

Germany's Adenauer

Catholic Statesman

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

Bonn, Germany — West German Chancellor Konrad Adenauer, who has announced he would seek the presidency of West Germany, is known throughout the world as Europe's senior Catholic statesman.

His decision to run for president was regarded by observers here as signaling the retirement from active politics of the 83-year-old statesman who, more than any other individual, has raised West Germany from the rubble of defeated nazism to the status of a prosperous bastion of democracy.

Today, 14 years after the end of World War II, the Chancellor can look back on a record of constructive achievement in rebuilding his nation matched by few other statesmen in history.

Chancellor Adenauer will retire from active politics next July, when he will seek to succeed retiring President Theodor Heuss. The West German presidency is largely a figurehead position.

It was pointed out here that the July date will be well beyond the spring East-West negotiations over the Berlin crisis and related problems, in which the West German leader is expected to play a major role.

Observers also commented that Adenauer will remain available to the West German government as consultant on national and international policies.

There was unanimous agreement that it will be well for Germany if he does, for in the past decade, and a half, Dr. Adenauer has proved himself both a remarkably astute politician and a Christian statesman of unmatched vision and unflagging idealism.

One of his greatest achievements in this period has been organizing and directing the Christian Democratic Union, a political party based on Catholic-Protestant collaboration to put Christian principles to work in the political arena.

The CDU was set up in Berlin in September, 1945, within months after the final collapse of Hitler's war machine. Dr. Adenauer, a charter member, has continued to be active in the party ever since as a guide and leader.

As one commentator wrote in 1955: "Even though a devout Catholic who never hides his deep Catholic convictions, he enjoys the respect and confidence of the Protestant members of his party, who know by experience that the party leader will always think in terms of Christian solidarity."

Dr. Adenauer was born in Cologne, Germany, on January 5, 1876. He studied at the Universities of Freiburg, Munich and Bonn. After receiving his law degree, he began the practice of law in Cologne, while at the same time participating in local politics. In 1917 he was elected Lord High Mayor of Cologne. He was also in this period a member of the Provincial Diet of the Rhine Province and the Prussian State Council, and held executive positions in the German Center party.

When Hitler and the nazis came to power in 1933, Dr. Adenauer was forced to leave his various offices and in 1934 he was imprisoned for a time by the Gestapo.

His second imprisonment by the Nazi secret police came 10 years later, in 1944, on his silver wedding anniversary—which he and his wife celebrated in an SS prison at Braunweiler, near Cologne.

In 1948 Dr. Adenauer was elected president of a Parliamentary Council set up to draft a constitution for West Germany. The constitution was approved in May, 1949. In August of the same year Dr. Adenauer's CDU won a victory in elections for West German Parliament and on September 15, 1949, the newly elected Bundestag chose him Chancellor. He and the CDU polled new victories in general elections in 1953 and 1957.

One of the most honored men of his time, Dr. Adenauer has received literally hundreds of citations and decorations from the Church, governments, universities and other institutions. In January, 1956, on his 80th birthday he was awarded the Order of the Golden Spur, one of the highest papal honors, by Pope Pius XII.

Among honors accorded him in the United States have been honorary degrees from Georgetown University, Washington, D. C. and Marquette University, Milwaukee.

Dr. Adenauer accepted the Georgetown degree in person and in a memorable 1953 address summed up much of the political philosophy which has guided him in his perilous task of rebuilding and rejuvenating Germany.

"We may have failed and wandered in the past," he said, "but matured by bitter experience, we have reached the inexorable decision to stand on the side of liberty."

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Not Far To Heaven

Montserrat Shrine In Spain

By FATHER JAMES I. TUCEK

Barcelona — (NC) — The distance from Montserrat to heaven cannot be very far.

This is what the Spanish pilgrims devoutly believe and this is what you feel on this holy mountain of Catalonia from which the "Morena," the little dark Madonna of Montserrat, has reigned for over nine centuries.

Montserrat is a bare stone mountain of saw-toothed peaks, and so it takes its name — serrated mountain. It rises strangely from the Catalonian plains as though the God of nature had intended it as a place from which He should give special praise.

