

63rd At Lourdes

## Miracle Cures Paralyzed Girl

Paris — (RNS) — Announcement of the 63rd miracle at the famed shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes to be officially recognized by the Roman Catholic Church in the past 100 years was made here by Maurice Cardinal Felin, Archbishop of Paris.

Recognition of the miracle, which involved a 17-year-old partially paralyzed girl, came 14 years after its occurrence and after doctors had continually examined the sufferer without finding any recurrence of her malady.

At the beginning of the war, Yvonne Fournier was working in a munitions factory at Montlucon when a bolt slipped from one of the machines and caught her arm, ripping off the flesh. After long weeks the wounds healed, but the girl's arm remained paralyzed and covered with great scars. In addition, Yvonne's wrist was swollen and she had lost the use of her fingers.

NINE TIMES in five years doctors operated on Yvonne in an effort to restore the use of her hand, but in vain. Then, as soon as the war was over, the girl decided to go to Lourdes.

On the morning of August 19, 1945, she walked into the holy waters of the Lourdes bath, praying aloud. Sixty seconds later she saw the swelling in

her wrist begin to subside and the scars disappear as if they were dirty marks being washed away. Meanwhile the stabbing pains she had endured for five years were gone.

Dazed by what had happened, Yvonne tried to move her fingers and found she could do so easily. When she stepped out of the bath five minutes later her arm and hand were completely normal—not a scar, not a trace of swelling nor of paralysis.

The girl was rushed immediately to the Lourdes Medical Bureau, where three doctors examined her. Every month since then her own and other doctors have examined and made reports on her arm. The final verdict was that the girl had experienced a complete and definite cure for which there was no natural explanation.

Every year since her cure, Yvonne has made a pilgrimage to Lourdes, and she spends her time there either as nurse or a stretcher bearer. The girl became a professional nurse after her cure and now works at a radiological center in Paris.

## New Church Era Dawns In Africa, Asia Missions

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Dangers of Communism in the mission areas. He said he saw in the missionary field "regions where the violence of persecution and of government hostile to the name of God and of Christ try to suffocate the seed of the word of the Lord, while everywhere souls are in great need and from every part the cry, 'help us,' reaches Our ears."

He said the lily in Africa have many problems, and should beware of "solutions that are hasty or that have been mortgaged, with deplorable lightness, by doctrines that do not take into account or actually contradict the religious interests of individuals and peoples."

Pope John especially cautioned Catholics in the Asian and African mission areas against letting themselves be carried away by anti-foreign nationalism even to the extent of resenting priests from other countries coming to work among them.

At the same time, the Pope urged native priests to learn to esteem and judge the true values of their own native cul-

tures which often, he said, contain unique elements of great value which they should integrate into the life of the Church in their country as far as possible.

He recalled his own words spoken to a congress of Negro intellectuals in Rome early this year when he said: "The Church, as you know, does not identify herself with any culture, not even with Western culture, to which her history is closely linked. This is because her history belongs to another order, the order of the spiritual salvation of man."

Pope John's encyclical was reported by the Vatican Radio, which commented that the Pontiff was concerned over the danger of native clergy in missionary territories at present striving for national independence becoming more preoccupied with earthly things than with their spiritual mission.

The first reaction in Europe to the Pope's new action in Africa to judge by radio broadcasts on the subject—was that the Pope appreciates the African nations' march toward freedom and independence and is going out to meet them halfway.



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