

Prelate Bids Laymen Lead In Mass Role

Cincinnati — (NC) — Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati has called on Catholic men to take the lead in supporting programs aimed at more active congregational participation in the Mass.

HE CITED as an encouragement and a guide a recent instruction from the Sacred Congregation of rites which gave directives for more active participation.

Addressing the annual meeting of the archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men, he urged the members to make attainment of a "first stage" of such participation one of their chief projects during the coming year.

Archbishop Alter reminded the men that "the Mass is to some extent a dialogue between the celebrant and the congregation. We are not supposed to sit there busy about our own devotions." He urged parish and deanery committees of the men's council to stage practice sessions.



Fire And Brimstone Fighter

Worcester — (RNS) — Altered in fireman's regalia — complete with helmet, rubber coat, and hip boots — Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester sits with fellow fire-fighters after he was made an honorary chaplain of the Worcester Fire Department. Worcester fire officials with Rev. John Donohue, department chaplain, and 200 fire fighters cheered the prelate in his new attire.

Boston

Christmas To Last 12 Days

Boston — (NC) — Catholic men of the Boston archdiocese will sponsor a detailed program this year to eliminate pre-Christmas celebrations during the penitential season of Advent.

Instead, the archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men will conduct a series of public observances during the Church's traditional Christmas season, the twelve days between the Feast of the Nativity and the Feast of the Epiphany.

THE PRESENT custom of beginning Christmas celebrations in November and ending them on Christmas Day follows the pattern set by merchants rather than the pattern in the Church's liturgy, Thomas F. Quinn of Plymouth, president of the council, said in an interview.

"We know that the commercial observance must begin in early November, but we also

know that our good merchants have no intention of substituting their sales period for the true observance of the birth of Our Divine Lord," he said.

"Yet there has been a pronounced tendency for all of us

including good Catholics — to equate the commercial and spiritual Christmas, so that we light our homes, we erect our trees, we sing our carols and we conduct our parties in the penitential season of Advent."

Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, soon to go to the Vatican where he will receive the Red Hat of a Cardinal, commented on the men's program in his weekly column, "News Notes," in the Pilot, Boston archdiocesan newspaper.

Remarking on too early Christmas observances, he said that "sometimes it seems that Christmas has 'come and gone' even before the Church does the simple customs to remind us of the true spirit of Christmas and our own appointed part in it," he wrote. He said the "true Christmas spirit" during the first 25 days of December is composed of "prayer and prayer."

Baron Priest To Visit U.S.

Bonn — (RNS) — A famed Catholic priest who is responsible for helping thousands of displaced persons in West Germany plans to visit the United States next summer.

Father Werenfried van Straaten of Antwerp, founder and president of the Dutch-Belgian Aid for Eastern Peoples organization, said that while in the U.S. he would speak on the plight of East European Christians, the Catholic Church's care for refugees and expelled persons and the work of his group.

West Berliners Cheerful Despite Red Threats

What are the German people like? What are their attitudes toward the Russians — and toward the Americans? Why haven't more people sought freedom in West Berlin? These are some of the questions answered in this fourth article by Courier-Journal staff writer Paul Contestable who spent five months in the German capital in 1953.

By PAUL CONTESTABLE
Berlin — mighty power of World War II — now a conquered and divided city. What are the reactions of the people to present conditions after years of being called "the superior race"?

The German people suffered greatly during the war. Day after day Allied bombers hit vital targets throughout the country. Civilians were not meant to be targets of the bombs, but unfortunately, all too often were.

The years of suffering can still be seen in the faces of the German people. They were hard years, they were bitter years. But the spirit of the people is still there.

Memory of the past has given the Germans a strange outlook for the future. They seem to have few worries about tomorrow — to them tomorrow may never come. Concern seems to be only in today. Today they can enjoy themselves, and they do.

Visiting a nightclub in Berlin is quite an experience for an American. My first such visit amazed me. I expected to see the night club overflowing with American soldiers, but instead we were the only Americans there.

AT FIRST WE had the feeling that we were intruders and unwanted. The Berliners soon changed that idea for us.

People we had never seen before smiled and waved to us from their tables. The manager came and welcomed us in rather broken English. Everyone treated us like long-time friends.

Before long we found ourselves in a community sing, hands joined around the dance floor with all the Germans. The orchestra played several American songs, or songs that sounded familiar to us, and the Germans sang in their native tongue, we sang along in English.

This was the first but most lasting remembrance of what

the Germans thought of Americans. We were welcome in Berlin, we were wanted in Berlin, we were needed in Berlin.

Though not nearly as strong as in Berlin, this same attitude was found throughout most of Germany. The extreme friendliness found in Berlin was attributed solely to the proximity of the Russians and of Communist control.

