

'Concern' Needed For Souls, Slums

Mercy Nun's Birthday Editors Told Church's Role In World's Quest For Peace

(Continued from Page 1)

community. A large black banner moves perpetually through the fingers.

When asked whether anyone had told her of the summit conference, she said with a great sigh, "Oh yes — thru's great trouble over there, isn't there?" Her keen mind comprehends the evil of Communism, and her praying heart daily battles against it.

Sister Marcella thanks God for giving her these last few years of paralysis in which to prepare for death. "I never asked for a long life or a short one but left it all in the hands of the Lord," she comments. However, her nurses testify to her life-long good health remarked, "Sister still — relishes corn beef and cabbage and turnips."

The morning Sister was to have her picture taken for this birthday celebration, she donned her beloved headpiece and veil for the occasion. With her characteristic sense of what is really important, she said: "I don't care about the picture; I only hope my soul is beautiful before God." Then, like a putty in the hands of everyone, she docilely submitted to the "picture-taking" — willing to do anything to please others.

What rejoicing there will be among the saints in heaven when this good Sister goes home to join them. She was forever a friend of the convent, a woman who she might have the half-wilted flowers which came off the altars to carry to every nook and alcove in the convent where the statues of her beloved friends stood waiting. St. Martin de Porres especially, who always guaranteed his bouquet, even if Sister had to pull one flower out of every other bouquet in the convent.

And when she goes home to him and the others, her heart will be laden with the fairest of all flowers — Divine Love.

Tribute Payments

Montpelier — (NC) — The Vermont Supreme Court has postponed until its September term a decision on an appeal against a Chittenden County Court ruling that use of public funds to pay tuition for parochial school pupils in this state is unconstitutional.

The nation's Catholic editors — most of them priests — met last week in Washington for their annual Catholic Press Association meeting.

Vice President Richard M. Nixon and Rome's Archbishop Agagianian spelled out the role of the Catholic press in the world's present struggle to survive in freedom.

The editors also heard government experts in space research and from the state department outline current programs to "defend the peace."

Washington was a soggy capital during the Tuesday through Friday convention as rain pelted down from leaden skies — quite symbolic of the national mood in the wake of the spy plane incident.

Three staff members of the Courier-Journal attended the sessions. Monsignor John S. Randall, managing editor, who arranged the convention program; Father Henry Aiwell, editor; and Harold Conroy, advertising manager.

A "congressional breakfast" Thursday morning brought Senators, Representatives and the journalists together. Senator Kenneth B. Keating, Representatives Jesse W. Weis and John T. Tamm and Senator Javits' aide Eileen Kelly were included in the unusual event.

Vice President Nixon said America's religious publications create the "moral climate" needed for "spiritual strength" — the nation's chief weapon in its arsenal for the continuing cold war with Communism.

He also told Catholic editors can contribute to current efforts to secure civil rights of minority groups by convincing the public that "prejudice is morally wrong."

Archbishop Egidio Vagnoni, apostolic delegate in the United States, celebrated an afternoon Mass in the new and vast Shrine of the Immaculate Conception, filled to capacity, Thursday. Washington's Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle in his sermon at the Mass stressed the Church's role to save souls and does not look for "political power or earthly riches."

Without mentioning Senator John Kennedy, a Catholic, the prelate said, "It is not important to the Church that the symbols of secular power accrue to its sons." Kennedy, by his West Virginia primary victory on Tuesday,