Legend tells of the holy uses of the mountain since shortly after apostolic times when a monk climbed its frightful heights to escape persecution and to find seclusion for contemplation in which they might work out their salvation.

History gives the first record of religious life on Montserrat in the year 888 when the abbot of nearby Ripoll chose certain hermits for his community who had been living in the hermitage of Santa Maria on the mountain. But long before this, since ages unknown, Montserrat was crowned by five hermitages, whose ruins the mountain still holds.

Montserrat is not without its miracles. Numerous wonders have been verified here. But this is not the mountain's boast.

The great wonders of Montserrat are in the spiritual order and not so much in the material order. The classic expression of this fact is quoted in the words of the Emperor Charles V, who said that "a certain divinity which I cannot explain" emanated from the temple of Montserrat all over the mountain. One of faith will know that this unexplainable "divinity" is the grace worked through the intercession of the Lady in the souls of all those who come humbly to her feet to pray.

Those who have come to pray include some of the greatest names of Christendom.

It was here that Ignatius of Loyola gave his fine clothes to a poor man and offered his sword to the Virgin. From Montserrat St. Ignatius went to France where he wrote his "Spiritual Exercises" from Manresa to Barcelona, from Barcelona to Paris, from Paris to Rome and from Rome through the world to build



Boys of famed choir chant Mass, Vespers daily at shrine.

The last destruction it knew was from Napoleon's armies, and the violence it knew was when 23 of its members were murdered during the Spanish Civil War.

The Benedictine community has returned with greater vigor than ever and, in the spirit of "Pray and Work" set down by its saintly founder, it is now on its way to a greater development than the Abbey of Montserrat has ever known in its history.

The "pray" part of the Benedictine rule is found today on Montserrat in a liturgy of exquisite purity and intense prayer of rare beauty. The liturgy as elaborated by the Benedictine monks is known the world over; this is true also of the Divine Office sung in choir.

The liturgical chant and the sacred polyphony as executed by the abbey's "escuela" — choir school — is unique in the world.

The "escuela" is a boys' choir which has a tradition of about eight centuries. The boys, always about 40 in number, are not seminarians, but they are a group whose primary function is to sing the praise of the Madonna. They enter the basilica three times a day to do this: a High Mass daily at 6:45 a.m.; the Salve Regina and the Angelus at 12:30 p.m.; the Rosary, Vespers and the "Montserrat Salve" at 7:30 p.m.

