

Pope Urges Defense Of Divine Order

By ELMER VON FELDT

Vatican City—(NC)—Pope Pius XII has called upon the Christian world to shake off a pessimistic lethargy and to become the "vigorous defender" of the "divine order in the world."

The Holy Father issued this challenge in his 19th Christmas message, dedicated to showing a troubled world the Christian way to peace.

In addition to his challenge to the Christian world, the Pope's three-part message released here made these points:

Warned against a "blind fascination for progress," cautioning that technology by itself may imprison man "within its own limitations."

Emphasized that a rejection of Christ in society means "the iron discipline of collectivism" and the "anonymous."



POPE PIUS XII

Reminded that Catholics should work with all men of good will to bring about "divine harmony" in the world.

Warned that common Christian action in a pluralistic society may not degenerate into an exclusively "humanistic" if this means agnosticism with regard to religion and the true values of life.

Defended the existence of Catholic organizations as necessary for the training of youth in thoroughly Christian principles.

Declared that the divine law of harmony in the world imposes on all rulers of nations the obligation to prevent war by means of suitable international organizations and to reduce armaments under an effective system of inspection.

Reasserted that the Holy Father regards it as a special task imposed by God on Our Pontiff to forge between nations bonds of true brotherhood.

The Christian is primarily an inheritor of the divine order of the world, one who loves its presence and does his utmost to see it glorified and proclaimed. Consistently he will be its vigorous defender against the forces and ideologies which oppose its reality. Whether these are conceived within himself, his evil neighbor or come from without, he must stand firm against their deceits and snares.

Intervention in the world to maintain the divine order is a duty which belongs naturally to a Christian's capability and permits him to undertake it, these at private or public or organizational aim and are self-fulfilling and end," the Pope said.

KEEPING ASIDE all excuses, Pius declared that the Christian "should implicitly be obedient to Christ himself the source of that power which is able to subject all things to himself." His Holiness added:

On the contrary, to refuse to a disgrace to allow him to be surpassed by the end of God in energy of spirit and initiative, joined to a sense of sacrifice.

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Bishop Kearney Invites Clergy To Residence

His Excellency, Bishop Kearney will be at his home, East Ave., on New Year's Day, 3 to 6 p.m. to greet the clergy of the Diocese of Rochester.

Reds Jail Native Bishop In China

Hong Kong—(NC)—The Chinese communist government has announced that an aged Chinese bishop and two native priests who are acting as heads of dioceses have been sentenced to prison terms ranging from 10 to 20 years.

According to a Red Chinese broadcast originating in Hangchow, 76-year-old Bishop Joseph Hu, C.M., of Taichow, who was consecrated by Pope Pius XI in 1926, was one of a group of "counter-revolutionaries" given jail terms "recently" by Chinese "people's courts."

The broadcast said that Father Paul Su, Apostolic Administrator of the Diocese of Yunkia since 1951, was one of three clergymen sentenced. The broadcast identified Father Su as "auxiliary bishop" of the Wenchow (Yungkiu) diocese. The name of the third priest was given as Father John Wang, who was identified as "acting bishop of the Ningpo diocese."

THE HANGCHOW broadcast indicated that Bishop Hu and the two other priests were convicted of helping other so-called "counter-revolutionaries" in their work. It said:

"A number of counter-revolutionaries who had hidden among the Chinese Catholics in various localities along the Chiating (Iprovine) coast were recently sentenced to prison by the Wenchow and other people's courts."

"Under the cloak of Catholic bishops, acting bishops, auxiliary bishops and priests, these counter-revolutionaries carried out a range of counter-revolutionary activities in Wenchow, Ningpo, Taichow and other localities."

THE SENTENCING of Bishop Hu was seen here as the Red government's attempt to silence the veteran Vincentian prelate once and for all. Bishop Hu is one of the two survivors of the six Chinese priests who were consecrated in Rome by the Pope 31 years ago and became the first native bishops of China in modern times. The only other survivor, Bishop Simon Chu, S.J., of Haimen, now 89, has been barred from exercise of his full office by the Reds for years.

