

# National Shrine Nears Completion In Washington

By BURKE WALSH

Washington — (NC) — The superstructure of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here is now approximately one-third completed after two years of work.

If the present rate of building continues, depending largely upon supplies and weather, the current phase of the work on the great upper church will be completed in 1955, and well within the five years allowed at the outset. This work includes the rearing of the great granite walls, installation of the roof, fashioning of the massive dome, covering the floor of the upper church with marble, and lining the inside walls with face brick.

DESTINED TO be one of the ten greatest churches in the world, the Shrine's construction combines the old and the new in a remarkable manner. Then men who climb its soaring scaffolding are adapting centuries-old techniques of cathedral building to modern tempo and equipment.

No steel girders are to be found in the edifice's skeleton, but tall cranes swing blocks of stone into positions high above the ground. Huge brick piers with concrete centers support the great weight of the dome. Relatively little mortar is used between sections of marble columns — just enough to level off almost imperceptible depressions in the stone.

At the same time, provision is being made for radio and television broadcasting from the Shrine, and its acoustical planning will be the most modern. So up to date is this aspect of the construction work that some television plans made only two years ago have been altered slightly to take advantage of the very latest advances in the field.

The builders are about to start on a bas-relief of Blessed Mary, Queen of Heaven, which is to adorn the outer wall of the north apse. The design was executed by Ivan Mestrovic, one of the greatest of contemporary sculptors, who shipped a plaster of Paris model, 20 feet high, from his studio at the University of Notre Dame.

After outlining this figure on the granite wall, in full scale from the model, highly skilled workmen using modern pneumatic tools will cut away the surrounding stone to let the figure of the Blessed Mother stand out in bold relief.

THE STONE work is farthest advanced at the north end of the Shrine. There the outside wall already rises 74 feet above the ground and soon will be the 79-foot-high roof line for the north, west and east apses. The main roof will be 120 feet above the ground.

Four large piers resting on concrete footings 62 feet square will support the dome. These piers have substantial brick exteriors into which concrete is being poured to make the core. Some 12,000 cubic yards of concrete will be needed in construction of the superstructure and 6,500 cubic yards already have been poured.

Some 9,000,000 bricks will be used in the superstructure.

Other piers will have hollow interiors, into which circular stairways will be fitted. This will simplify maintenance problems in the great church once it is built. Special platforms, ladders and catwalks are to be built between the inner and outer domes to facilitate the progress of repairs in the years to come. The dome itself will be 89 feet in diameter as seen from the inside of the church, and 103 feet in diameter on the outside.

Electrical, heating, plumbing and venting work going into the Shrine also distinguishes this edifice from great churches built centuries ago. This work, it is reported, is keeping pace with the erection of stone and brick.

SOMETHING OF the size of the Shrine, and of the great care going into its construction, is reflected in the fact that a total of 502 working drawings, large scale and full size details, already have been provided by the architect, while 177 architectural models have been approved and made ready for the carving of the ornamental details.

At the same time, International known professors from the Massachusetts Institute of Tech-

## One Statue Goes Up



### Ornamentation For National Shrine

Washington, D.C. — (NC) — Just arrived at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, now under construction in Washington, D.C., is this plaster-of-paris model of a 20-foot bas-relief to be carved of Mary, Queen of Heaven. The model, work of noted sculptor Ivan Mestrovic of the University of Notre Dame, is being viewed by Joseph Campo, left, who will carve the bas-relief into the granite outer wall of the shrine and Msgr. Thomas J. Grady, Director of the Shrine.

nology are consulting with the architects and engineers on the acoustics and public address systems being built into the great church. Through the cooperation of Frank Polson, president of the Radio Corporation of America, three top RCA engineers are advising on the radio and television installations.

Experts are also giving their advice regarding a cafeteria which it is planned to locate under the south terrace of the Shrine.

Work on the National Shrine

of the Immaculate Conception was first started in September, 1920. Its foundations and magnificent crypt church were virtually completed at the outbreak of World War II, which curtailed supplies and funds. Little new construction work was done until the Bishops started work on the superstructure in the spring of 1955.

THE SHRINE will be 453 feet long and 240 feet at its widest point. The dome will be located at the crossing of the nave and

transept, and the cross atop the dome will be 237 feet in the air. The upper church will have a seating capacity of more than 3,000. Its great sanctuary will seat all of the more than 200 members of the American Hierarchy, plus several hundred priests, and still leave ample room for the most colorful religious ceremonies.

