

French Urged To OK New Constitution

Paris—(RNS)—France's five cardinals, in a joint statement here, told Catholics that neither "patriotic" absence of any reference to God nor the classification of the Republic as a secular state justifies voting against the country's proposed new constitution.

Article 2 of the charter, which will be voted on Sept. 28, says: "France is an indivisible, lay, democratic and social Republic. She assures equality before the law of all citizens without distinction of origin, race or religion. She respects all beliefs."

THE CARDINALS' statement was issued on the heels of a campaign in some Catholic circles urging the faithful to vote against the proposed constitution or not vote at all.

The cardinals scored what they called "an inopportune campaign" that invoked merely the requirements of the Catholic Faith. They said the constitution should be judged as a whole and account should be taken of France's present situation and of the common good.

Absence of any reference to God in the proposed constitution was naturally "painful for a Catholic, even in a country divided in its philosophical beliefs and conceptions," the cardinals declared.

The constitution of the Fourth Republic, now about to come to an end, also omitted reference to God and described the Republic to be a secular one, without, however, specifying respect for all beliefs.

Alumni Build Mission School

Los Angeles—(NC)—Fifty members of the Los Angeles Catholic Alumni Club have formed a weekend work party to help construct a new school section at Palm, one of the last California missions still serving Indians.



French boys choir "The Little Singers of Jesuit Martyrs for feast day rites this Sunday" will be at Auriesville Shrine of the

Martyrs Shrine Feast Rites Set Sunday At Auriesville

Auriesville—(Special)—The Feast of the Jesuit Martyrs of North America (today) will be celebrated with special pomp and ceremony at the Shrine of the Martyrs at Auriesville, N. Y., this Sunday, Sept. 28th. There will be Mass every hour in the morning with the afternoon filled with special devotions.

The main Pilgrimage Mass will be at 12:00 o'clock noon. Most Rev. William A. Scully, Bishop of Albany, will preside at the noon day Mass which will be sung by the Rector of Auriesville, Rev. William J. Schlarth, S.J., Bishop Philip Furlong, Auxiliary to the Military Vicar of the Armed Forces will preside at the noonday Mass.

A fleet of buses from the Jesuit Schools, colleges, parishes and

residences will form the largest of the pilgrimages. The Pilgrimage is under the leadership of the Mens Sodality of St. Ignatius Church in New York.

SPECIAL FEATURES of the day will be the presence of the Boy Scouts of the Albany Diocese who will climax a three day retreat at Auriesville by acting as a special escort to Bishop Scully at the noonday Mass. The Ancient Order of Hibernians of the State will come in force to

add to the festivities of the day. The Color Guard of the Knights of Columbus of the Amsterdam area will come to assist the Albany Bishop and honor the martyrs. Many other smaller groups are also coming to the Shrine.

A very special attraction will be the presence of the world-famous Little Singers of Paris. On tour of the United States and Canada the Little Singers have now sung in 30 different countries and have given seven thousand concerts. The Little Singers Choir is composed of thirty boys with tenors and basses all dressed like Carthusian Monks as they sing at Mass.

The Little Singers are scheduled to sing the high Mass at noon and also the 4:15 pm. Mass in the Coliseum in the afternoon. A short concert will follow this afternoon Mass.

On Saturday evening, September 27th, the Little Singers will sing at the special camp-fire ceremony to be staged on the parking lot at Auriesville at 7:30 in the evening by the Boy Scouts of the Albany Diocese. The public is invited.

On Sunday afternoon the stations of the cross will be at 2:00 o'clock with the beautiful procession to the Ravine at 2:30. The special Blue Ribbon Ceremony honoring Our Lady of Lourdes will take place at the Exposition in the Ravine. Auriesville is on the New York Thruway at exit 27 or exit 28.

Dominican Prior Providence—(RNS)—The Very Rev. Charles H. McKenna, O.P., assistant to the President of Providence College here, was elected Prior of the Dominican House of Studies in Washington, D. C.

Pope Names Archbp. Meyer To Chicago

Washington—(NC)—The Most Rev. Albert G. Meyer, Archbishop of Milwaukee since 1933, has been named Archbishop of Chicago by Pope Pius XII.

Archbishop Meyer succeeds the late Cardinal Samuel Stritch, who died on May 27 of this year in Rome, where he had gone to serve as Pro-Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

Noted as a scholar, teacher and able administrator, Archbishop Meyer has a wealth of knowledge of the problems of priests, seminarians and the laity. For 15 years he was closely identified with the education of future priests, as professor and seminary rector, and he has spent more than a dozen years in the administration of two Sees, the diocese of Superior, Wisconsin, and the archdiocese of Milwaukee.

