Co-op Prelate Fishermen's Friend Dies

Antigonish — (RNS) — A Pontifical Requiem Mass was celebrated here for Bishop John R. McDonald of Antigonish, a leader in the co-operative movement which changed the economic and social life of Nova Scotia's fishermen and farmers.

His death, at the age of 68, was the second to have occurred among outstanding figures of the movement in the past six months. Last July, Msgr. Michael Moses Coady, who was for many years the guiding spirit behind the movement, died here at the age of 77.

Bishop of Antigonish since 1950, the late prelate had a heart attack four months ago and had been in ill health ever since. As a friend and associate of Msgr. Coady, Bishop McDonald helped further the Antigonish Movement, or the Xaverian Movement, as Nova Scotians called it, which has become internationally famous in the realm of co-operative philosophy. It has continued to attract students from all over the world.

Co-operative organizations grew throughout the provinces until they were doing an annual business that ran into millions of dollars. Meanwhile the movement developed 1,000 adult study groups among the 35,000 fishermen, farmers, loggers and miners of Nova Scotia, few of whom were able to read and write. The movement also helped to promote co-operative stores and production groups among the farmers and fishermen.

Record In Jesuit Thrift

Cleveland — (RNS) — Setting some kind of record for Jesuit thrift, Father John Brennan of St. Ignatius High School in Cleveland displays the trousers he wore when he recently returned to the U.S. after 32 years as a missionary in India. They were the same ones which he wore when he left this country in 1927.

Gale Abates, Abbot Blessed

Bristol — (NC) — Taking advantage of a lull in a thoroughly Atlantic gale, a group of priests and laymen crossed to Caldey Island, off South Wales for the installation of a new Cistercian abbot.

The group was led by Bishop John E. Petit of Menevia. The crossing was made in a military landing craft operated by the monks who own the island, and by motorboats.

19 States

Monk Scores Work Laws

Washington — (NC) — The president of the Catholic Economic Association charged that so-called "right to work laws" are clearly contrary to the common good.

Father Jerome L. Toner, O.S.B., made the statement (Dec. 28) at the association's annual meeting which was devoted entirely to discussion of the right to work legislation now on the books in 19 states.

THE BENEDICTINE priest is dean of industrial relations at St. Martin's College, Olympia, Wash., a four-year liberal arts college for men. He is author of the book, "The Closed Shop."

Right to work laws were described by Father Toner as having for their specific object "to permit states to outlaw all agreements requiring membership in a labor organization as a condition of employment."

Father Toner's objections to these laws included his opinion that they violate justice, increase disharmony and defiance of law and perpetuate Marxian doctrines.

The Benedictine thinks the laws violate commutative justice because they "aid, abet, comfort, encourage and legalize the inequitable, unjust and immoral activities of the 'free rider'."

The "free rider," he said, is the employee who benefits from a collective bargaining agreement. But does not pay "his fair share of the costs of that collective bargaining agent whom he inescapably has hired the moment he obtained or retained his employment contract."

Pontiff Pleads For World Peace

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII, in the second Christmas message of his 14-month pontificate, called on Catholics everywhere to play an active role in the quest for world peace.

The Pope, whose 3,000-word message was devoted entirely to what he called the threefold aspects of peace — peace of the heart, social peace and international peace — stressed that "it is completely impossible for Catholics to restrict themselves to the position of mere observers."

He said they "should feel clothed, as it were, with a mandate from on high."

THE POPE, whose message was broadcast by the Vatican Radio and later translated by the station into some 36 languages for hearers all over the world, spoke into a silver microphone in the Consistorial Hall of the Vatican Palace before 31 cardinals and numerous members of the papal court. Prior to delivering his talk, he listened to a Christmas message of homage delivered on behalf of the cardinals by Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, dean of the Sacred College.

Pope John said that today, especially, the Church wishes to see Catholics pledged to an effort to make Bethlehem's message of peace "a part of themselves."

