Marian Custom Growing In Mexico

Mexico City — (RNS) — A movement among Mexican Catholics to celebrate the birth of the Blessed Virgin Mary with cribs and cradle scenes has been gathering impetus.

In churches throughout the countryside, altars were decorated with a cradle scene in the Virgin's colors — blue and white — on the Feast of the Nativity of Mary, Sept. 8.

In countless homes, meanwhile, the materials used in making Christmas cribs were utilized to prepare a nativity scene in honor of the Virgin.

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New Biography Recalls Jesuit Poet-Martyr Hero

New York—(NC)—Years of patient research on the political and literary history of Elizabethan England have born fruit in a new biography of the Jesuit poet, Robert Southwell.

"The Life of Robert Southwell, Poet and Martyr," published here by Farrar, Straus and Cudahy, is the first modern study of Southwell's life. Previous studies have ben concerned with his poetry.

THE AUTHOR of this exhaustive biography is the Jesuit scholar Father Christopher Devlin. He makes use of all materials previously available and new materials only recently discovered.

Robert Southwell, one of the most gifted Shakespeare's contemporaries, was born in 1561, the son of a wealthy man with a failing fortune. His early decision to serve the Faith in an England where Catholicism could mean death is a tribute to the understanding of his family.

Catholic families had to send their sons to the continent to give them a Catholic education. But this was done illegally. Discovery could mean imprisonment, torture or death.

Southwell chose a dangerous path. He slipped overseas and studied in Paris and Rome. He became a Jesuit and prepared to return to England to serve the Church in secret.

HIS DUAL career back in England was brief. To the faithful he was a devoted priest. To the literary world of the day he was a lyric poet of power and sweetness. Ten editions of his poems were licensed in less than eight years.

Suspected and spied upon, Father Robert Southwell was finally discovered. A bold letter appealing to the mercy of the Queen signed his death warrant. Father Southwell was tortured and hanged in 1595 after several years of imprisonment.

Father Devlin's account of the trial shows clearly the sharp wit of the poet-priest and his piety and courage in the face of death.

African Cathedral

Nampula, Portuguese East Africa — (NC) — A new cathedral, dedicated to Our Lady of Fatima, has been consecrated here.

More English In Holy Week Rites Urged

(continued form page 1)

litanies, the Improperia, and the lessons at the Vigil to which the people are expected to listen."

SOME OF the U. S. bishops' recommendations, as summarized by the late Bishop of Kansas City-St. Joseph, had a practical nature. They stressed the overcrowding, especially in some of the big city parishes, at the Holy Thursday and Good Friday services. They noted the need for one morning Mass on Holy Thursday for people who cannot attend in the evening.

An almost unanimous recommendation of the U. S. bishops was that the Good Friday services be permitted to begin at 12 noon. They noted the tradition in many American cities of closing offices, factories and shops from noon until 3 p. m. Some suggested that another, shorter service (with Holy Communion) in the evening as well as the full service in the afternon, to alleviate the overcrowding problem.

Many of the ordinaries suggested that something be done to make the Veneration of the Cross more practicable in crowded churches.

Jacobite Families Join Church

Tiruvalla, Travancore, India — (NC)—Bishop Zacharias Mar Athanasios of Tiruvalla recently led back more than 35 Jacobite schismatic Christian families to the Catholic Church.

The conversion occurred at two locations where the Bishop himself a convert from the Jacobite church, dedicated churches for the use of the new Catholics.

He celebrated the first Mass in the new church at Ancherli. At Meenadam he laid the corner stone for a new church.

Prays For Persecutors

San Francisco — (NC) — Shown during a news conference here is Bishop Henry Ambrose Pinger, O.F.M., a veteran of five years imprisonment by the Chinese Communists. A veteran of 30 years in the Chinese missions, Bishop Pinger remarked that "In my first Holy Mass after five years . . . I asked God to grant the rulers of China grace that they may gradually . . . realize and accept the existence of God. . ."

Professors Deny View Negro Lacks Educational Ability

Washington—(NC)—Four Catholic University of America professors have taken exception to a statement by a Villanova University professor that psychological-test performances have shown that Negroes as a group do not possess as much capacity for education as do white people.

