

# Hartford Laymen Hit Euthanasia Bid

**Hartford, Conn. (NC)**—Three bills before the state General Assembly here have been denounced by three Catholic laymen as thinly disguised attempts to legalize euthanasia, so-called "mercy killing."

The laymen—two physicians and an attorney—expressed objections to the proposed measures in testimony before the legislative Committee on Health and Public Safety.

At this same session, the committee heard arguments on bills which would repeal a 78-year-old state law and permit doctors and hospitals to disseminate contraceptive information to married women whose health the doctor or hospital members consider as likely to be endangered by pregnancy.

Dr. Thomas M. Feeney of Hartford said the "true intent" of the three bills is "obviously euthanasia." But Charles Nixdorf of Stratford, at whose request the bills were introduced, said they would "protect" physicians in instances where patients in their last moments wish to be kept unconscious to relieve pain, die because of increase in the drug budget.

Dr. Feeney pointed to the need for "complete trust and confidence" between patient and doctor. He said, "What trust could a doctor have in a physician who enters the sick room armed with a scalpel?"

by the state with permission to engage in suicidal pacts or to commit murder?"

He said that euthanasia arguments are based on the premise of the infallibility of a diagnosis. "No such infallibility exists," he said.

The two other laymen who spoke against the bills were Dr. J. Richard Lenehan and attorney Joseph P. Cooney, both of Hartford.

AS FOR THE proposal to allow dissemination of birth control information, Dr. Thomas J. Tarasovic of the obstetrical and gynecological staff at Bridgeport Hospital said that modern advances in the treatment of complications attending pregnancy made the proposal "almost farcical."

He said the bill is "inconsistent with good medicine" and "because the maternal mortality rate in Connecticut is now at an almost irreducible minimum, it becomes totally unnecessary." Several other doctors expressed agreement with him at the hearing.

The bill was introduced at the request of the Planned Parenthood League of Connecticut.

# Catholic Inquiry Bureau Wins Converts In England

**London (NC)**—The Catholic Inquiry Bureau, founded here three years ago to spread the Faith by attracting inquirers through publicity in the national press, is proving itself one of the most successful methods of conversion this country has ever known.

# SAVE OUR SISTERS

Jordan's desert is pretty bleak—cold, windy winters; scorching, dry summers; monotonous scenery. Archbishop Assaf brought three Basilian Sisters from the lovely green mountains of Lebanon to work in Ader, a Meilan village 200 miles in the desert, for his flock of 300 Greek Catholics and to teach the children, Moslem and Catholic. There's no road, no electricity, no good water, and little enough of the food. The Sisters sell every drop they use. The good Archbishop had only a mud house of three small rooms in which they must live, crowd the lots for school and the people for worship. Here where the Church has vital need of such precious missionaries, he feels their health will not withstand such extremities. He must provide a 6-room convent with a small chapel, which will serve as parish church. He needs \$2,000. Won't you help?

**GAZA — FR. KING — AQABA**  
As we write these lines the world wonders what will become of Gaza and Aqaba. So do the 800,000 refugees. They are caught in between the politics, and Fr. King is with them, worrying how he'll find means to feed, clothe, educate and care for them. For every \$10 gift (food pack) he'll send with thanks a HOLY LAND ROSARY OF OLIVEWOOD.

In Rome two Armenian girls are preparing to go among their own people in the Middle East as missionaries. **SISTER BEATRICE** and **SISTER ALVITA** are without means. The Sisters need \$100 a year for each of the two years they are training to keep them. Won't you "adopt" one by sending us the yearly sum in any convenient payments—weekly (\$3), monthly (\$12.50) or anyway.

Whether you have little or much, dispose of it YOUR OWN WAY by making a will. Without good legal advice you may make an invalid one. **IN ANY CASE GIVE GOD HIS PLACE IN IT.**