Bishop Hu himself was arrested by the communists in September, 1955, and after a long stay in jail was released again.

OF ALMOST 30 native bishops who are still in China, about half are now in jail.

'Not Always Sign Of Sanctity'

Church Cautious On Stigmata

(Cincinnati)—(NC)—The occurrence of stigmata in persons is not necessarily a sign of sanctity, a priest-psychiatrist declared here.

In an address to the Cincinnati Medievalists, Father James Van der Veldt, O.F.M., of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D. C., said the Church adopts an attitude of "extreme caution" in evaluating stigmata.

HE CITED the case of Theresa Neumann of Konnersreuth, Germany, widely known living stigmatic.

"I have heard her speak Aramaic," he said, "but this might be attributed to telepathy. There are instances where persons who were ignorant of a foreign language were enabled through telepathy to speak it."

Father Van der Veldt admitted that the "spiritual fruits" of Theresa Neumann's stigmatization have been remarkable—including the conversion of non-Catholics and extreme skepticism.

Nevertheless, he continued, there is no universal agreement about her "mystical" life.

ABOUT THERESA Neumann's long fast, during which she supposedly has eaten no food except the Eucharist for



ST. FRANCIS ASSISI Case Approved

25 years, Father Van der Veldt acknowledged that it would require a miracle to remain alive so long without food.

Even when stigmata are caused supernaturally, he stated, the causes may not be entirely supernatural. "God almost always works through



Blessing Of Nurses Caps

Bishop Kearney presents Miraculous Medals to 60 student nurses at capping rites in St. Mary's Hospital Chapel. Sister Martina (left) and Sister Frances confer caps.

'Merry Day' In Foster Home

Did you have a merry Christmas? So did two pert seventeen-year-old young ladies, Catherine and Carmella.

They are foster children in the home of Mr. and Mrs. Mario Cataldo, 180 Lexington Ave., Rochester.

"I'm not sure where I would have spent Christmas if Cataldo's hadn't made a home for us here," said Catherine.

She stayed home Christmas Eve with Mrs. Cataldo to help Santa Claus fill the stockings of Cataldo's own four children, Sharon 11, Donald 10, Marty 2, and Lawrence born this March.

Mr. Cataldo, a music instructor, attended midnight Mass at Holy Rosary with Carmella.

He said Holy Mass on Sundays is about the only time "I can get all six kids to be quiet."

"During the last few days of my 9 months' stay, I wasn't crying, then the rest of them are shaking the rafters with Christmas carols or beep-beep."

"Really, though, Mrs. Cataldo and I were so happy together that we just wanted to share our home with some other children who maybe wouldn't have this advantage.

"The two girls are a tremendous help to my wife, too," said Mr. Cataldo.

CATHERINE AND Carmella

attend nearby high schools but have not decided just exactly what they plan to be after graduation.

"Married, I hope," said Catherine. "But I'm in no hurry. Marriage is forever and I want to be sure it's right."

Carmella (she likes science courses) has ideas of being a nurse.

"I think I'd like to work in pediatrics. It's been a lot of fun helping Mrs. Cataldo take care of her new baby so right now I'd like to be a nurse in the children's section of some hospital."

Approximately thirty of these are teenagers, according to Father Donald J. Mulcahy, Family Center director.

"Every week we have one or two calls to find a temporary home for a teenager whose parents have died or are sick," said Father Mulcahy. "Right now we have the youngsters but there are so few homes to put them in."

He said families interested in knowing details of the Catholic Family Center's foster home program are invited to call him at his Columbus Building office, Hamilton 63400.

Filipino President Scores Birth Control, Divorce Evils

Manila, Philippines—(NC)—Birth control and divorce are the two main evils threatening the modern family, President Carlos P. Garcia of the Philippines told 500 delegates to the first National Conference on Filipino Family Life here.