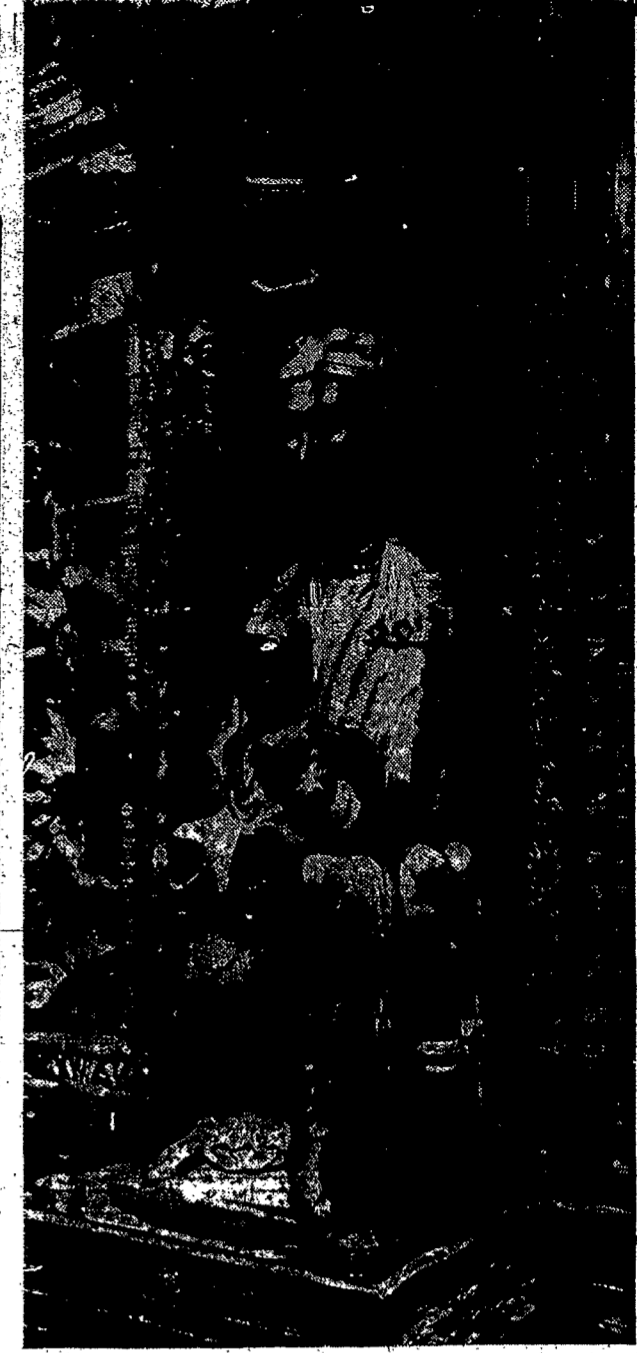
They are chosen for their voices from the cream of Catalonia's talented boys — about 10 from among 100 applicants a year. Their first year is spent in training without singing in public. For their remaining three years they are given an academic and musical training by the monks which makes them an elite honored and respected throughout Spain.

The "work" part of the Benedictine rule is practiced with the silence and patience that produce amazing results. Montserrat has produced such world-known figures as Dom Gregorio Snyol in Gregorian chant, Dom Bonaventura Ubach in Sacred Scripture, and Don Anselmo Allaredo, in history.

The monks have produced in recent years over 100 titles in the sacred sciences and music, printed on their own presses. They are at present engaged in two mammoth projects in Sacred Scripture and will soon issue the first of a biannual international review entitled "Monastic Studies."

Not the least of the labors of the monks is their work in providing for the pilgrims who come to venerate the Lady of Montserrat. They have created a small city on the mountain, including a hotel, restaurant, garage, postoffice, clinic, apartment houses — everything necessary for the care of those who come to see and pray before the "Morena."

The life of this "city seated on the mountain" is multiple and varied but it has one inspiration, an inspiration expressed in the song that is sung every evening at the feet of the little dark Madonna: "Rose of April, Dark Virgin of the Mountain, Star of Montserrat; shed light over Catalonia's land, lead us up to heaven."



Thirty-two inch statue of our Lady "Rose of April" — venerated at Montserrat shrine.

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Joseph Breig's Column

Hawaii, Alaska

Lanai, Molokai, Oahu, Kauai, Nihoa.

ON MOLOKAI, at the base of a sheer cliff overlooking the sea, ugliness and beauty met in a titanic, still conflict; and beauty eventually won because goodness came to first rescue in the person of a man filled with the spirit of Christ.

Father Damien, the "Leprosy Priest," towers in history and will tower taller and taller as the centuries pass; and Hawaii will tower with him.

I have never been in Alaska with its snows and glaciers and indomitable masculine vigor. I have never been in Hawaii where nature is like a maiden beckoning. But it is as old friends and boon adventures that I welcome them into the Union as the 49th and 50th of the United States of America.

America, I think, is the most astounding work of human minds that the earth has seen. It is the nation made of many nations, many races, many philosophies, many religions, many cultures. And the thing that makes it one is a simple forthright statement of a theological truth.

"We hold these truths to be self-evident, that all men are created equal; that they are endowed by their Creator with certain inalienable rights; that among these rights are life, liberty and the pursuit of happiness; and that to secure these rights, governments are instituted among men."

There stands the greatest and deepest political statement ever placed on paper by a human hand. We are created; and we are endowed by our Creator; and it is the business of government to treasure and defend that endowment.