"The message," he said, "is an invitation to check the direction of every act by the dictates of Divine law, which demands the unflinching adherence of all, even to the point of sacrifice. Along with such a deepening of understanding must go action."

The struggle for peace will doubtless be long and arduous, Pope John said. But, he exhorted, "the Christmas mystery grants to all the certainty that nothing of man's goodwill is lost in whatever they, in goodwill, perform, perhaps without being entirely aware of it, for the coming of God's kingdom on earth and in order that the city of man may be modeled after the pattern of the City of God."

In his call for international peace, the 78-year-old Pontiff told Catholics that Communism poses special challenges that they must continue to face, sustained by Christian hope but at the same time on guard against "excessive optimism." The Pope did not mention Communism by name, but his meaning was obvious when he cited "the causes of the international sickness" which were "clearly proclaimed by our predecessor, Pius XII, of immortal memory."

These causes, he said, are not only the violation of the rights and dignity of the human person, but, in particular, the persecution of the Church.

"It needs still to be noted," the Pope said, "that the pacification which the Church prays for is completely impossible if it is mistaken for a yielding or a relaxation of its firmness in the face of ideologies and systems of life which are in proclaimed and irreducible opposition to the Catholic teaching."

"Nor," he added, "does it denote indifference before the lamentation which comes to Us even now from the unhappy lands where the rights of man are ignored and falsehood is adopted as a system. Still less can one forget the sorrowful Calvary of the 'Church of Silence' . . . where the confessors of the Faith, rivaling the early Christian martyrs, are exposed to suffering and torments without end for the cause of Christ."

PINPOINTING other obstacles to international peace, the Pope said it was necessary also "to overcome certain erroneous ideas: the myth of force, of nationalism, or something else, which have drugged the integrated life of nations; and to impose peaceful living — together on moral principles, according to the teaching of right reason and of Christian doctrine."

Along with this, the Pope declared, should go a justice sustained by Christian charity, which "removes the causes of quarrels and wars, solves the disputes, fires the tasks, defines the duties, gives the answer to the claims of each party."

Apparently referring to President Eisenhower's 11-nation seven tour and other recent international developments, the Pope said the Church "looks with favor on every initiative which can help to spare humanity new conflicts, new massacres, new destruction beyond calculation."

He said that "the most recent events" have "caused hopes to blossom anew in many minds, but it will be necessary again and again to remove from the path (of peace) the obstacles placed by the malice of man."

"The presence of these obstacles," he said, "is noted in the propaganda of immorality, in social injustice, in forced unemployment, in the wretchedness contrasted with the privilege of whoever can indulge in dissipation, in the fearful lack of proportion between the technical progress and the moral progress of nations, in the unchecked armaments race, without there yet being a glimpse of a serious possibility of arriving at a solution of the problem of disarmament."

Speaking of social peace, the Pope said that "the disturbances which unsettle the internal peace of nations trace themselves to this source, that man has been treated almost exclusively as a machine, a piece of merchandise, a worthless cog in some great machine, a mere productive unit.

"No peace will have solid foundations," he asserted, "unless there is nourished in the hearts the sentiment of brotherhood, which ought to exist among all who have a common origin and are called to the same destiny. The knowledge that they belong to the same family extinguishes in the hearts lust, greed, pride, the instinct to dominate others, which are the roots of dissensions and wars; it binds all in a single bond of higher and fruitful solidarity."

Pope John said that peace of the heart is, "above all else, an interior thing, belonging to the spirit, and its fundamental condition is a loving and filial dependence on the Will of God." He said that "all that embitters, that breaks, that destroys this conformity and union of wills is opposed to peace."

Pope John spoke special words of Christmas consolation to the poor, the sick and infirm and the aged, "often tempted by some moments of melancholy, or by the thought of themselves as useless," and "those who suffer from the anxieties and miseries of life." He also made particular mention of "the generous and heroic bands of missionary men and women and catechists."