Maginnis and Walsh and Kennedy of Boston are the architects of the Shrine. John McShain Inc. is the builder.

## Another Comes Down



### Monument De-Stalinized

Budapest — (NC) — Graphic reminder of an oppressed people's vengeance is this partly destroyed Stalin Memorial in Budapest. Originally the old Hungarian Communist regime had destroyed a church dedicated to the Blessed Mother to make room for the Stalin memorial. After toppling the statue, Hungarians broke up the massive statue of Stalin, carrying home pieces of bronze as souvenirs of their revolution.

## Italian Red Quits Party, Says Communism Fails

Corigliano Calabro, Italy — (NC) — Giuseppe Fusaro, secretary of the Chamber of Commerce in this city and an active communist, has resigned from the Communist party because "it has failed to keep its promises to the poor and the working classes in Italy."

IN HIS LETTER of resignation, Fusaro wrote:

"I hold that the idea of keeping an honest attitude while belonging . . . to the Communist party is not sustainable. A political organization must strive to defend the real interests of the people and submit them to a discipline based on civic conscience; it must not substitute the sole spirit of the party for that civic conscience."

"While a member of the Communist party, I was often able to witness the manner in which our ability to see facts under their true light was destroyed, the manner in which lies and policies were organized for the main purpose of protecting the interests of the party."

"I AM A CITIZEN who was born and raised in my Italian Fatherland, for which I have worn a uniform and fought. I am a Catholic, as my fathers were before me. I feel that I cannot ever again be an accomplice of those who intend to destroy my patri-

otic feelings, my religion, and above all, my freedom."

Fusaro handed over to the Christian Democratic Party his 25 Communist party membership cards, dating from 1944, and asked to be admitted as a member of the Christian Democrat party.

The federation is expected to be formed at a meeting of sodalists in the Coronado Hotel here on January 19 and 20, 1957. This meeting will be followed by the directors' conference, which will take place at the hotel from January 22 to 24.

The federation will give American sodalists representation in the World Congress of Sodality every five years in Rome.

St. Louis — (NC) — The formation of a National Federation of Sodality of Our Lady has been approved by Pope Pius XII in a letter sent here to Father Erwin A. Jurschek, president of the National Diocesan Sodality Directors' Conference.

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## FCC Refuses 'Atheist's' Request Against Stations

### Dubuque Reports Religious Census

Dubuque, Iowa — (NC) — Out of 44,620 persons counted in a religious census of Dubuque, 30,580 said that they were Catholics, it was reported by the Dubuque Christian Teaching Mission, sponsored by 18 Protestant churches of the city, which made the survey.

The official census figure for Dubuque, including territory annexed to the city since 1950, is more than 50,000. A break-down of the total showed that 12,575 persons identified themselves as Protestants; 85 persons indicated membership in the Greek Orthodox Church and 124 said they were of the Jewish faith.

Washington — (NC) — The Federal Communications Commission has denied the request of a self-avowed atheist to cancel the licenses of two San Francisco radio stations because they did not offer him 'equal time' to reply to a religious program.

The protest was made in a letter written to the commission by Robert H. Scott of Saratoga, Calif., who stated that a religious program by San Francisco stations KGO and KGO-FM constituted an attack on atheism.

Mr. Scott said he had not asked for air time, but that failure of the stations to offer it to him was a violation of commission regulations.

In a letter sent to Mr. Scott, the commission rejected his request and stated "that the public interest would be served" by renewing the stations' licenses.



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## Daily Mass Calendar

- December 9 — Second of Advent (purple), Trinity Preface.
- December 10 — Mass day, except 2nd prayer Melchisedech, no Creed, on Preface; VR.
- December 11 — Mass day, except 2nd prayer Damascus, no Creed, on Preface; VR.
- December 12 — Mass day, except no Creed, on Preface; VR.
- December 13 — St. Lucy, martyr (red), Gloria,ayer of Sunday.
- December 14 — Mass as day; VR.
- December 15 — Mass day, except High Mass; Preface and Requiem per-

