

Catholic Majority Only Victims Of Bias In Ireland

Washington — (NC) — A priest recently returned from a visit to Ireland stated here in a St. Patrick's Day statement that "whatever discrimination there is in the 26 counties is directed against the Catholic majority."

Father John E. Kelly, director, Bureau of Information, National Catholic Welfare Conference, said this in a statement issued to show "the wide religious tolerance in Catholic Ireland." (Father Kelly is a native of Rochester and a graduate of Aquinas Institute.)

"We said minority groups in Ireland — the 157,000 Protestants and the 3,907 Jews in the 2.9 million population — enjoy complete religious freedom."

"He said, charges sometimes leveled that the Catholic Church restricts minorities in a country where Catholics are in the majority, are false," he said.

Whatever discrimination there is in Ireland, he continued, is directed against the Catholic majority.

"He said many of the large businesses are owned by wealthy Protestants. As a policy, he charged, these firms hire Catholics for only the lower jobs. Executive positions are frequently limited to Protestants," he said.

Father Kelly cited insurance, printing, distillery, banking and construction firms as well as certain transportation companies, as being particularly discriminatory.

THE PRIEST also asserted that even though there is a church building boom in Ireland, Catholics make no request for the return of their churches

confiscated in the years after the Reformation.

"The few Protestants in the country enjoy the use of large cathedrals and churches which were taken over by the English government," he said. One of the "most impressive" Protestant cathedrals in Dublin, he said, is named St. Patrick's.

Father Kelly also said that Protestants for the most part are found among the professional groups. For this reason, he continued, Catholics, especially those in rural areas, have a sense of "diffidence and inferiority towards their Protestant neighbors."

FATHER KELLY asked "U.S. Protestant groups and magazines which charge that Catholics harass religious minorities and cities Spain and Colombia, to keep the Emerald Isle in mind."

The priest said also that there is no discrimination in the political sphere in Ireland. He noted that Douglas Hyde, a Protestant, was the first president of the country under the new constitution of 1937.

He declared that none of the ten non-Catholic members of the present Irish parliament was subjected to religious questioning during the 1937 election years.

Father Kelly's statement also said that Protestant, Catholic and Jewish schools are under their own management, supported by government.

"Far from being 'divisive,'" he said, "such a school system allows people with faith in God to work for the common welfare of the nation."

Reds Seen Threat To All India

New Delhi, India — (NC) — Communism, which is currently in power in Kerala state, may soon develop into a threat for the whole nation, two of India's leading Catholic archbishops have warned.

This observation was contained in a special study of the Kerala situation made on behalf of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India. The report was signed by Archbishop Joseph Atipetty of Tiruvananthapuram and Archbishop Eugene D'Souza, of Nagpur.

THE REPORT on Kerala contradicted a recent statement by Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru which said there was "no danger of a Red revolution in India."

According to Archbishop D'Souza it would be extremely foolish in the light of such prophecies, Indians were to close their eyes to certain significant developments that have taken place during recent months.

THE REPORT also quoted a political commentator's observation that Indian communists were "thriving on Nehru's foreign policy." He said that both Russia and China today are making a supreme effort to fan the flames of Indian communism.

"To both Russia and China go more and more delegations of Indian trade unions, students, intellectuals, professional men and politicians. They are fed, fed on propaganda, then sent back in many cases as enthusiastic supporters of the communist cause," wrote Archbishop D'Souza.

School Girl Holds Church Organist Job

Keokuk, Iowa — (NC) — St. Peter's parish here boasts of a girl organist who is only 11 years old.

She is Eunice Grice, a sixth grader at St. Vincent's school. She has been the parish's full-time organist since last July.

The girl began taking piano lessons when she was 7 and had never played an organ until she began filling assignments at the church four years ago. She practices daily during her school lunch recess and plays for two Masses at the church on Sundays.

Pontiff's Crowded General Audiences Seen Act Of Faith In Peter's Successor

By JAMES C. O'NEILL

Vatican City — (NC) — Every Wednesday at noon faithful from all over the world crowd into the Hall of Benedictions at St. Peter's to make a profound and vociferous act of faith in the presence of the successor of St. Peter.

The occasion is the weekly general audience granted by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. Different from the solemnity of private audiences and unlike the numerous special audiences, Wednesday's ceremony resembles the Pope's special blessings at Christmas and Easter for "the city and the world."

A UNIQUE AND sincerely religious ceremony, the event week after week is a personal and moving experience for the Pope and those who have come to see him.

