

Pope Cancels Anniversary Rites, Anti-Church Attacks Sweep Italy

Mother Seton

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Our Sacrifice

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69th Year

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Cardinal Stritch of Chicago, called to a new Rome post this week by Pope Pius XII, is shown chatting with President Eisenhower at recent Washington conference on National Security. (NC Photo)

Cardinal Stritch Called To Rome

Vatican City — (NC) — His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, has been named Pro-Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith in Rome by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

The Chicago prelate will be the first U.S. born prelate ever to serve as a Cardinal of the Roman Curia, the special commissions of Cardinals who dispatch the administrative business of the Church.

In Chicago Cardinal Stritch issued a statement in which he said: "It is clear that His Holiness, in honoring me, principally had in mind honoring the Church in the United States." It was not immediately indicated in Chicago whether the Cardinal, who is going to Rome, will leave Chicago permanently.

The congregation of which the Cardinal will be pro-prefect was established by Pope Gregory XV in 1622. It deals with all matters relating to Catholic missions throughout the world. It also has jurisdiction over areas in which the organizational structure of the Church is still relatively under developed.

The appointment of an American Cardinal to be pro-prefect of the congregation came just 50 years after the Church in the United States was removed from missionary status and the congregation's jurisdiction. On June 29, 1908, under the Apostolic Constitution "Sapienti Concilio," the American Church came of age.

TO FILL HIS new post Cardinal Stritch will have to come to Rome.

Here he will be associated with His Eminence Pietro Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi, 86-year-old Prefect of the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith and former Apostolic Delegate to the United States. Although Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi, who suffers from poor eyesight, remains as the congregation's prefect, it is believed that Cardinal Stritch will direct the greater part of its affairs.

The news of Cardinal Stritch's appointment was unexpected and a "pleasant surprise," according to Vatican circles. One official of the Curia hailed the appointment as "magnificent and surprising news."

87 Parishes List Families For 'Courier'

Elmer Grapenstetter, circulation manager, said twenty-nine additional parishes this week renewed the 100 per cent plan of sending the Courier Journal to all families in these parishes.

This brings to 87 the number of parishes renewing the full coverage program to date.

St. Margaret Mary parish, Irondequoit, has adopted the "total coverage" plan of the Courier Journal and will send the diocesan paper to the 984 families of that parish. Rt. Rev. Msgr. Maynard A. Connell, pastor, announced this figure represents an increase of 497 in subscriptions reported from that parish.

Highest figure reported this week as a result of February's subscription campaign came from Sacred Heart Cathedral, Most Rev. Lawrence B. Casey, Auxiliary Bishop and Cathedral rector, said this parish will repeat the total coverage plan adopted there several years ago. The Cathedral parish counts 1,457 subscribers to the Courier Journal for the top total of all 150 parishes in the 12 county Rochester Diocese.

Parishes reporting this week are:

St. Stanislaus, Rochester, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Joseph A. Balcerak, pastor, 664 subscribers for an increase of 8; Most Precious Blood, Rev. Sebastian Contegiac, Contegiac, C.P.P.S., 206 (gain 25); Our Lady of Victory, Rev. Edward P. Callens, S.S.C.C., 43 (2).

Immaculate Conception, Ithaca, Rt. Rev. Msgr. William Byrne, V.F., 398 (3); St. Patrick, Seneca Falls, Rev. John P. O'Beirne, 475 (6); Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary, Brookport, Rev. (Continued on Page 6)

Courier-Journal Lauded In Congress By Keating

Washington — (NC) — Rep. Kenneth B. Keating of New York paid tribute here to the Catholic press for its high purpose and its moral and religious concern.

In a speech before the House of Representatives, he said that the "great collection" of varied Catholic publications "is living up to the ideal of friendly and cooperative competition, and shares the light of a firm system of moral principles."

"This is a journalism," he added, "whose first concern is moral and religious . . . whose aim is always high, and whose influence on the community is strong for good."

Congressman Keating said he found "pleasure and profit in reading the fine diocesan weekly paper" in his district, the Courier-Journal, newspaper of the Rochester diocese.