## THREE-WAY CHRISTMAS GIFT

Every single gift you send will go three ways—(1) to your friend or relative, (2) to the Holy Father, and (3) to your Lord the Babe of Bethlehem. Because it'll go in his or her name to help the Holy Father's mission in the lands where the Babe was born and lived. It's actually a gift to yourself, too, for each gift will find its blessing for yourself. Just send it to a friend or loved one, religious or lay person, our BEAUTIFUL NEW GIFT CARD. We'll send it to the world and will enclose FRESH FLOWERS FROM BETHLEHEM. It's greeting will say that you arranged to have a missionary say Mass at Bethlehem for the one that you enrolled them, or that you gave a sacred article to a Near East mission chapel in their name. Our chapel is in Bethlehem, Palestine. For each chapel we need \$10. Mass bells, \$5, sanctuary lamps \$15.



candles (year's supply costs) \$20, Mass book \$25, Tabernacle \$25, Chalice or Ciborium \$40, vestments \$50, Altars \$75.

ARCHBISHOP GORI, THE LATIN PATRIARCH OF JERUSALEM WILL OFFER HIS SOLEMN CHRISTMAS MASS AT BETHLEHEM FOR OUR BENEFACTORS. TEN OTHER PRIESTS WILL ALSO OFFER THEIR CHRISTMAS MASSES AT THE GROTTTO. THIS IS THEIR AND OUR WAY OF THANKING YOU FOR REMEMBERING THEM WITH YOUR MASS OFFERINGS AND FOR YOUR OTHER GIFTS TO OUR MISSIONS.

OUR LADY'S FEAST. Did you forget your favorite Sister this year? Even if it's in a far away land, we'll send you a new GIFT CARD with the picture of OUR LADY OF THE HOLY LAND to tell her that you requested a Mass for her, or enrolled her.

### BARD OF OUR LADY

Our Lady's feast calls to mind St. Ephrem, one of the most celebrated writers of the early Church in the East who expressed some of the most beautiful poems about Our Lady. We also think of SISTER MARY EPHREM in India, who pleads with us to find a friend to send the \$150 we need each year for her two in training. The poetry of her dedicated life in religion will speak daily to God of her heartfelt gratitude.

WHERE THERE'S A WILL THERE'S A WAY. YOUR WILL IS GOD'S WAY FOR HIS MISSIONS.

TROUBLE IN THE MIDDLE EAST means plenty of headaches for Father King. This noble American priest is trying in the name of the Holy Father to look after the unfortunate Arab refugees exiled from their homes because of these troubles. He will bless you for a FOOD PACKAGE (\$10) to help him for Christmas. For each package we'll send a lovely OLIVE SEED ROSARY FROM THE HOLY LAND.

### TWO JACOBS

During Advent the Church in her history has been waiting for the coming of the Savior, just as the patriarchs of the Old Testament, like Jacob, did. We have two young hopefuls named Jacob, one in India and another in Iraq. Both are also anxiously waiting to hear that we have found a kind sponsor who will send us the \$150 needed each year during his six years' training for the priesthood. Won't you? You can send it in any installment.

YOUR 'STRINGLESS GIFTS' ARE THE LIFELINE THE HOLY FATHER USES FOR MISSION EMERGENCIES. CAN YOU SEND HIM A MITE TODAY?

The noble Sisters who give their lives to serve the wanted bodies of our lepers in India set great store by your gift to our DANIEL LEFER FUND. This is our DOLLAR-A-MONTH-CLUB for the mission need. Won't you join today?

## Near East Missions

Send all communications to: CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION 480 Lexington Ave. at 44th St. New York 17, N. Y.

## Vatican Greet

### Liberated Bishops

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio broadcast "greetings of joy" to three Roman Catholic bishops in Poland who were permitted to return to their sees following the recent liberation of Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, the Polish Primate.

The prelates are Bishop Stanislaus Adamski of Kotowice and his Auxiliaries, Bishops Julian Blenski and Herbert Bednorz. Shortly before the Primate's liberation the three bishops had been re-arrested after having been released from prison.

"From the Vatican broadcasting station," the Vatican Radio message said, "we send our filial expressions of respect and veneration, as well as our profound joy at the fact that the Lord has shown the strength of His arm, and that in His hands lies the fate of us all."

### Burses To Aid Priesthood Students

Oklahoma City — (NC) — Establishment by an Oklahoma woman of two \$15,000 perpetual burse for the education of seminarians was announced here by Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness of Oklahoma City and Tulsa.

# "CHRISTMAS IS Christ's Birthday"

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