

Warning Given On Criticism

Pittsburgh — (NC) — American of Polish extraction were cautioned by Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh against using freedom in this country so that it would add unnecessary crosses to the people in Poland.

"IT TAKES no great courage in America to sound off and puppet abroad," Bishop Wright declared. "But sometimes when we speak out intemperately or in untimely fashion here, one of our prelates, priests or people in the old country is the victim of our false bravery."

The Bishop reminded the Central Council of Polish Organizations that statements and articles which cost nothing might hurt those we wish to help.

He suggested that we defer to the informed, sound judgment of the great Cardinal (Stefan Wysinski) of Poland, for example, and his priests and people, speaking only when prudent as well as zealous as well as natural resentment, inspire our words of criticism and protest.

Our Saviour Divine Refugee

(Continued from page 1)
into the land of Israel, for those who sought the child's life are dead."

The return trip, if less worried, was no less difficult than the journey into exile. The threat to the child's life was over but Herod's sons who killed at Jerusalem began his reign in his father's tradition by butchering three thousand little wonders that Scripture tells us Joseph "was afraid to go there" so the chaste guardian of the Blessed Virgin Mary shepherded his charges across the sea-girt rolling hills of Sharon back home to Nazareth.

The refugees were home but the quest was not done. The child would grow and was strong. He would be filled with wisdom and the grace of God was upon Him. Then He would begin another journey — crisscrossing footsore and weary the roads of Palestine, up the steep path to Galgatha and down across the centuries to seek a nation that which is lost, to comfort and console exiles, refugees, wanderers and lonely hearts.

At last He would bring them to one fold under one shepherd where He would wipe away all their tears and give them rest and peace at the last.

GREETINGS
Of the Season
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A joyous Christmas to you and yours
from all of us at Lincoln Rochester

It's Christmas time . . . a time unlike any other in the year . . . when we pause in the business of living to take a closer look at our fellow man . . . to wish him well and share with him the glowing warmth of this wonderful season. A Merry Christmas to all of you . . . and may its joyous spirit carry over into the coming New Year.

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Pilgrims Throng Shrine

Mexico City — (RNS) — Thousands of Mexican Catholics, weary and footsore after days of walking from distant villages, were among the more than one million persons who converged on the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe here to pay homage to the patroness of Mexico on her feast day.

THE PILGRIMS made their way into the church during Guadalupe Day, as thousands more attended Mass at other churches. Banks and businesses of all kinds were closed as the entire country observed the event as a holy day of obligation.

Along the highways leading into the city, where tired pilgrims from afar tolled toward their goal, Red Cross ambulances picked up many of the old and sick who fainted along the way.

But most managed to reach the famous shrine of Guadalupe and there to kneel at the foot of the crowned statue of the Virgin to present floral offerings.

It was on this day in 1531, Catholic tradition says, that the Blessed Virgin appeared to a 55-year-old Indian, Juan Diego, as he was hurrying down Tepeyac hill to attend Mass in Mexico City.

Church historians relate that when the Virgin appeared to Juan, she told him to inform the bishop that a church was to be built where she stood. She appeared to him at the same spot that evening and again on the following day, Sunday.

The bishop at first was unimpressed but later asked Juan to obtain a sign, which the Indian was not immediately able to do because he was busy taking care of his uncle who was critically ill.

At daybreak on Tuesday, Juan ran to get a priest for his uncle, but, in order to avoid the complication of possibly seeing the apparition again, took a different route. The virgin found him, however, promised to visit and cure his uncle — which she did — and directed him to go up to the hilltop and pick roses, though it was mid-winter, and carry them in his robe to the bishop.

When Juan unfolded his cloak, the roses fell out. Moreover, historians say, the bishop and his attendants saw on the Indian's cloak a beautiful representation of the Virgin in glowing colors. The cloak is to this day displayed in the center of the shrine.



Roses in winter, picture on a poncho.