This is the heart and the soul of the United States of America; it is for this that the flag has flown from the time when its stars numbered 13 until now when they are 50.

SERMONETTE

By the REV. RICHARD MADDEN, O.C.D.  
Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord in vain.

Everytime I hear a big Russian blatherskite shouting off his mouth about peace in the world, I get ulcers.

If there's no place for God in Communism (and there isn't), then there's no place for communismic "peace" in God's world. Communism has used every means possible to blot the name of God right off the face of Russia and its satellite countries.

Over here, however, things are a bit different. Oh, we're no angels by a long blast. Well over half the American people have absolutely no connection with any kind of church. We can sing "God Bless America" until we're blue in the face with so many Americans self-righteously from God, we can only wonder why God should bless America. The redeeming feature, however, is that although some Americans are Godless, America is not.

True, God's name is not mentioned in the Constitution, but it is mentioned in the Declaration of Independence and in the Articles of Confederation. Our presidents have been God-fearing men who did not hesitate to call upon God in times of crisis. Lincoln in his immortal: "That this nation under God . . . shall not perish from the earth," set the standard for presidential conduct. The basic culture of America is one that honors the name of God. Should we as individuals do less?

The name of God is solemnly invoked in our courts of law. And every day, at high noon when the Supreme Court convenes, the clerk, among other things, chants, "God save the United States." The name of God is found in our Pledge of Allegiance. It is found on coins. And if you're lucky enough to own a dollar bill, you will notice on its back the words, "Annuit cœptis" which translated means, "He has favored our undertakings."

This is the tradition given us by our forefathers. Let's keep it going.

'Better Climate'

New York. — (RNS) — Dr. Eugene Carson Blake of Philadelphia, stated clerk of the United Presbyterian Church in the U.S.A., expressed the hope here that the forthcoming Ecumenical Council convened by Pope John XXIII would bring about "a better climate in the relations among religious groups."

But, he warned, it would be "too much" to expect that the council would result in Protestant-Catholic unity.

He spoke on "Church Unity and the Vatican" before Protestant and Orthodox editors from this country and Canada attending the 40th annual meeting of Associated Church Press.

Dr. Blake told the editors that it would be "foolish" to think that the Catholic, Eastern Orthodox and Protestant communions would change their fundamental principles as a result of the council.

He observed that both the Catholic and Orthodox Churches maintain that they are the one and only true Church.

Three Gloria's

Pope John has frequently requested those attending his Wednesday noon audiences to say the "Gloria" to the Pa-

Making Marriage Click

Lovetime

By MSGR. IRVING A. DeBLANG  
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

"I have no complaints about my marriage. I have no questions to ask about any troubles. My husband and I are as happy as we can be. I would enjoy so much seeing this thought in your column. But, yes, I do have a question. Are we normal?" Mrs. M. K.

They need love and affection and give it to each other in a hundred little ways, knowing that otherwise they would dry up. They need encouragement because even the strongest of us experience moments of depression. No matter what problems come up, neither is alone in the struggle.

They understand that she may hunger for music, he for golf, and that they must never attempt to mold the other into something he is not.

They understand that their needs may change with the years, that the new preferences on television, that he may prefer a little house to an apartment. They know that when one no longer needs the other, then love is over.

They shy away from persons who are in constant marital troubles, from those of doubtful morals. They know that they need quiet and relaxation, that hours are to be enjoyed rather than constantly chased.

Springtime is Lovetime renewed, but Lovetime is forever.

Daily Mass Calendar

Sunday, April 12 — Second Sunday after Easter (white), Gloria, Creed, Easter Preface.  
Monday, April 13 — St. Hermonigild, martyr (red), Gloria, V.R.  
Tuesday, April 14 — St. Justina, martyr (red), Gloria, Wednesday and Thursday Mass as Sunday except no Creed; V.R.  
Friday, April 17 — St. Anacletus, martyr (red), or Mass as yesterday; V.R.  
Saturday, April 18 — Saturday Mass in honor of the Blessed Virgin (white), Gloria, V.R.  
Votive or Requiem permitted.