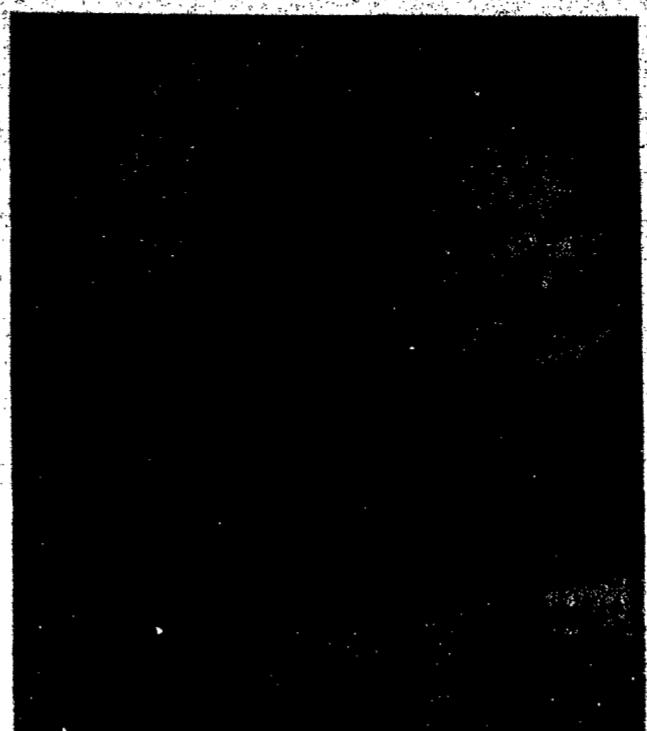
is a likely candidate for the presidency.

ARCHBISHOP O'Boyle urged the editors "to speak the truth in charity" and avoid political issues.

"The truth we preach should be the entirety of the moral law," the archbishop continued. "At times we have been criticized for the narrowness of our interests. Some say that we are concerned mostly with the institutional interests of the Church and certain obvious segments of the moral law."

"It is charged that we are preoccupied with Communism, divorce, birth control, indecent literature, and similar readily identifiable evils. But we are alleged to be less interested in other problems such as civic corruption, racial discrimination, the festering sores of city slums, the plight of the migrant and the refugee, and the needs of hungry people elsewhere in the world."

"To the extent that there is truth in these charges, we should be anxious to broaden our concern for the moral law. I recognize that certain types of moral truths are easier to treat than others. Communist persecution of the Church, for example, is so obviously wrong that no sensible person would question our position on it. By contrast, while the evils fostered by city slums are equally clear,



Washington's Archbishop O'Boyle and Rome's Cardinal Agagianian at Catholic Press meet in nation's Capital.

It is often difficult to determine proper remedies."

"When moral principles are applied to complex issues of the temporal order, it is not unusual that men of goodwill will disagree," Archbishop O'Boyle observed.

"For example, I doubt that everyone interested in the cause of racial justice agrees on certain tactics to be used to obtain

From Sword To Cradles

Veteran Cares For Orphans

Rome — (RNS) — A 59-year-old former Italian soldier, since retiring from the sword, has become known as the "Sergeant of Christ" for his compassion and self-sacrifice in providing a home for more than 200 orphaned and abandoned children.

Andrea Azema's achievement in aiding poor and destitute boys and girls has brought him praise from far and near, including words of admiration from Pope John XXIII and many of the bishops of his beloved homeland.

"I have been a faithful servant of the Italian Republic," Mr. Azema said, "but since 1944 I have tried to be one of the

most faithful servants of God also."

It was in that year that the humble sergeant started his voluntary apostolate of seeking out children who had no home of their own and taking care of them himself. Today, his "Piccola Assistenza del Signore per Bambini Orfani e Abbandonati" (Small Charity of the Lord for Orphan and Abandoned Children) provides primary education, food, clothing, friendship and guidance as well as a home for 26 youngsters from two to 16 years of age.

With the loving help of his wife, Carmela, and some financial support from interested individuals, including members of

the hierarchy, Mr. Azema has turned a row of tiny cottages at the foot of Rome's ancient walls into "a first-class station for misery."

His apostolate was born toward the end of a long career as a soldier. A Sardinian by birth, he had long known poverty, illiteracy and hardship from personal experience. By dint of grim determination he taught himself to read and write and even learned French, German and English.

He and his wife, who have four children of their own, have accepted unflinchingly the difficult and often ignored task of giving abandoned children a real home.

Mr. Azema got the inspiration to establish the "Piccola Assistenza" one day following World War II when he happened upon a "bambino" crying amidst the ruins of his home. The child's parents were buried under the rubble, he said, and "it was then that I began to meditate on the teachings of Christ." He adopted the child and many more afterward.

