

Gestapo Victim

Tomb Church Consecrated

Madrid — (RNS) — The vast underground Church of the Holy Cross, a part of the mammoth national mausoleum for Spanish Civil War dead, was solemnly consecrated as a basilica by Gaetano Cardinal Clognani.

During the ceremonies, Generalissimo Franco, accompanied by his wife, Dona Carmen Polo de Franco, sat on a dais on the Gospel side of the high altar.

The memorial church and abbey has been one of Generalissimo Franco's favorite personal projects. The great memorial in the Valley of the Fallen was begun 18 years ago, and includes, besides the church and abbey, a workers' hostel, and an impressive Way of the Cross. The entire project is estimated to have cost \$24,000,000 and the memorial has already begun to attract great numbers of Spaniards from all parts of the country as well as foreign tourists drawn by the beauty of the site and its devotional appeal.

'Men's Apostle' Nears Sainthood

Munich — (RNS) — The Sacred Congregation for Rites in Rome may begin the apostolic process for the beatification of a saintly Munich priest prior to the opening here in August of the 37th International Eucharistic Congress, according to news received from the Vatican.

The priest is Jesuit Father Rupert Mayer, a staunch opponent of Nazism during the Hitler regime, who died in 1945 at the age of 68 while preaching a sermon on the Holy Eucharist for All Saints Day.

A preliminary informative process for his beatification was completed several years ago under the late Michael Cardinal Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich, and the documents forwarded to the Congregation of Rites for examination.

Known as the "Men's Apostle of Munich," Father Mayer was born at Stuttgart and was ordained in 1899 at the age of 23. He later entered the Society

of Jesus as a novice. In 1906 he took up missionary work among the people throughout Germany, Switzerland and Holland. This lasted until 1912, when he was called to work among Catholic men of the Bavarian capital.

During World War I, Father Mayer served as a chaplain in the German army. His army career ended when his left leg was smashed by a shell and had to be amputated. He was the first chaplain in German history to be decorated with the Iron Cross, first class.

Fitted with a wooden leg, Father Mayer continued for the next 30 years to play an extraordinarily active apostolic role in Munich. He was indefatigable as a preacher and organizer. Active in charitable work of many kinds, he administered huge sums for the relief of the poor and needy. As leader of the Men's Congregation of the Blessed Virgin, he sometimes delivered more than 70 sermons a month.

After Hitler's rise to power, Father Mayer was several times arrested by the Gestapo and thrown into concentration camps because of his dauntless anti-Nazi attitude.

While he was in the Oranienburg concentration camp, his cell neighbor was Pastor Martin Niemöller of the Evangelical Church in Germany. In 1939 he was sent to the concentration camp at Sachsenhausen because he refused to violate the secrets of the confessional.

After weakness and starvation had brought him to the brink of death, Father Mayer was unexpectedly released from Nazi imprisonment and sent to the Benedictine monastery at Ettal. He remained there for four years cut off from the world, under constant police supervision and forbidden all religious activity.

After the liberation, however, Father Mayer returned to Munich and began speaking to men's meetings up and down the

