

For Press Meet

Rome Cardinal To Visit U.S.

New York—Cardinal Agagianian, head of the Catholic Church's world-wide mission program, will visit America in May to speak at the Catholic Press Association's fifteenth convention.

The 65-year-old prelate, fluent in 12 languages, is one of the Vatican's top administrative officials. His coming this spring will be his third trip to the U.S.

Topic of the Cardinal's address will be "The World Mission of the Catholic Press."

THE CPA'S GOLDEN JUBILEE convention will be held from May 10 to 13. The association is composed of hundreds of Catholic newspapers, magazines, books and pamphlets publishers and their staff members throughout the United States and Canada.

Msgr. John S. Randall of Rochester, a past chairman of the CPA, is general chairman of the convention. Coordinator of convention planning is James A. Doyle, executive secretary of the CPA headquarters here in New York.

"Our association is honored and thrilled that Cardinal Agagianian has agreed to make the main address at our golden jubilee convention," an association statement said. "We feel his coming to this country for our convention is a great tribute to the growth and present stature of America's Catholic press."

Cardinal Agagianian, as Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians, is the spiritual leader of some 200,000 Armenian Rite Catholics. As Pro-Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, he helps direct the organization which has jurisdiction over more than 30 million Catholics throughout the world.

CARD. AGAGIANIAN

Cardinal Charges

Red Victims Plight Ignored

Rome (RNS)—Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani, secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, strongly deplored here "the fact that the imprisonment of many bishops in Communist countries has failed to arouse a storm of protest in the free world."

Preaching at a Mass for the Church of Silence offered by the Bishops of St. Mary Major, he said it was enough to look in the Annuario Pontificio, Vatican yearbook, to learn how many bishops the Communists had imprisoned, deported or impeded in their ecclesiastical duties.

He made special mention of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary; Alfonso Cardinal Stepinic, Archbishop of Zagreb; and Archbishop Josef Baran of Prague, Czechoslovakia, who had "vanished from his See 11 years ago."

Cardinal Ottaviani said the press in free countries preferred to devote itself to the lives and scandals of actors and film stars, and to sensational crimes, while "ignoring the suffering of many people, and the wounds inflicted by anti-Christ on the faithful in the various places throughout the world."

Rome Faithful Pray For Synod

Rome—(NC) — A daywide two weeks' spiritual preparation for Rome's diocesan synod has been inaugurated by Cardinal Micari, Vicar General of Rome.

All parishes in Rome observed "synodal day" on January 10, the first day of the two-week period of prayer. During the ensuing week, lectures were to be given to the faithful in the various places throughout Rome.

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Blue Cross Plan Said Too Costly

Philadelphia (NC) — Eight Philadelphia Catholic hospitals have withdrawn from the Blue Cross plan, charging that the health insurance program's payment policy placed a "costly and excessive burden" on them.

The action was taken as a result of a poll of administrators of the eight hospitals. Two other Philadelphia Catholic hospitals did not withdraw from the Blue Cross plan.

Prior to the hospital's action (Jan. 7), 91 hospitals here were in the plan. One year earlier, 145 of the institutions, including the eight Catholic hospitals, signed last June, but were extended until December 31. White negotiations between the hospitals and Blue Cross were under way.

At the start of the negotiations, Cardinal O'Hara, C.S.C., of Philadelphia announced that he would support fully any decision reached by the Sisters in charge of the Catholic hospitals.

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