Small contributions have been sent to the "Piccola Assistenza" by admirers of the "Sergeant of Christ" from the United States, Germany, Sweden, Holland and all parts of Italy. Gifts of flour and meat, bread and pastry are frequent, but the organization is still in constant need of help.

The parishes of Rome and the metropolitan police ask the couple for advice and entrust them with many of their youthful charges. And despite all difficulties, Mr. and Mrs. Azema keep smiling.

Priest Cited For Service

Boston — (RNS) — A Catholic priest received the first annual citation for outstanding service to the handicapped awarded by the Massachusetts Chapter of the National Rehabilitation Association here.

The Rev. Thomas J. Carroll, director of the Boston Archdiocesan Guild for the Blind was honored for outstanding achievement at the chapter's annual meeting at the Industrial Home for Crippled Children here.

Father Carroll is founder of St. Paul Rehabilitation Center for mobility restoration of the blind in nearby Newton, Mass., an institution nationally recognized as foremost in its field. He is also the founder of "Listen," a newspaper for the blind and the visually handicapped, distributed to persons of all faiths.

Red Victim's Memory Kept

Brooklyn — (RNS) — Plans to erect a boys' high school here named in honor of Brooklyn-born Roman Catholic Bishop Francis X. Ford, N.M., who died in a Red Chinese prison in 1952, were announced by Bishop Bryan J. McEntegart.

The new school, accommodating 1,000 students, will be built in the Bay Ridge area of Brooklyn at an initial cost of \$4,200,000. It will be one of six new high schools scheduled for construction in the decade.

In 1918 Bishop Ford was the first student to enter the newly-founded Holy Rosary school, and was ordained in 1917.

Ohio Group Aids Spanish Speaking

Columbus — (RNS) — Representative from the six Catholic dioceses of Ohio have formed the Ohio Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking to stimulate and organize the Church's efforts to improve the lot of the state's Spanish speaking people.

First meeting of the organization was held here and Father Francis X. Schweitzer, of Ada, O., said the council would be especially concerned this year with the problems of the migrant labor force beginning to pour into Ohio from Texas.

"About 15,000 migrant workers, nearly all of them from Texas and nearly all of them Catholic at least in culture, come into the state at one time or another during the growing season," said Father Schweitzer.

"The Church must be more zealous with them or it will lose them to other faiths," he said.

The council — believed to be the first state branch of the recently organized National Catholic Council for the Spanish Speaking — will be primarily concerned with the spiritual life of the migrants, he said, but will be interested in all of the migrants' problems.

"But beneath all of these varied adaptations, these surface changes, there is only one unchanging mother, that Church founded by Christ and bearing His message through time. This is the true image of the Church and this divine quality must be seen through all the confusion of changing times and changing customs."

"All of these things are necessary, of course, but there is something else likewise important."

Pilgrims Crowd Fatima For Anniversary Rites

Lisbon — (RNS) — Hundreds of thousands of pilgrims from many nations of the world, including the U.S., converged on the famed shrine of Our Lady of Fatima to pay homage to the Virgin Mary on the 43rd anniversary of her first apparition to three Portuguese children.

(Father Joseph Christensen with 17 pilgrims was at the Fatima shrine for the anniversary rites.)

The pilgrims came on foot, by bus, train or automobile. Many walked so many miles that they arrived at the shrine with bleeding feet. Others said they were in the Stations of the Cross on Apparitions.