PARABLES FOR TODAY

By MONSIGNOR PATRICK J. FLYNN

III — The Man Who Knows Too Much

One of the terrible and tiresome figures of our society is the Man (or woman) who knows too much. This is the chronic critic of everything and everybody. He knows too much about others and not enough about himself.

The man who knows too much is the self-appointed judge not of himself but of those around him. He is the idle gossip, and like the idle dreamer, the idle gossip fails to face the facts. He never sees himself as others see him. He is too busy ferreting out the faults and foibles of his neighbors.

Polite society is really less polite than it pretends when the loose tongue of the critic



HOUR OF GLOOM — Marking his 82nd birthday this week, Pope Pius XII deplored widespread bitterness against the Church in Italy and cancelled plans for marking his coronation anniversary on March 12, in photo right, the Pontiff greets children prior to his announcement calling off anniversary ceremonies. (NC Photo)



Italian Court Fines Bishop On Charges By Communist

Prato, Italy — (NC) — Bishop Pietro Fiordelli of Prato, given a suspended fine of 40,000 lire (about \$63) by a Florence court, declared here that "I forgive all those people who . . . have done me wrong."

The Bishop was tried in absentia by the Florence court for allegedly defaming a couple who had married outside the Church. His co-defendant, Father Danilo Alazzi, was acquitted.

During the trial—Public Prosecutor Manlio Mazzanti had asked the court to acquit Bishop Fiordelli because he had committed no crime.

BISHOP FIORDELLI expressed his forgiveness in a sermon at an evening Mass in the cathedral here.

At the same time he said that if any one should think that he will keep silent because of his conviction, that person is wrong. He called his statement criticizing the couple who brought suit against him "a defense of the Christian family."

Reaction to the Bishop's conviction included cancellation of the formal observance of the 19th anniversary of his coronation by Pope Pius XII.

The cancellation was announced by L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily, which attributed the trial's outcome to an anti-clerical campaign now under way in Italy.

The newspaper also noted that those responsible for bringing Bishop Fiordelli to trial have incurred excommunication.

His Eminence Giacomo Cardinal Lecaro, Archbishop of Bologna, called for a period of formal mourning in his archdiocese until Palm Sunday, ordering the fronts of all churches to be draped in black and the daily tolling of funeral bells at six each evening.

In Trent, Christian Democracy party secretary Amintore Fanfani said the trial's result proved the groundlessness of fears that the Christian Democrats are aiming at making Italy a clerical state.

THE CIVIL TRIAL was called to hear charges against the Bishop by Mauro Bellandi, active communist and butcher here in Prato, a city about 10 miles northwest of Florence. Mr. Bellandi charged the Bishop with ruining his business by ordering a letter read from the pulpit of his wife's church in which Bishop Fiordelli called the couple "public sinners" guilty of "public concubinage" because they had not been married in church.

The Bishop was ordered by the court to pay Bellandi's legal costs of 420,000 lire (about \$675) and unspecified damages and other costs. The judges deliberated four and a half hours before returning their verdict. The \$75 fine was suspended for a period of five years, which means that the Bishop will not have to pay it unless he is con-



Prato, Italy — (NC) — Bishop Pietro Fiordelli of Prato, blesses a group of people at his residence here after being convicted on charges alleging he defamed an Italian couple who had married outside the Church. Given a suspended fine, Bishop Fiordelli declared, "I forgive completely, all those who . . . have done me wrong."

He was found guilty under a section of the Italian penal code which states that whoever "by communication with several persons injures the reputation of another is punishable by one year's imprisonment and can be fined up to (\$132)."

THE COURT said it had levied a lighter sentence because of extenuating circumstances, namely that Italian law provides extenuations in cases of persons acting for reasons of specific moral and social value.

News of the decision reached Bishop Fiordelli here while he was at prayer. A hundred or more Catholics gathered outside the cathedral to greet him.

Your Diamonds Inspected and Cleaned, No Charge, William S. Thorne Jewelry, 318 Main St. East. —Adv.