The Pontiff does not enter the long high audience chamber until noon. But the crowd begins collecting at 9 a.m. Before the bronze doors on the right of St. Peter's swing back to admit the faithful, groups standing in St. Peter's Square start recitation of the Rosary or sing bits of hymns.

Passing the Swiss Guards the crowd speaks a dozen languages and wears clothing from all over the world. Indian saris, black lace mantillas and German Lederhosen, as well as business suits, file by the Guards in their blue and yellow uniforms which Michaelangelo designed.

Pilgrims and sightseers funnel up the "Royal Stairs" climbing the uneven slope of Vatican Hill and pour into the "Royal Salon," a reception room covered with murals of old battles.

THE FORWARD thrust of the crowd flows as the people begin to present their admission tickets to papal chamberlains in crimson uniforms.

The chamberlains, imposing in their formal knee breeches and aided by long experience, keep the crowd in order and move it to the right or left in quick time. The bulk of the crowd flows down the sides of an aisle kept clear by wooden barricades. Persons with special tickets march up the aisle and take their place among spaces saved for dignitaries, pilgrimages and special religious groups.

The Pope's gilt throne sits on a floodlit dais behind which soars a crimson curtain and a gold trimmed canopy. The long rectangular room is actually the second floor of the vestibule of St. Peter's.

While waiting for the Pope, the Pope touches up in wide gestures, the Pope touches up the side of his chair to do so. The hands move continuously touching straining hands holding rosaries, medals, books. Through the long procession to the throne, the Pope constantly raises his hands to bless, to touch, to respond warmly to people often close to tears.

Speaking Italian, the Pope chats with pilgrims lucky



Cheers For Holy Father

Vatican City — (NC) — Amid a rising tumult of cheers, Pope Pius XII enters the Hall of Benedictions at St. Peter's Basilica, carried aloft in his gestatorial chair. Occasion is a once-a-week general audience, happening almost every week of his 19-year reign.

enough to get his attention over the general hubbub. He acknowledges many of the spontaneous cheers which break out as he passes special groups with the familiar Italian gesture in which the hands make a "come hither motion."

To Americans it looks as if he is motioning "keep it up." Actually it is the Italian gesture of "come to my heart."

At last seated on his throne, the Pope delivers a short speech in Italian and then addresses the various visiting nationalities in French, German, English, Portuguese and Spanish. Each time he recognizes a special group, cheers splash like a fountain from some part of the great hall.

The Pope climaxes the audience by imparting his apostolic blessing. He stands, stretches his white garbed arms fully out and brings his right arm forward in a powerful movement to bring down the sign of the cross on the kneeling thousands.

THE POPE'S ARRIVAL is announced by a trumpet of voices. A tidal wave of sound breaks as the Pontiff appears at the entrance to the hall, high on his portable throne.

Dignitaries and special guests mount their chairs and everyone cheers and claps. Shouts of "Viva Papa, Viva Papa" thunder off the ornate walls. Shouts and cheers roll in waves as the Pope and his bearers slowly move forward.

Moving his long arms in wide gestures, the Pope touches up the side of his chair to do so. The hands move continuously touching straining hands holding rosaries, medals, books. Through the long procession to the throne, the Pope constantly raises his hands to bless, to touch, to respond warmly to people often close to tears.

Speaking Italian, the Pope chats with pilgrims lucky

Nuns Show Dixie Church In Action

By T. EARL HEFFNER

Charlotte, N. C. — (NC) — She was a stranger, and they took her in. They needed help. And she provided it.

They are a needy North Carolina family. She is Sister John Michael of the Little Sisters of the Assumption. And, briefly, this is a story of how Protestant Dixieland is getting another view of the Catholic Church in action.

The Little Sisters of the Assumption established their first convent in the Southland about a month ago. It was blessed and dedicated by Bishop Vincent S. Waters of Raleigh, who had invited the nuns to work in this diocese.

Already the five Sisters, under Mother M. Christine and guided by Msgr. Michael J. Begley, director of the North Carolina Catholic Bureau of Charities, are caring for the poor who are ill and need help.

THE SISTERS were hardly unpacked in their convent when they received the first call for help.

There was a family. The father suddenly had walked out. There were five children. The mother was soon to go to the hospital for the birth of a sixth child. The family was too poor to get help. There was no one to feed or care for the children while the mother was in the hospital. Then the Little Sisters of the Assumption took over.

There were no questions by the Sisters about race or religion. The only important question — need — was answered.