THE NEWLY NAMED 55-year-old Archbishop of Chicago will direct a See whose 114 years have been a brilliant chapter in the history of the Church's development in the United States. When the diocese was established in November, 1843, Chicago was a vigorous town of 8,000 persons, mostly young men who had come west seeking their fortunes.

From the approximately 1,300 Catholics then living in the city with its mud streets, plank sidewalks and clapnet houses, and in the sparsely settled regions outside, the diocese has grown to become an archdiocese with the largest Catholic population in the United States, just short of 2 million faithful.



ARCHBISHOP MEYER

Don't Break Your Engagement Because You Fear Rh Factor

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S.J.
Assistant Professor of Sociology at St. Louis University

WHAT is the Rh factor one hears so much about nowadays? I'm engaged and hope to marry within a few months. Would it be advisable for Mildred and I to have blood tests taken in order to learn what type of blood we have? How serious is this factor? Can couples do anything about it after they are married?



You have asked some rather complex questions, Bill, so part of my answer will have to be somewhat technical.

The Rh factor derives its name from the fact that it was discovered in Rhesus monkeys in 1940. It is a hereditary factor affecting about 85 per cent of the white population and a slightly higher proportion of the nonwhite, that is, they are Rh-positive.

The remaining 15 per cent who do not possess this factor are termed Rh-negative.

If an Rh-negative woman marries an Rh-positive husband, their children may be Rh-positive. The proportion of marriages in which the wife is Rh-negative and the husband is Rh-positive is variously estimated at between 10 and 12 per cent.

Complications may arise if the foetus is Rh-positive and the mother is Rh-negative. Antibodies formed in the mother's blood apparently pass back into the foetal blood stream, destroying the Rh-positive cells.

BABIES AFFLICTED with this condition may be stillborn or die shortly after birth. In recent years, most of the babies suffering from this condition at birth have been saved by affecting a complete change of blood through Rh-negative blood transfusions.

How extensive is this condition among babies of Rh-negative mothers and Rh-positive fathers? Statistics, vary somewhat but a reliable estimate would be roughly one in every thirty or forty. Further, only one in about every fifty or sixty of these die from this condition.

Considering the total of all children born alive or stillborn, only approximately one in four hundred dies of this condition.

It should be noted that the first child of such parents is unlikely to be afflicted unless the mother has previously been transfused with Rh-positive blood. The reason is that during the first pregnancy insufficient antibodies are developed

to affect the foetus.

Well, Bill, this is what science tells us about the Rh-factor. No doubt, our knowledge will increase as this condition is studied more thoroughly. Now let's turn to your remaining questions.

SHOULD YOU have blood tests taken? I don't feel that this is necessary at present. Such tests are usually taken during the time of the first pregnancy.

I don't think you would want to break your engagement merely because you discovered that your future wife was Rh-negative and you were Rh-positive. Since the fact that the husband is Rh-positive and the wife is Rh-negative does not in itself indicate that the child will be afflicted, a couple can discover this only by having children.

Considering the statistics which I have quoted and the present limited knowledge of the factor, engaged couples would have little reason to call off their proposed marriage no matter what type of blood it was discovered that they had.

Can couples do anything

about this factor after they are married?

In the present state of knowledge, the best course to follow is to place the wife under the care of a competent physician as soon as she becomes pregnant. This should be routine procedure in all cases of pregnancy, of course. The doctor will take the required blood tests and take any steps he judges necessary to forestall possible complications.

As medical science comes to learn more and more about the marvelous, complex mechanisms of heredity and procreation, it may become possible to predict future complications with precision. However, by that time, I suppose science will also have discovered ways of eliminating the complications.

At present, we know only that the factor exists and that it causes complications in a relatively small percentage of cases.

So you see, Bill, you have no sound reasons for worry. You have found a suitable life-partner. Trust in God and the knowledge He has thus far granted medical scientists to see you through successfully.

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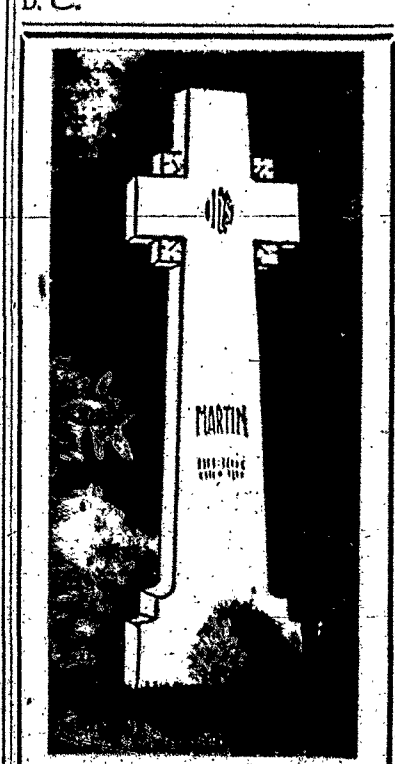


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