

Pope Composes Prayer For Priestly Vocations

Concord, N.C. (Radio, NC)—Pope Plus XII has composed the following prayer for vocations to the priesthood:

Lord Jesus, Supreme Priest and Universal Pastor, who taught us to pray, saying 'Pray therefore the Lord of the harvest to send forth laborers into his harvest' (Matt. 9:38), kindly hear our supplications and rouse many generous souls, who, animated by your example and sustained by your grace, will aspire to be the ministers and perpetuators of your true and only priesthood.

Grant that the snares and calumnies of the evil foe, supported by the indifferent and materialistic spirit of the century, will not dim among the faithful that lofty splendor and that profound esteem due to the mission of those who, without being of the world, live in the world to be dispensers of the divine mysteries.

Grant that religious instructions, sincere piety, purity of life and respect for the highest ideals will always continue to be promoted in youth so that good vocations may be prepared. May they be supported by a Christian family which will never cease to be the nursery of unspoil and fervent souls and which will ever remain conscious of the honor of giving some of its abundant offspring to God.

Grant that Your Church itself in all parts of the world will not lack the necessary means to receive, promote, form and bring to maturity the good vocations which are offered there.

And in order that all this may be realized, O Jesus, Who are most concerned with the welfare and salvation of all, grant that the irresistible power of Your grace will not cease to descend from heaven until it has penetrated many spirits; first called silently, then responding generously and finally persevering in Your holy service.

Are You not afflicted, O Lord, at seeing such multitudes as flocks without a shepherd, without anyone to nourish them with Your words, without anyone to bring them the water of Your grace, who are in danger of being at the mercy of the rapacious wolves who constantly lie in wait for them?

Do You not suffer at seeing so many fields untouched by the blade of the plow, where thistles and thorns grow without anyone to fight for ground against them?

Are You not pained at seeing Your gardens, once blossoming and green, about to become yellow and untended? Will You allow such abundant harvests, now mature, to shed their grain and be lost for want of arms to gather them?

O Mother Mary, most pure, from whose pious hands we received the most holy of all priests; O Glorious Patriarch St. Joseph, perfect example of response to divine calling; O all you holy priests who form a beloved choir around the Lamb of God in heaven; obtain for us many and good vocations so that the flocks of the Lord, supported and guided by vigilant pastors, will be able to enter the most sweet pastures of eternal happiness. Amen.

Religious TV Audience 'Miniscule' Says Priest

Union City, N. J.—The audience watching religious television programs is "miniscule in an industry that speaks of its audience with tireless frequency in the millions," according to Rev. Timothy J. Flynn, director of Radio and Television Communications of the Archdiocese of New York.

Writing in *The Sign*, national Catholic magazine published here, Father Flynn charges that "religious television for a multiplicity of reasons is simply not reaching the vast audiences presumably reachable through television."

Among the reasons for this failure, Father Flynn mentions that "most of the time offered by TV stations for religious programming is in the early hours—when few of the nation's TV sets are turned on."

Father Flynn also calls "dismal" the fact that "the vast majority of the religious program audience seems incapable of identifying the religious denomination represented on the program they had viewed."

CITING THE Trendex study on which he based his article, Father Flynn states that "67.4 per cent of the people interrogated claimed they could not identify the religious denomination represented on the program they had viewed."

Typical Trendex ratings for programs studied were: Oral Roberts—11.6; Christophers—7.2; The Catholic Hour—4.3; Rev. Heneghan—2.9; This is the Life—1.4; Lamp Unto My Feet—1.4; and Look Up and Live—1.4. (For comparison, a top Trendex rating would be in the 40's.)

"ON THE FAVORABLE side of the ledger," according to Father Flynn, "there are two points to be made. Nobody can estimate the intensive effects on the mind of viewers made by a religious broadcast. A sermon is intended as an occasion of God's grace. So too is any form of Catholic broadcasting. Furthermore, it is clear that religious television is reaching audiences that could never be reached through other media available to the Church."