The few occasions I had of seeing the reaction of a Berliner to the sight of a Russian soldier spoke for themselves. Smiles disappeared, faces grew stern and usually, if possible, a rapid change of direction was undertaken by a German as soon as a Russian was sighted.

Time after time, the Germans showed that the Americans were welcome and that the Russians were not.

The happy-go-lucky attitude of most Berliners usually hid great sorrow in their hearts. One example of this was Ursula, a young girl who worked in war officers club.

Religion Centers Need Cited

Ann Arbor, Mich. — (NC) — Universities should recognize religious centers as an "integral" and "perhaps official" part of the university community, the executive secretary of the National Newman Club Federation said here.

Father Charles W. Albright, C.S.P., made the statement in an address delivered during a National Consultative Conference on Religion and the State University, held at the University of Michigan.

Father Albright called on religious centers at universities to be alert to the need to improve continually their "professional competence."

FILMS AT MUSEUM
Jet engines, range and brands of cattle and the appeal of the nation picture are featured in the three films to be shown at Rochester Museum of Art and Sciences on Sunday, Dec. 14, at 3 p.m.

URSULA WAS a dietitian in East Germany until Russian soldiers made her life there unbearable. She soon sought refuge in the West and gave up her position as a dietitian under Communist control to work as a waitress in the free world.

But East Berlin was not forgotten to Ursula. Before the war, Ursula's family was quite wealthy. They still had a beautiful home in East Berlin that survived the war.

Ursula pleaded with her mother to come with her to West Berlin, but her home and all its memories and possessions would have to be left behind for the Russians to devour.

Her mother decided to stay — to try and save the family's few remaining possessions. Ursula must leave East Berlin, her mother told her, but someday she hoped the Russians would be gone and then they could be reunited in their old home.

Months pass now before Ursula and her mother have an opportunity to spend a few minutes together, but Ursula lives for these moments.

Aggie, the maid whom I mentioned briefly in another article, also hid great sorrow in her heart. Two of her five brothers were called into service for Hitler's army during the war.

Two of her brothers were killed and her other three brothers were taken away by the Russians and never heard from again. Aggie has long since given up hope of seeing her brothers again.

Karl, another friend we made while in Berlin, was once a major in General Rommel's famous Panzer Division. Now a bus driver, Karl was captured and after the war freed by the U.S. forces. When Karl returned to Berlin his wife and two children were gone — either killed or carried away by the invading Russians.

A GERMAN policeman was also added to our long list of friends while in the four-power city. He walked the "beat" in the immediate area of our home.

One cold evening we invited him in for a cup of coffee to warm him up. This soon became almost a nightly ritual.

One evening conversation got around to his family. The smile on his face disappeared and tears came to his eyes. Suddenly he said he had to return to his "beat."

Our policeman friend continued to come to our house for his coffee each night, but we were careful not to bring up the subject of his family again. We knew there must be great sorrow behind his outward smile.

Communist pressure on Berlin continues today but the West Berliners are continuing their fight against it. This week the

Communists suffered a bitter defeat at the West Berlin polls.

As record throngs turned out to vote, the Communists were thoroughly defeated in their bids for election to the West Berlin Parliament. The Communists received a mere 1.9 per cent of the votes, as compared with 27 per cent in the last election in 1951.

Thus the people of West Berlin have replied with an emphatic no to Communists plans to drive the Western Allies out of their city and to close the avenues of escape to freedom for thousands of refugees.

The Allies are wanted and needed more than ever in Berlin.

SERMONETTE

Charity Beareth All Things I Cor. 13, 7

By THE REV. JAMES D. MORIARTY

"I can put up with anything but THAT." How often has these eight little words formed on our lips as a result of unpleasant happenings coming into our daily life.

St. Paul tells us that if we hope to cultivate the virtue of charity we must even put up with "THAT" . . . whatever THAT may be. For Charity beareth all things.

There are a great number of things that can get on our nerves. As many things as we allow. Sufferings can come from the weather. Excessive cold numbs us. Heat drives us to distraction. Violent storms, the humidity, dryness all come our way. Floods and earthquakes take their toll. All afflict us.

Difficulties arise from the weakness of our nature. Hunger, thirst, fatigue may frustrate. A painful corn or a splitting headache sometimes helps to do the work the devil cannot do alone. Yet, all these can be made spiritual opportunities to increase virtue.

Personalities clash. All of us meet with the quarrelsome, the gloomy, the irritable, the bad humored. Even if we can't avoid them we must not let them be stumbling blocks.

Insults, contempt, false accusations, misunderstandings come into every life. Even in our spiritual life we have dryness or scruples or distractions. Temptations and persecution come from the devil. It allows all these to happen to us to help us grow strong. They can make or break us.

When the sheep dog nips the knee of the straying lamb it is not to harm him. It is to bring him back into the fold. When God allows all these things to happen it is only to give us the opportunity to prove that we love Him, even in the face of difficulties for Charity beareth ALL things.



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