The four issued a statement disagreeing with the conclusions of Dr. Frank C. J. McGurk, associate professor of psychology at Villanova, who received his Ph.D. in 1951 from Catholic University. He expressed his views in a copyrighted article in 'U. S. News & World Report,' an independent weekly news magazine published here.

Dr. McGurk wrote: ". . . As far as psychological-test performance is a measure of capacity for education, Negroes as a group do not possess as much of it as whites as a group. This has been demonstrated over and over."

Father John LaFarge, a pioneer in Catholic interracial work, also gave a statement to the N.C.W.C. News Service disagreeing with Dr. McGurk.

THE FOUR professors said that "the differences that have been observed in psychological test performance may be interpreted different ways."

They pointed out that in the 63 studies to which Dr. McGurk referred in his article, only in six did the two groups have presumably equal socio-economic backgrounds.

"As was pointed out in criticism of World War I test performance, socio-economic conditions are only some of the possible factors in explaining score differences.

"It is well recognized that other factors such as previous experience, education, familiarity with the text subject, motivations, relationship between tester and tested, knowledge of the language and native abilities are all contributing factors.

"Only if all these factors are paired in two populations is there any hope of arriving at an explanation of the differences. This has not been done," the statement said.

It was signed by Father (Dr.) Bernard G. Mulvaney, associate professor of sociology; Dr. William D. Commins, associate professor of psychology Dr. Regina F. Herzfeld, professor of anthropology and Dr. Gottfried Lang, assistant professor of anthropology.

FATHER LaFARGE said that "no scientist really knows what an American Negro could do in a fully integrated American nation."

"The most that has been shown is that in our segregated society certain tests show the Negro inferior in his capacity for education.

"Is this an inborn natural trait or is it a reflex of external pressures?

"Until we have scientific studies of Negro achievements in a really integrated society (not just integrated schools), we cannot pronounce on innate capacity. Nobody has ever seen a Negro who lived in such an environment," said the associate editor of the national Catholic weekly review, America.

DR. McGURK said that "vast improvements in the social and economic status of the Negro have not changed his relationship to the whites regarding capacity for education."

Father LaFarge said that "the Negro is born, lives and dies in an abnormal world. The more he raises his socio-economic or intellectual status, the more heavily the abnormality presses upon him because he appreciates more clearly the complete irrationality of the whole system of segregation."

THE FOUR Catholic University professors also said that few scientists would take exception to Dr. McGurk's suggestion that differences in test scores are not only due to differences in socio-economic status.

"In failing to indicate what the other factors might be," the professors said, "he implies that the differences are to be explained only on the basis of inherited, race-link intellectual deficiencies on the part of the Negro, as when he states . . . we appeal to the legal machinery to do what nature was not content to do.' This point of view is not shared by many of the scientists in the field better known than is Dr. McGurk."

Boss Caught Between Stockholders, Workers

Christian Employer Holds Role 'Not Easy'

Derby, England —(NC)— The Christian employer's lot is not an easy one, a Derby factory owner said here after he was invested as a Knight of St. Gregory by Bishop Edward Ellis of Nottingham.

The statement was made by Alan Turner, who runs his Spa Lane Textile Mills here on "papal lines." He was accorded the papal honor "for his outstanding promotion of the Church's social teaching."

MR. TURNER'S factory, which operates strictly on the lines of the papal encyclicals, has 150 workers and only 15 per cent of them are Catholics. Every working day closes with evening prayers.

Mr. Turner said that the Christian employer will be expected not only to be all things to all men, but also to provide all things for all men.

"The Christian employer," he said, "can expect to have all his good intentions misunderstood. He will meet apathy and even opposition from those who might be most expected to support him.

"He will be taken advantage of in many ways. He will be expected to give, forgive and give again. His shareholders expect him to be ruthlessly efficient and his employees expect him to be as gentle as a Sister of Mercy.

"He has to learn to reconcile all these without complaining. For if he loses his patience he nearly always lets off his wrath against the wrong person, and makes an ass of himself."

Many years ago, Mr. Turner stated, he was asked if he thought a man could save his soul in industry. His reply was affirmative. "Now," he said, "I would add 'but with difficulty.'"

"The whole factory," he stressed, "depends on the example of the employer and makes little allowance for his human failings. This fact throws upon him a tremendous responsibility for the spiritual as well as the temporal welfare of his subjects."

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