In his keynote address to the conference, the President said:

"Without children, marriage fails in its mission, the home is incomplete and the family lacks the strongest reason for staying together. Divorce, being a frontal attack against the institution of marriage, is itself the final disintegration of the family."

Father Francis Lynch, American Jesuit who edits the periodical, "Philippine Studies," told the delegates that industrialization and a false concept of romantic love are making inroads on the once tightly knit Filipino family.

Judge Upholds Public School Christmas Crib

White Plains, N. Y.—(NC)—A motion for an injunction to bar a civic group from erecting a Christmas crib on the lawn of Ossining High School here has been denied.

The motion had been introduced by ten Ossining residents who sought to prevent the local Board of Education from granting permission to set up the crib to the Ossining Creche Committee, which is headed by Major Jesse A. Collyer, Jr.

The plaintiffs had maintained that erection of the creche on school property constituted a violation of the principle of separation of church and state.

NEW YORK SUPREME Court Justice Frank H. Coyne, dean of the bench in the Ninth Judicial District, stated in his ruling on the motion that:

"The constitutional prohibition relating to separation of church and state does not imply an impregnable wall or cleavage completely disassociating one from the other. While it is necessary that there be a separation of church and state, it is not necessary that the state should be stripped of all religious sentiment.

"It may be a tragic experience for this country and for its conception of life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness if our people lose their religious feeling and are left to live their lives without faith.

"The Constitution does not demand that every friendly gesture between the church and state should be discouraged nor that every vestige of the existence of God be eradicated."

Justice Coyne added that the plaintiffs had produced no evidence of irreparable damage. He said they had not even contended that their practice of religion had been suppressed or curtailed, or that the defendants "have endeavored to foist upon plaintiffs the principles of any particular religion."

THE MOTION on which Justice Coyne ruled had sought a temporary injunction against erecting the crib. A suit for a permanent injunction is still to be tried. The plaintiffs declared that if necessary they would take the case to the U.S. Supreme Court, in order to seek a precedent.

Appearing in support of the motion to ban the crib were Mrs. Flora Chudson, for the Westchester Ethical Society, Nathan Frankel, for the Northern Westchester-Putnam Jewish Community Council, and Philip Baum, for the New York Board of Rabbis. The New York Civil Liberties Union had filed written support for the motion.

Appearing in opposition to the measure were Arthur F. Gaynor, of the Ossining Board of Education and George Belehalm, Jr., of the Creche Committee.

ATTORNEY Leo Pfeffer, who represented the ten plaintiffs, contended that "all good wisdom, good taste and good sense require that the creche not be there..." He said that, while holding religious beliefs himself and respecting those of others, he did not believe that a sectarian religious symbol should be placed on school property used by children of all faiths.

Mr. Gaynor maintained that the historical significance of Christmas was in itself sufficient to justify the erection of the crib. He pointed out that Handel's "The Messiah" and Christmas carols were sung in public schools without protest, and that similar creches were on public property in neighboring communities.

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Court OK's Land Sale To Fordham

New York—(RNS)—State Supreme Court Justice Owen McGovern dismissed a taxpayer's suit here to prevent the city from selling land at a loss to Fordham University in connection with the proposed \$100,000 Lincoln Square residential project.

In refusing to issue an injunction the judge rejected the contention that resale of the land to the Catholic school at less than the city's acquisition cost would violate federal and state constitutional guarantees of separation of Church and State.

HE SAID such sale of blighted property did not involve any "gift or subsidy" to Fordham. On the contrary, he declared, "to hold under the instant circumstances that a denominational school may not be afforded the same opportunity to contract as any other private institution or corporation would be to convert the constitutional safeguards into a sword against the freedoms which they were intended to shield."

"In hard reality," Justice McGovern said, "to exclude Fordham, or any other sectarian institution from great over-all community planning efforts, such as the Lincoln Square project, would be to relegate such institutions to the other side of the tracks."

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