Leftist Slanders On Pope, Church Stir Rome, Italy

(Radio, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Vatican City, March 2 — Pope Pius XII has cancelled all ceremonies scheduled for March 12 in observance of his 19th anniversary of papal consecration. Anti-religious "bitterness, gloom, and outrage" now rampant in Italy, the official announcement said, have prompted the Pontiff to forego his anniversary observance.

The Pope's action is a protest against the court conviction of an Italian bishop and the current anti-Church campaign now sweeping the nation, high Vatican sources explained.

Cancellation of the coronation anniversary rites was announced here on Monday (March 2), the Pope's 82nd birthday.

The Pontiff celebrated his 82nd birthday quietly and devoted part of his day, also the anniversary of his election to the papacy, praying for every one involved in the case of Bishop Pietro Fiordelli of Prato and the infamations conviction.

BISHOP FIORDELLI was found guilty by a civil court in nearby Florence of defaming a Prato communist, Mauro Bellandi, 32, and his wife Lorenza, 23.

The 20th year of the Pope's reign began as Rome and Italy echoed with assaults by Reds and leftists on his person and on the Church. The tempo of the attacks has increased with the fervor of political campaigning looking toward the national elections which will take place this summer.

The Rome press has been full of charges by French writer Roger Peyrefitte, who is being sued for slandering the Pope by the Italian government.

Recently the city of Rome was plastered with derogatory posters advertising an article in the newspaper, Paese Sera.

THESE POSTERS, showing pictures of Cardinal Fumasoni Biondi, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith, and Cardinal Caccia Grandi, Secretary of the Roman Tribunal granting dispensations and deciding cases of conscience, promised an expose of their positions.

Other posters attacked the Lateran Treaty and the Italian-Vatican Concordat on the 20th anniversary of their signing. The treaty and concordat settled a dispute which had arisen between the Holy See and Italy in 1870 when the Italian state took over control of Rome and the Papal States.

It was by this treaty and concordat that the Italian government officially recognized Vatican City as a sovereign state.

The March 12 festivities were officially to commemorate the Pope's coronation and would have been the largest celebration of its kind during the present Pope's pontificate. Because so many requests to attend the ceremony had been received, the observance was to have been moved to St. Peter's Basilica instead of the Sistine Chapel, where they have been held in the past.

THE OFFICIAL announcement of the cancellation, published in

L'Osservatore Romano, Vatican newspaper, read:

"Under the present conditions of bitterness, gloom, and outrage . . . in connection with the Church, Sacred College, episcopate, clergy and Catholic faithful, the Holy Father . . . has deemed it necessary to cancel this year the usual festivities for the anniversary of his coronation."

Reports from the Vatican state that the Pope has received many telegrams of congratulations, in fact "far surpassing" the numbers received in previous years.

THE EDITORIAL charged the Evangelical Confederation of Colombia with setting up a "pattern of misrepresentation" by continued news releases that kept the "religious persecution pot boiling."

"Is there persecution or is there not?" the editorial asked. "What are the facts in the case? A full scale effort should be made to gather these facts, publish them and settle once and for all this tedious business of unending recrimination and denial."

AMERICA WARNED that the situation was creating growing resentment of Colombians toward the United States.

"This open sore on the body of our relations with Colombia should be healed," it said.

The editorial declared that Crisanto Cardinal Luque, Primate of Colombia, would welcome the findings of an impartial committee as would "all of harassed Catholic Colombians."

News Publisher Apologizes For Ad On 'Peyton Place'

Burlington, Vt. — (RNS) — In a front page editorial signed by William Loeb, publisher, the Burlington Daily News apologized for having run an advertisement for the film "Peyton Place" in its Sunday edition.

Mr. Loeb, a Protestant, said the money charged for the ad — \$61.50 — would be donated to the diocesan office of the Legion of Decency in Chicago. The Legion of Decency makes moral evaluations of films for Catholics.

The Burlington Daily News editorial said that while life had its unpleasant aspects, "degeneracy should not be raised to a cult."

"One of the terrible things in these days is the filth that passes for literature," Mr. Loeb wrote. "For weeks Peyton Place stood at the head of the best seller list of the United States. Such writings have always existed but generally they were confined to scribbles on bathroom walls. Never before has the patronage of Americans pushed such writings to the head of the 'best seller list.'"