Calling the religious TV audience "highly diversified," he points out that an attempt was

3,189 Catholics At Michigan U.

Ann Arbor, Mich. (NC)—There are 3,189 Catholic students at the University of Michigan, according to figures released by the university office of religious affairs.



Mass On Wheels For Migrants

Parish on wheels is a way of life for Fathers Rafael Martinez at left, and Father Arturo Liebrenz, O.F.M., as they offer Mass and travel in specially made altar trailers. Their work carries them among Mexican laborers in California's Monterey-Pescadero Diocese and neighboring territory. Below is a chapel, the trailers are equipped with office and living quarters. (NC Photos)

Colombia

Violence Against Protestants Denied

Bogota, Colombia (RNS)—A Roman Catholic leader here denied recent charges by an official of an American Protestant organization that Catholic priests had been directly or indirectly involved in 700 cases of alleged violence against Protestants in this country.

The Rev. Eduardo Ospina, S.J., vice-president of the Secretariat for the Defense of the Faith, an agency of the Colombian Hierarchy, said the charges came from Dr. Clyde W. Taylor of Washington, D.C., secretary of public affairs for the National Association of Evangelicals.

He said Dr. Taylor made them at a rally sponsored by Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State and reported in the newspaper *El Tiempo*, published here.

IN A LETTER to *El Tiempo*, Father Ospina said he rejected the charges "with special vigor." "The 700 cases of violence Dr. Taylor mentioned," he wrote, "refer mainly to the period from 1949 to 1952. The assertion that the attacks were in most cases provoked directly or indirectly by Catholic priests has been furnished by the secretary of the Evangelical Confederation of Colombia, who since 1952 has been gathering from the most varied sources reports on all sorts of conflicts and frictions involving Protestants."

Father Ospina said the confederator's purpose was to "make the public abroad believe that

there is in Colombia a cruel religious persecution."

However, he said, "Mr. B. E. Long, a Protestant and very much interested in defending his co-religionists, wrote in the Oct. 26 issue of *Time* magazine that it has to be emphatically asserted that the Colombian people and probably 95 per cent of the Catholic clergy have nothing to do with the persecution."

FATHER OSPINA went on to ask:

"If the people of Colombia and 95 per cent of the Catholic clergy have nothing to do with persecution, if the religious and civil authorities have never ordered, encouraged or approved any act of religious violence, and if the ignorant and fanatical persons who treat Protestants with violence are a small minority, as asserted in an article in *El Tiempo*, with what right and with what honesty does any one speak of 'persecution' against Protestants in this country?"

Father Ospina said it was true he himself had affirmed on various occasions that Protestants have suffered fires, confiscations and death. But he pointed out that this was in regions infested by bandits who also committed outrages against Catholics.



Cardinal's Auxiliary

Named Auxiliary Bishop to Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, is Msgr. John M. Fearns, pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church, New York. A native of New York, educated at St. Joseph's Seminary, Dunwoodie, N.Y., and at the North American College, Rome, and ordained in 1922, Msgr. Fearns formerly served as rector of St. Joseph's Seminary.

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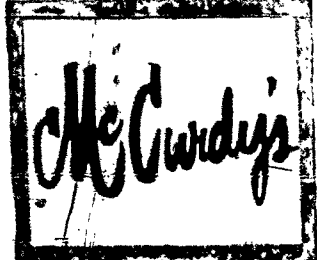
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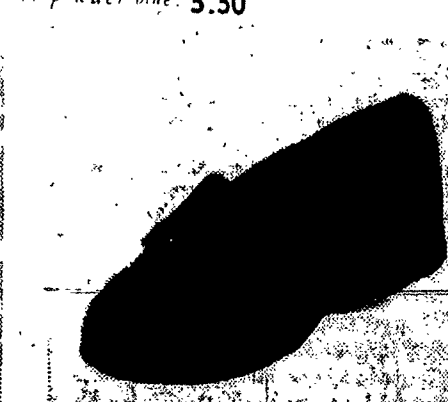
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