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Nuns In Disguise

Quest For Souls In Rome

Rome — (RNS) — The "Misses," Huff, Wilby, Terrell, Loeffel and Mary Smith, Van Wageningen are four Dutch young women who move about Rome on bicycles, each wearing a simple white blouse, a dark gray skirt and low-heeled black shoes.

They are actually nuns in "disguise," all dedicated to winning converts. The only sign that they belong to a religious order are the small golden crosses around their necks.

THE FOUR nuns, the only ones of the kind in Rome, are members of the Congregation of the Sisters of Bethany, which was established in Holland by Father James Von Gimken, S.J., and now numbers 120 Sisters. The nuns, whose mother house is in Bloemendaal, Holland, are predominantly Dutch, but they also include Austrians, Germans and Spaniards.

In Rome, the four Sisters of Bethany, who have been a year in the city, perform a very special kind of apostolate. From a small office located in an ancient palace at the heart of old Rome, they run an information service for Non-Catholic tourists. Over the entrance is inscribed the word, "Unitas," meaning "Unity."

The nuns live in an old building in the Piazza Della Rovere and each morning they cycle to their office to welcome groups of tourists in need of guidance and assistance.

FOR EACH group of tourists, the nuns sketch programs or itineraries, and even serve as guides. However, no tourist is expected to know that the guide is a nun. Only in cases of emergency are the nuns authorized to disclose their real identity.

So anxious are their superiors to conceal the true nature of the nuns' calling that they permit them to accept an occasional cigarette or drink from the tourists they accompany.

It is in the course of the conducted tours that the nuns perform their apostolate. They do so by taking their visitors to some of Rome's most significant Christian monuments, to religious ceremonies in St. Peter's or one of the other great basilicas, or to the Catacombs where the early Christians lived and prayed.

"All of Rome," says Sister Mary, "is like an illustrated catechism. Our purpose is not just to convert the tourists. We want them to discover, during ceremonies in the Vatican, or during papal audiences, the warmth of the Catholic Faith and its rites."

The four nuns talk with enthusiasm about their mission and express satisfaction over the results they have already achieved.

(The Archbishop has visited Rochester on several occasions.)

The program, which will bear the name of the French-born churchman, will be presented in behalf of the Catholics of Madras City and its suburbs.

Archbishop Mathias has been largely responsible for establishment of the two Catholic colleges in the city, three training schools, 31 high and middle schools, 57 higher and lower elementary schools, 25 homes for children, and several homes for the destitute.

In 1958, the archbishop organized the Mercy Homes in Kilpauk, Madras, which cares for about 150 to 200 crippled and incurable poor people who cannot afford any kind of treatment.

Archbishop Mathias also established five rice kitchens in the city where, twice a week, 1,000 poor people are given a plate of rice and curry.

To help house the homeless, the archbishop also launched a program for building tenements for the very poor who do not earn more than \$25 a month.

"Some of the ideas these people get of America and take back to their countries are so far from the truth it's unbelievable," Mrs. Nolan added.

"OUR PURPOSE," she said, "is to provide a good Catholic environment for Catholic students away from home, to make all these people familiar with what a real American home is like, and to promote better international understanding and good will."

Review of the Year 1959 —

BY RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

World-wide unity discussions among the three great Christian bodies, Protestant, Eastern Orthodox and Roman Catholic, helped make 1959 a momentous year in the realm of religion.

Sparked by Pope John XXIII's historic decision in January to summon an Ecumenical Council at which Christian unity would be a major topic, the debate was nowhere more active than in the United States, where a Protestant-Catholic dialogue is assuming growing importance.

THE FINAL year of the fifties was made memorable also by the staggering problem posed by 15,000,000 homeless and suffering in Europe, North Africa and the Near and Middle East.

In the United States, another highlight of the year was a controversy with strong political implications that erupted over the "population explosion" issue.