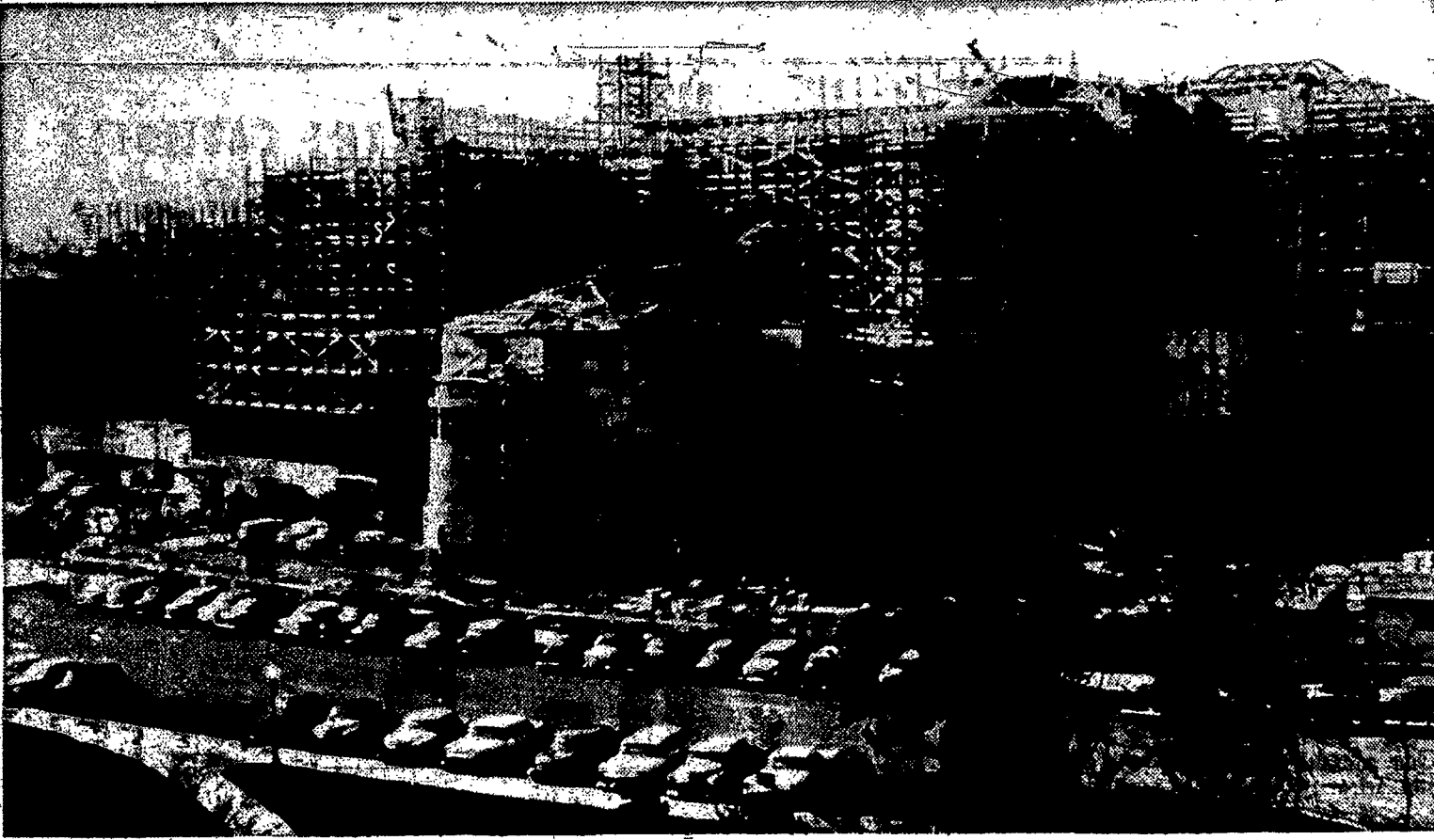
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Wondering how to greet that special relative or friend, priest, nun or lay person? From your home you can order our NEW EASTER GIFT CARD to tell them you remembered them with a Mass by a Holy Land missionary; OR with a gift enrollment; OR an article for a church; OR with the Holy Land. We enclose PRESSED FLOWERS from the Holy Land.

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Picture \$10 Vestments \$80 Crucifix \$25

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On Easter morning we have arranged that the Latin Patriarch of Jerusalem will offer Pontifical Mass at the HOLY SEPULCHRE, as will ten of his priests immediately after him for our benefactors. Thus do we and they thank you for your precious MASS OFFERING and other gifts throughout the year. It is their only support.

**TWO BOYS** in India, both named **VARGHESE**, long to be missionaries among their own people. One has three years to go, the other five. We need \$100 a year to keep each during his training. If you wish, then, that a friend will send them this yearly sum in

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# National Shrine To Mary Rises In Washington

**Washington (NC)**—Walls climb skyward for the national shrine of the Immaculate Conception as workers resume construction following winter snow and frosts. Catholics of the Rochester Diocese have contributed towards construction costs in annual December collection. The shrine is located on the campus of the Catholic University of America here in the Capital.

# Pagan Quits Beating Mass-Going Sons, Permits Their Baptism In Catholic Faith

**Taipei, Formosa (NC)**—Two brothers, baptized here recently, took a beating every Sunday for two years because they attended Mass—and they often went hungry Friday when only meat was served at home.

During that time they were still pagans—their father objected to their becoming Catholics and showed his displeasure in no uncertain manner whenever they visited the Catholic mission.

**RECENTLY, HOWEVER, THEIR** perseverance was rewarded. Their father relented, and they have been baptized, taking the names Peter and Paul. Their courage had indeed been in the tradition of the apostles.

Two years ago, when Peter was 15 and Paul 14 the boys visited the church at Hsin Chuan, on the outskirts of Taipei, accompanied by some Catholic friends. Attracted and inspired by the Catholic

teaching, the boys wished to become Christians, but their father, a staunch pagan, opposed them.