SISTER JOHN MICHAEL went to the home, took over the mother's duties. She got there early enough in the morning to help get three children off to school. Then she cared for the two younger children at home, made beds, cleaned the house, prepared the meals. And she left only when the older children were home and after supper was over.

This was a daily routine until the mother came home from the hospital with the new baby.

Then Sister Mary Albina, a registered nurse, took on for a few days the additional nursing du-

ties of caring for the still ill mother and the new baby.

When welfare societies finally were able to complete the paper work, necessary to providing financial help and when mother was well enough to resume her household chores, the Sisters said a goodbye — and God-bless-you — and returned to the convent to await another call for help.

Prayer Books On Newsstands

New York — (NC) — Something new in prayer books has made its appearance on the nation's newsstands.

Unique in format, "A Catholic Prayer Book" is also an apologetic work that explains the faith as it presents the prayers. The Hall Mary, for instance, is preceded by an explanation of why Catholics pray to Mary.

The pocket-size paperback volume offers selections from the Mass, the Divine Office, the Liturgical Year, the Creed, the Stations of the Cross, the Sacraments and the Marriage Instruction.

Father Thomas Merton wrote the preface of the book which is edited by Dale Francis, editor of the Long Star Edition of Our Sunday Visitor, which is the Austin, Texas diocesan paper.

On sale for 50 cents, "A Catholic Prayer Book" is published by Dell Publishing Company here.

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writes Bishop Jacob of Asmara (Eritrea), "for the construction of a new church. The poor people of Asmara were recently converted to the Catholic Church — in fact so many of the people — and their priests were converted that we were able to live over this church which was formerly used by those separated from our Holy Father. It is old (in fact nearly a century) and much too small for the constantly growing congregation. A new church will cost \$10,000 but the people INSIST on paying half from their slender incomes in thanksgiving for the gift of the true faith." Are you grateful for your gift of the true faith? Will you help these poor people by uniting your offering of thanksgiving to theirs?

LENT IS NEARLY HALF OVER... ARE YOU NEARLY A SAINT? LET YOUR SACRIFICES HELP THE MISSIONARIES!

"I WAS HUNGRY AND YOU FED ME..." How often have you heard these words? They are often quoted because they are a perfect summary of our relationship with Christ. We are one with Him... and when we help each other we are in fact helping Him. He calls to us today in hunger and poverty from His return camps of the Near East. Will you heed His cry and send Him food? Your sacrifice of \$10 will send a food package to feed an entire family for a week. Your sacrifices of Lent can bring the strength of life to an unfortunate family. DO IT NOW! Father King will send you in gratitude an olive seed rosary blessed in the Holy Land.

LENT IS NEARLY OVER... HAVE YOU THOUGHT OF THE MISSIONS? JOIN A MISSION CLUB... \$1 A MONTH

"A CUP OF COLD WATER..." the Lord tells us will bring us reward if it is given in His name. The smallest thing we do for Him shall be rewarded — what do you think will be the reward of those who bring a priest to the altar or a nun to the poor — and this in the name of the Lord? You can have a nun or a priest in your family if you adopt a boy or a girl now who wishes to follow Christ in this special vocation. Thomas and George are anxious to begin their seminary training in India, BUT, each must wait until a benefactor supplies \$200 for the six year course. In addition to presents the missions have in ever increasing need for Sisters to teach, care for the sick, for the poor...

Sisters Jeanne and Celine wish to devote themselves to Christ in the poor of Lebanon, BUT, again each must be patient until a benefactor is willing to give \$300 for the two year novitiate training. Will you give a priest or a nun to the Church in the name of Christ? You may "buy" the money in any series of installments convenient to you while your "adopted child" is preparing to serve Christ in the poor.

LENT IS NEARLY OVER... MASS OFFERINGS SUPPORT YOUR MISSIONARIES... DON'T FORGET THEM IN THEIR NEED.

HURRY! HURRY! HURRY! If you wish to share your Easter joy with a loved one... a special friend... If you wish to make a sacrifice for the soul of a dear departed one you may send your Lenten sacrifice money to feed the hungry (\$10 for a food package), OR, you may buy a Communion Day outfit for a child (\$10). OR purchase an article for a missionary chapel. Our beautiful GIFT CARD will tell your relative or friend of the sacrifice you have made for the good of their souls and the welfare of the mission. We will send a GIFT CARD anywhere in your name and enclose PRESERVED FLOWERS of the HOLY LAND which have been blessed on the Holy Sepulcher.

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