This brought into sharp focus fundamental differences between Protestants and Catholics over the moral validity of artificial birth control as a means to help correct the asserted failure of food production to keep pace with expanding populations.

The long struggle between Communism and religion, serving to underscore repeated demands by churchmen for a common Christian front against Communist encroachments on religious rights, gave added significance to the discussions of Christian unity.

Vatican officials made it clear that the Ecumenical Council would not be open to Protestant or Orthodox representatives, except as observers. Nevertheless, churchmen in general hailed it as one of the greatest steps taken toward Christian solidarity. Dr. W. A. Visser 't Hooft, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, said the Pope's action "illustrates the importance which the problem of unity has assumed in our time."

Student Aid To Honor Archbishop

Madras — (RNS) — A fundraising campaign for a student scholarship program was launched here to honor Archbishop Louis Mathias in July, 1960 when the prelate marks his 25th year as Archbishop of Madras.

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POPE JOHN — anything but a "transition Pope" stirred the Church and the world by his calling a Council and by a program of person-to-person contact between Shepherd and his flock.

resented at chronicles in New York and Geneva launching the Year. In Geneva, Protestant leaders took part in a special ecumenical intercession. At the same time, Pope John issued a message exhorting Catholics everywhere to help ease "the lot of those who live in exile far away from their homelands."

During 1959, new chapters were written in the Red war on religion. In East Germany, Communist propagandists lashed out at Lutheran Bishop Otto Dibelius of Berlin after he had published a pamphlet in which he maintained that a totalitarian state does not constitute a "supreme authority" to which Christians owe allegiance in any Biblical sense. Reports from Budapest confirmed that the leaders of the Protestant and Catholic Churches in Hungary have been stripped of their administrative functions and the real "boss" is the State Office for Church Affairs.

Another way to create a study center for theological dialogue not only between Protestants and Catholics, but between Christians and Jews. It was advanced by Dr. Jaroslav Pelikan of the Federated Theological Faculty, University of Chicago, who envisioned the 1960's as a period when relations between the major faiths would move from "conference to confrontation."

In Rome it was disclosed that the Pontifical Commission of Historical Sciences is planning a study of the Reformation and will ask Protestant historians to join the project.

THE WORLD Refugee Year stood out as a major event linking Protestant and Catholic as well as Jewish welfare groups in a common humanitarian effort. The three faiths were represented and "reactionary" policies.

Reports reaching Hong Kong from the Chinese mainland revealed the growing plight of Chinese Protestants and Catholics as churches continued to be closed and believers to be accused of using religion to mask illegal activities. The Peiping regime persisted in giving strong backing to the schismatic "National Catholic Church," which has cut itself off from the Vatican because of its "imperialist" and "reactionary" policies.

In Poland, the delicate relations between the State and the Catholic Church showed many signs of deteriorating into the open conflict that marked the former Socialist regime.

This tradition is carried out in honor of Father Peter Devereux who started the custom in 1751.

There are 13 carols, the first being sung on Christmas Day and the remainder on each of the following days of the season. The singers are six men each and sing alternate verses. On the twelfth day of Christmas, January 6, the groups join to sing the final carol.

Urgent problems of the Catholic Church in Latin America — chief among them is the shortage of priests — were discussed in November at an historic joint conference in Washington, D.C., attended by prelates from the United States, Canada and four countries south of the border. Canadian Catholics in October celebrated the 300th anniversary of the establishment of the hierarchy in their country.

Before leaving Rome, first stopping place on his world tour, President Eisenhower had a private audience with Pope John which stirred speculation that formal diplomatic relations (Continued Next Page)

Of Christmas Twelve Days

Dublin — (RNS) — For more than two centuries in this little fishing village of Kilmore Quay, Wexford County, there has been an unbroken tradition of Christmas carol singing and there has always been a man named Devereux associated with the choir.

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MERRY CHRISTMAS
and a Happy 1960

