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Chinese Wedding

Nora Felicitas Yen, daughter of Yen Chia-kan, Governor of Formosa, is shown on her wedding day, being married to Andrew Chang, of Immaculate Conception Church, Somerville, N.J. Both came from China to study in the U.S.; joined the Church here, she graduated from Nazareth College, Ky. Rear row shows brother of the groom, Father John T. S. Mea, exiled chancellor, Archdiocese of Nanking, who officiated. (NC photos)



Labor Day Sermons

Clean Own House, Labor Unions Told

Los Angeles — (NC) — Labor ought to be mature enough to recognize injustice in its own ranks, Father Carl Benecke, S.J., told workmen at the annual Labor Day Mass in St. Vibiana's Cathedral here. "Organization should not stifle the personal conscience and sense of responsibility, the Loyola University professor said.

"It seems to me," Father Benecke said, "that for a number of generations now, unions most often sharpen their awareness of how justice is to be practiced by noting injustice in those sitting across the table from them.

"My question is: are we not now mature enough to recognize the loss of public respect if our only outcry against injustice is that of the injustice of management, failing to assess in the meantime the publicly known facts of injustice in our own ranks?"

"I say we must also criticize ourselves and accept the prudent and just judgment of those qualified to do so."

Justice Balks Red Threat

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — The conscious efforts to build a society based on justice, during the last two decades, has bolstered the free world in its struggle against the challenge of communism, according to Father Benjamin Masses, S.J., noted authority on social problems.

Speaking to top government officials and labor leaders at the annual Labor Day Mass here in the nation's capital, Father Masses outlined progress made in the economic society since the early days of industrialization when men accepted the theory that to save their souls "they had only to pursue their enlightened self-interest," and that unbridled competition would automatically result in the general welfare of society.

"The new industrialism greatly expanded wealth, but it did so at a fearful cost in human social dislocation and human misery," the Jesuit commented.

But since 1891, the year of the encyclical of Pope Leo XIII "On the Condition of the Working Classes," the social obligations of private property have been recognized by law, he said. Abuse of children's and women's labor have been largely eliminated and other progressive steps have seen the economic society advance "closer today to the mind of God than it was when Leo XIII wrote 65 years ago."

Because of these steps towards a society based on justice, communism has been largely rebuffed, he said.

Apathy In Union Ranks Denlored

Columbus, Ohio — (NC) — The organized American labor movement has achieved great goals during the last 70 years, but workmen should not forget the sacrifices of labor's pioneers, Monsignor George G. Higgins, director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference, stated in a Labor Day sermon here in St. Joseph's Cathedral.

Monsignor Higgins said that "too many of the newer members of the labor movement, the youngsters or Johnny-come-latties, are like spoiled children who have had every-

thing handed to them on a silver platter.

"They know very little, if anything, about the history and early struggles of the labor movement, and they have inherited very little of the spirit of sacrifice which characterized the founders."

He compared the pathetic trade unionists to "nominal members of a church who come to services on Christmas and Easter and complacently let it go at that."

1929 Depression Not Yet Ended

New Orleans — (NC) — "The great depression of '29 is not yet ended and we have not put ourselves in a position to meet it when it returns."

This analysis was made here by Father Raymond A. McGowan, an, formerly director of the Social Action Department, National Catholic Welfare Conference. He is now in charge of Inter-American Affairs for the department.

"The depression was still with us and above ground in 1939, when the war began; it then went underground," he said.

"What keeps it underground is the Cold War. The war have given our productive capacity its market, have given even our enormously increased and still increasing productive capacity a market."

"Without the wars and the threat of wars the market would soon collapse as it collapsed and stayed collapsed before 1939," he continued. "The military market is hiding the lack in the civilian market."

Father McGowan said he doesn't agree with those people who say that the United States is cushioned against a depression by minimum wage and hours, law, and social security, by farm legislation, by the new missions in the unions.

Such an argument, he said, "glosses over the people unprotected by the wage-hours laws or even social security." He cited the large numbers who are still unorganized: many industrial workers, white collar workers, many of those engaged in service occupations, migratory farm workers, and most of the Negroes and Mexican-Americans.

"All these have no cushion and are no cushion," he declared.

Father McGowan said improvement of the economic situation now and preparedness against the day when depression returns are of signal importance.

Convert-Writer To Be Ordained

Tilburg, The Netherlands — (NC) — The well-known Dutch convert and writer, Pieter van der Meer de Walcheren, will be ordained a priest on December 22 at the Benedictine Abbey at Oosterhout, near here.

A member of the Benedictine community at the Abbey, Dom Pieter, 75, entered the monastery in 1955, two years after the death of his wife, Christine.

A convert to the Church in 1911, Dom Pieter was a friend of the French writer, Leon Bloy. He was the founder of the influential literary circle, called "The Community." He wrote many articles for magazines and was the author of several volumes.

One of his daughters, Anne Marie, is a member of the Benedictine community of nuns at Oosterhout. A son, Pieter, was a member of the Abbey until his death in 1933 at the age of 30.