

N.Y. Archdiocese Marks 150th Year

New York — (NC) — Pope Pius XII has commended the Archdiocese of New York for its "steadfast loyalty" to the Pope and its "exemplary and generous charity."

The Holy Father made the statement in a letter to Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, congratulating the New York diocese on its sesquicentennial.

On April 8, 1808, the New York diocese was erected from territory that had formerly been part of the Diocese of Baltimore.

THE POPE'S LETTER recalled that the "early days" of the New York archdiocese were "arduous." He pointed out that, "for years it was handicapped by a critical shortage of priests ministering to a sparse and scanty flock, while it was confronted with such enormous and unyielding hindrances that the labors it expended brought forth but meager fruits and only a faint hope, encouraged repeated efforts."

HOWEVER, the Holy Father added:

"Conditions . . . changed for the better with the arrival of ever increasing numbers of immigrants and with the development of a more stable organization of imposing proportions by the Bishops in their zealous labors to meet the growing needs."

"Hence, this Catholic Church, with the help of divine grace, gradually developed increasing confidence and received abundant consolations, particularly from two outstanding virtues which merited for the Church of New York renown and reward, namely: steadfast loyalty to this See of Peter and exemplary and generous charity, the handmaid of mercy."

CARDINAL SPELLMAN, in a letter marking the sesquicentennial, read at all Masses in the archdiocese on Easter Sunday, called attention to the growth of the Church here, which he compared to that of the mustard seed in the Gospel story.

Both, he said, provide a "fascinating and inspiring" history of the clergy, the religious and the faithful "who perseveringly struggled from humble and difficult beginnings to the glories of this blessed day."

We are the custodians of a noble heritage, the Cardinal said, "made possible by those—liberty-pursuing, God-loving pioneers who, amid heroic sacrifices, brought Catholicism to America, living and dying for the Catholic faith that we are privileged to profess."

Statistics, he said, give eloquent testimony to the phenomenal growth of the diocese. He pointed out that there are 1,500,000 Catholics in 400 parishes of the archdiocese, ministered to by 12 bishops, 2,358 priests, 1,659 Brothers and 7,723 Sisters.

Rochester Diocese Started In 1868

The Diocese of Rochester originally belonged to the New York Diocese, which, at the time of its establishment in 1808, embraced all of New York State and East Jersey. The Diocese of Buffalo was established in 1847 and included those areas now included in the present diocese of Buffalo and Rochester.

Rochester was made a separate diocese on March 3, 1868, and included the eight counties of Monroe, Livingston, Wayne, Ontario, Seneca, Cayuga, Yates and Tompkins. On Dec. 10, 1896, the area of the Rochester Diocese was increased by the annexation from Buffalo of the four Southern Tier counties of Steuben, Chemung, Tioga and Schuyler.

Soviets Permit Good Friday Trips

Berlin — (RNS) — West Germans were given permission by Soviet Zone authorities for one-day visits on Good Friday to the graves of relatives in East Berlin cemeteries, the East German Radio announced.

China Reds Push 'Patriotic' Church

By FATHER MORGAN J. VITTEGL

Hong Kong — (NC) — Communist China has intensified its campaign to set up a schismatic, "patriotic" Catholic Church, according to reports received here.

The Red plan calls for the immediate election of "patriotic" bishops, especially in dioceses where bishops faithful to Rome still exercise their authority; the financial dependence of all priests upon the state; and the training of seminarians under the aegis of the state-controlled Patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics.

THE COMMUNIST Peking People's Daily states that at a recent meeting the patriotic association in Fukien urged Catholics "to accept Communist party leadership, and announced that "to guarantee an independent church" bishops would be elected throughout the province before May 1.

Patriotic bishops are known to have been elected already in Shanghai, Chengtu, Canton, Szechow, and Tsinan.

The Shen Ji Pan, reporting an indoctrination meeting of Catholics in Shenji province, states that the patriotic association there proposed that "secret promotions given to black bishops and black priests" (vicars capitular) be henceforward considered "illegal" in China.

THIS MOVE paves the way for the arrest and trial of all Catholic ordinaries loyal to the Holy See who have been appointed by Rome since the communists took over mainland China in 1949.

Messages from Chinese priests reveal that in an attempt to disguise their persecution, the Chinese Reds are employing "fallen-away Catholics and secret agents in the patriotic association. As in Canton, these apostates and agents publicly accuse the bishop of all manner of crimes against the state, which are expanded and magnified in the local communist press.

Finally the government "officially" steps in, arrests the bishop and announces that it is not persecuting the bishop, but only acting in accordance with the demands of the "Catholics."

Further word received here from priests who have been forced to undergo special indoctrination in the past four or five months describes the economic pressure applied to those who have consistently refused to join the patriotic association "voluntarily."

Without any means of support other than certain house rents and offers of the faithful, which are now collected and administered by the patriotic association, priests are completely dependent upon the communists as their sole source of income.