Two Million For Charity

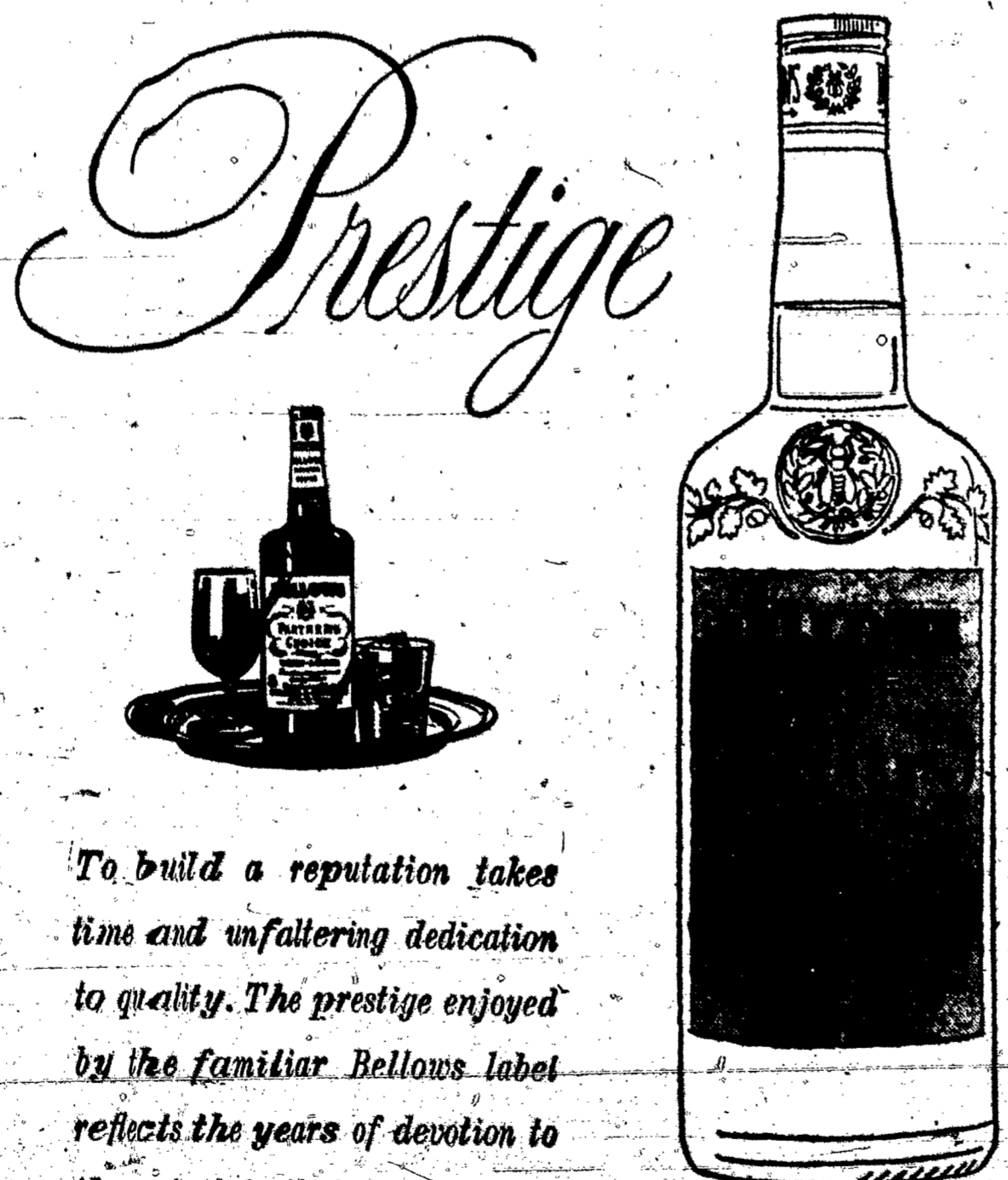
Detroit — (RNS) — Catholic charitable institutions and religious groups in the Archdiocese of Detroit stand to realize more than \$2 million from the estate of a German immigrant who died here April 11 at the age of 94.

Joseph A. Schulte, a bachelor, who came to this country when he was four years old, left numerous bequests ranging from \$5,000 to \$175,000.

Blind for the last few years, Mr. Schulte had little formal education. Despite this, he was a former manager of the Detroit branch of the Cadillac Motor Car Co., director of a realty firm and co-owner of a men's clothing store.

their knees along the road to the shrine, built at the site of the Marian apparitions in 1917.

Because of the huge crowds, police diverted cars and buses many miles before the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima. To accommodate the pilgrims, services were held on a round-the-clock basis both in the cathedral and in the nearby Chapel of the Apparitions.



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