, Christ loses touch with the world. Men no longer know Him.

They will recognize Him if His messenger bears the mark of identification. This will be the Pope asks our help this month that all Catholics, including ourselves, be conscious of our mission, and practise the one way to bring it about.

Jesuit Fund Drive Nears 3 Million

Boston — (NC) — The drive for 3 million dollars to rebuild the fire-damaged Jesuit novitiate in Shadowbrook has now reached \$2,045,000, according to the national chairman of the appeal.

Joseph Sullivan of Lowell announced the new total for the campaign at the appeal headquarters here.

At the same time, Father William E. Fitzgerald, S.J., provincial, announced the donation of the site on which to hold the ceremonies in connection with the ground breaking for the new novitiate on July 31.

The site is that of the famed Tanglewood music festival in Lenox, Mass., a short distance from Shadowbrook novitiate which burned on March 10.

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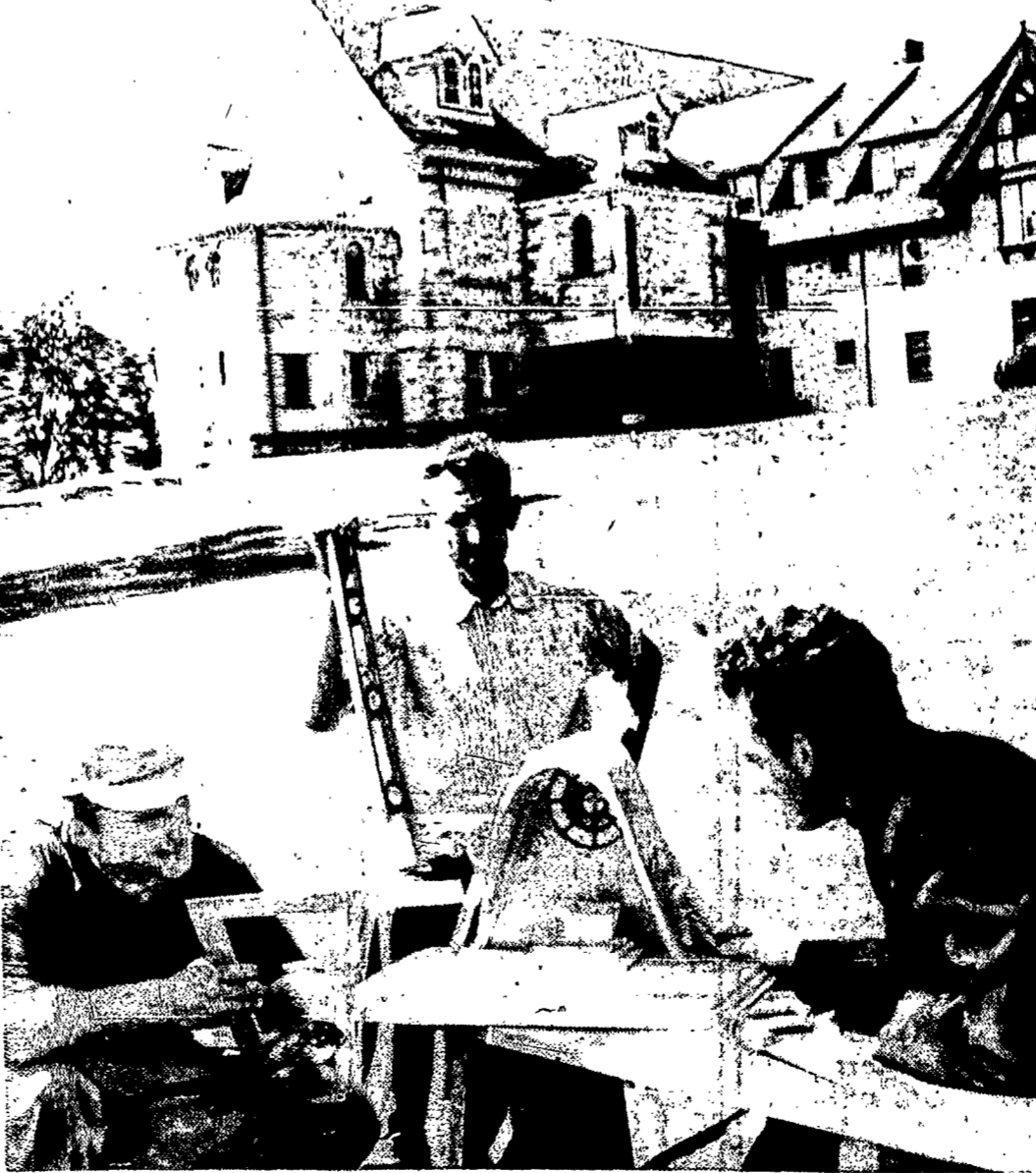
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Plan Outdoor Altar For 'Marian Week'

MARIAN BROTHER John Szantyr (at right, above) is designer of the field altar being constructed for the "Marian Week" services to be held at the Shrine of the Mercy of God, Stockbridge, Mass., Aug. 19 to 26. The artist-Brother is shown discussing a scale model with craftsmen who are building the altar. In background are the Mercy Shrine and the Marian Fathers' monastery. The Rev. Joseph Manton, C.S.R., popular preacher of NBC's "The Catholic Hours," will speak every day at the Marian week evening devotions.