DURING AT LEAST one indoctrination course held in Canton, all income (\$15 monthly) was denied those priests who opposed the establishment of the patriotic association in Kwangtung province.

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Parable At America's 'Crossroads'

New York — (NC) — Silently preaching a message of family prayer is this billboard at the "Crossroads of America," East 42nd Street and 5th Avenue, here in New York. It was erected by the General Outdoor Advertising Co., of New York as a public service. The photographer called the picture "The Silent Parable," and sent it to Father Patrick Peyton, director of the Family-Rosary, Crusade, and the Family Theater radio program.

Pope's Easter Message

'Christ Key To Peace'

(Continued from Page 1)

said that if only men would expose their minds and hearts to Him, "how much peace and hope would blossom in this vale of ours."

"On the other hand," he added, "if private tragedies wound their spirits, if skepticism and vanity wither so many hearts; if falsehood becomes a weapon in debate, if hatred flares up between classes and people, if there is a succession of wars and revolts, from one end of the earth to the other, if crimes are committed, the weak oppressed, the innocent placed in chains, if the laws are inadequate and the ways of peace obstructed—in a word, if this vale of ours is still furrowed by rivers of tears in spite of the marvels effected by the wisdom and culture of modern man, it is a sign that something has been taken away from the clarifying and enriching purpose of the Light of God."

POPE PIUS SAID the splendor of the Resurrection should be an invitation to men "to put back the world and all it contains within the life-giving Light of Christ." He said it should impel them "to conform to His teachings and designs, all souls and bodies, peoples and states, their form, laws and plans for the future."

"Let there be no power," the Pontiff exhorted, "to prevent this, deriving either from foolish pride or the vain fear that, in permitting themselves to be inspired by Christ, men will lose something of their liberty or of the autonomy of their work."

"God, Who from the very beginning has commanded man to subdue the earth and to labor in it, does not go back on His word, nor does He intend to take man's place. He means to guide and sustain him so that his designs may be perfectly accom-

plished, since neither God nor man would be satisfied with the existence of a world without purpose, but only with a life in constant progress towards the fullness of truth, justice and peace."

POPE PIUS CALLED the Church the depository of Christ's Light and therefore "in a true sense, the Light of Light," a visible and enduring reality combining qualities human and divine, temporal and eternal."

"What is the Light of God shining down on the world?" he said. "It is the vigilant care of the Church concerning doctrine, its diligence in spreading and defending the truth, its prudent deliberation with regard to novelty and change, its impartiality in disputes between classes and nations, its steadfastness in protecting the rights of individuals, its fearlessness when confronted by the enemies of God and society."

The Pope concluded by urging: "Believe in the Light of Christ and of the Church. Love and vigorously defend these tremendous gifts given by God to the world. . . . Be all of you lights of peace in this darkened world, and in every issue God will be on your side."

Chapel Opened Where Negro Priest Was Rejected

New Orleans — (NC) — Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans is reopening a chapel near here where a Catholic Negro priest was prevented from offering Mass on October 2, 1955.

St. Cecilia's Mission Chapel, Jesuit Bend, La., 15 miles south of New Orleans, will be reopened on April 6, Easter Sunday. The Archbishop had suspended services at the chapel in November, 1955, when some parishioners had declined to accept Father Gerald Lewis, S.V.D., a Negro priest who had gone there to offer Mass.

ARCHBISHOP RUMMEL'S decision to reopen the chapel was announced in a letter he sent to Father Frank J. Eolmovich, S.V.D., pastor of Our Mother of Perpetual Help Church, Belle Chasse, La. St. Cecilia's chapel and St. Joseph's at Myrtle Grove, La., are missions of the Belle Chasse church.

In his letter, the Archbishop expressed regret "that it has been possible to obtain only so genuine expressions of genuine sorrow over the unfortunate incident" which brought the closing of the chapel.

"IT IS EVIDENT that we must look for higher motives for the opening of the chapel," the Archbishop continued. "Such motives are—manifestly the following: We cannot permit the closed chapel to stand forever as a symbol of resistance to the authority of the Church and contempt for the holy priesthood in which every priest of the Catholic Church participates. . . .

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Protestants Attend Catholic Lectures

San Antonio — (NC) — "Operation Understanding," a project originated by Auxiliary Bishop Stephen A. Leven, proved a success during the month of February, drawing an attendance of 2,800 persons.

Russian Tourists Get Vatican Guide

Rome — (NC) — Russian tourists who come to the Eternal City in the future will be presented with guides to Rome and the Vatican in their own languages.

Chinese Nun Arrested In Shanghai

Hong Kong — (RNS) — Mother Agnes Se, a Chinese Ursuline nun, has been arrested by Communist authorities in Shanghai, according to information received here. The reason for the arrest was not disclosed.

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