He praised, too, the priests, nuns and laity "all on fire with zeal for the works of Christian piety," and engaged in manifold types of educational and charitable work in the name of the Prince of Peace.

"Nor do we wish to forget," the Pontiff added, "our separated brethren for whom our prayer arises unceasingly to heaven that the promise of Christ may be fulfilled: pastor unus et unum ovile (one shepherd and one flock)."

The Pope delivered his talk in Italian. After relaying it directly, the Vatican Radio announced that it was suspending normal schedules for the following three days so that the message could be rebroadcast in translated form to countries around the world, including those behind the Iron Curtain. The Pope spoke from a golden throne in firm and deliberate tones, but paused in speech slightly several time.

67 Thousand New In Faith

Maryknoll — (NC) — This Christmas 67,314 people in Maryknoll missions throughout the world knelt at the crib of the Christ Child for the first time.

This number was reported baptized in the past year among the 10 million people entrusted to Maryknoll on four continents.

Algerian War

Refugees In Misery

Washington — (NC) — The number of refugees who have fled the war in Algeria has grown to nearly 200,000, and they are living in "complete misery," a French prelate claimed here.

Father Alfred Bonnegent of the Algerian Diocese of Constantine said at a press conference that despite the efforts of the World Refugee Year, only a small amount of aid has been given to the 200,000 now in Tunisia and the 100,000 in Morocco.

About 85 per cent of these refugees are either children or very old people, Father Bonnegent said. He added that while 2,500 calories should be the daily minimum, the Algerian refugees now receive 500 calories a day.

The priest said their people are the most [illegible] — food, warm clothing, and medicines.

Father Bonnegent himself has personally ministered to the separated groups in Algeria, and for his work was expelled by the French military last February he said. He was sentenced "in absentia" by a court martial for going toward and aid the "the enemy," and was condemned to a ten-year jail term.

Father Bonnegent's major fear is that as a Christian and as a priest, he is committed to the teaching that as God is Father

Face Church Issue, Reds Advised

Warsaw — (NC) — Face-to-face talks between representatives of the Church and State in Poland have "a very urgent social necessity," a Catholic deputy told the Polish parliament.

Boleslaw Piasecki, leader of the Znak, the lone of about a dozen assembly Catholic deputies in the Sejm (parliament), spoke on the strained relations between Church and State.

THE BENEDICTINE priest made during debates on the national budget. He said that Catholics have a "long" list of "misgivings" concerning government policies toward the Church.

"We proposed, do not place these problems on the agenda," he stated, because we were convinced that there would exist here a contradictory character and would not be any way here to finding a solution. We wish that direct talks could be held between representatives of the government and the Church — talks which would be conducive to the settlement of the most painful and obvious problems."

One Time 20 Years

Washington — (NC) — Welcomed by Charles Bohanon was one visitor for the ceremony. It wouldn't have done for he late.

He got in clothes from the Jesuit community at Georgetown University for showed up long on time (5:30 a.m.) and waited about in 200 years as a guest for the priests.

Father Edward B. Bunn, S.J., university president, presented the citation at a Christmas Eve dinner for employees.

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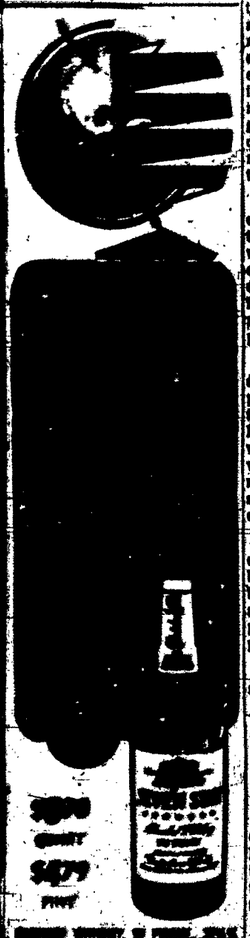

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