The boys nevertheless continued to hear Mass each Sunday, though it usually meant a beating from an irate parent on returning home. On Fridays they abstained from meat, even though it often resulted in empty stomachs.

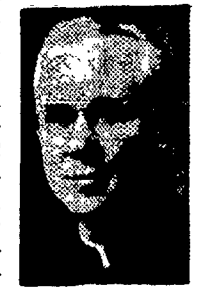
**SUCH FAITH AT LAST** convinced the pagan father that this was no passing whim, and he bowed to the inevitable. Father Peter Mertens, Belgian priest of the Society of the Auxiliaries of the Missions, and pastor of Hsin Chuan, baptized the joyful boys, their parents consenting.

"I now have hopes of converting the entire family," says Father Mertens. "The boys' teen-age sister is permitted to come freely to the church, and I feel sure that through the children we can still further influence the parents."

# FATHER SHEERIN Greatest Journalist

Father Gillis, Guardian of Our Freedoms

Since his death on March 14, Father Gillis has been eulogized in the Catholic Press. Glowing tributes have been paid to his priestliness, his editorials in the "Catholic World," his magnificent talents as a preacher. Readers of his NC syndicated column *Sursum Corda* knew that whether or not they differed with him, they felt compelled to read him.



Father Sheerin

I think I express the majority opinion when I say that he was the greatest Catholic journalist of our time.

As a personal friend, I would like to call attention to the underlying theme of his writings. Unless this theme is kept in mind, one might easily misinterpret what Father Gillis had to say. He was a "freedom-fighter" calling on us to guard our freedoms.

He was a fierce lover of liberty. "Fierce" may seem a harsh word to apply to a priest, but Father Gillis saw that human freedom is the prize for which the great modern struggles are being fought. Love of liberty was a passion in him.

He loved liberty as Savanaria (whom he revered as a great moral hero) loved it. Like the 15th-century Dominican thundering against the Medici because they robbed Florence of liberty, Father Gillis lashed out at the modern dictators.

He found his pulpit in the Catholic Press. Time after time he quoted to me the words of the late Bishop Turner of Buffalo: "The Catholic Press is or by right should be the freest press in the world."

Father Gillis availed himself of every inch of that freedom. He said things many secular journalists wouldn't dare say.

When Hitler, for instance, was riding high in American public opinion, the Catholic World editor castigated him. When Mussolini was being lauded by the daily press for ridding Rome of beggars and getting Italian trains to run on time, when he was commended by Catholics for put-

ting up crucifixes in Italian schoolrooms, Father Gillis was not impressed. At first he was amused, then indignant that Americans should fail to see that Mussolini was clamping chains on the Italian people.

Father Gillis attacked President Roosevelt and the New Deal. He felt the New Deal was a surrender of our republican form of government. Of the President he said: "I think he means not merely a new shuffle of the cards, or even a new pack, but a new game."

Father Gillis has been accused of being anti-labor. No man was stronger in his support of the workingman, but he did fire away at corrupt labor bosses who victimized the union members. In view of the present Senate probe of labor racketeers, who will say Father Gillis was very far wrong?

He was one of the first Catholic writers to condemn the notion of "white supremacy." Twenty-five years ago, when he delivered radio talks over a national hookup station after station in the South cut him off, I can vision him discussing injustice to the Negro and echoing the words of another famous editor, the abolitionist William Lloyd Garrison: "I am in earnest, I will not equivocate. I will not retreat a single inch and I will be heard."

He was a man of strong opinions. Yet he was quick to recognize any claim to personal infallibility. In his editorials in the Catholic World and in the *Sursum Corda* columns, he reminded readers frequently that he did not presume to act as the voice of the official Catholic press on current problems. Usually, he was no official position and Father Gillis was simply expressing his own views.

As a child he breathed the air of freedom in historic Boston. He once wrote: "I am by birth and training and sentiment and spirit a Bostonian. All the Bostonian tradition of patriotism was instilled into me by parents and teachers from the time I arrived at the age of reason." For "patriotism" substitute the phrase "love of liberty" and you have a description of Father Gillis, the editor.

# Archbishop Lucey Condemns Racists

**San Antonio, Tex. (ENS)**—Pro-segregation measures pending in the state legislature were condemned by Roman Catholic Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio. He called upon "segregationist legislators" to resign.

The prelate issued the denunciation after the House tentatively passed a bill which would bar members of the National Association of Colored People from public employment in the state.

Addressing a city-wide meeting of the Legion of Mary, Archbishop Lucey charged legislators who voted for the anti-NACP bill with "hypocrisy, stupidity and lack of patriotism."

"If any members of our legislature are so filled with hatred against colored citizens that they are incapable of doing them justice, they ought to resign," he said.

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