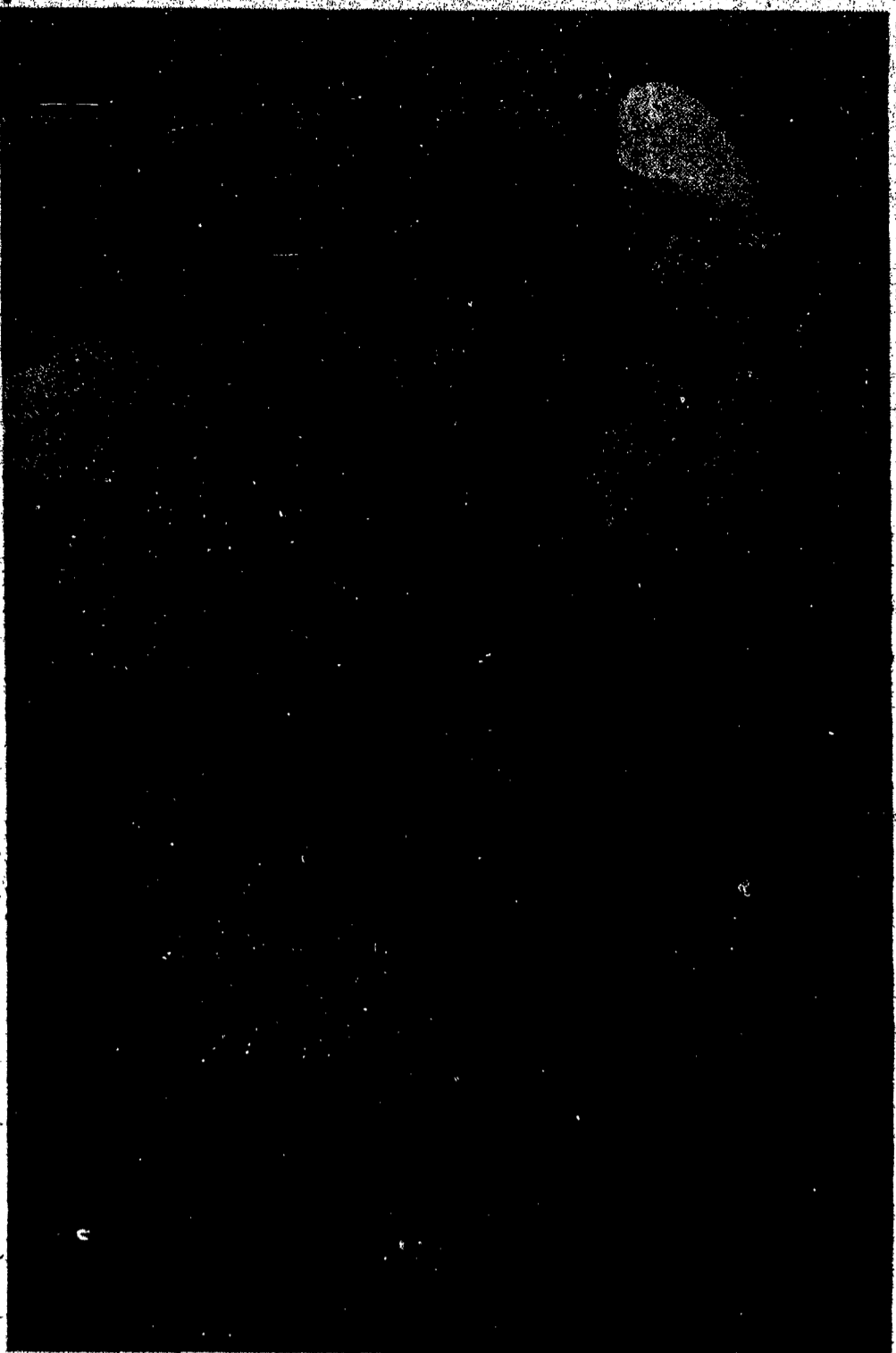
country. However, his physical strength soon was spent. He was preaching from the altar in the robes of his sacred office when he suffered a stroke and died two hours later. His funeral was attended by tens of thousands of faithful and his grave has continued to attract great numbers of pilgrims every year.

Many miraculous cures from serious illness have been attributed to Father Mayer's intercession. Private veneration of the saintly priest is constantly increasing at his tomb, located in one of the Munich churches.

Shrine Town Bans Beer

Sie. Anne — (NC) — Citizens of this shrine town below Quebec City have voted against allowing the sale of beer within town limits.

The shrine, a famous Canadian pilgrimage center is conducted by Redemptorist Fathers.



Nuns Work Texas Farm

San Antonio — (RNS) — Sister Frances of the Cordi-Marian Missionary Order, using an animal nursing bottle to feed a calf, is one of 15 Sisters who operate an 85-acre farm surrounding their villa-convent near San Antonio, Tex. Starting with three little pigs in 1937, the farm has grown to include 30 head of cattle, 108 pigs, 400 chickens, several dozen goats, and 80 acres of corn, hay and garden vegetables. The farm not only produces all the food needed by the convent, but also gives the Sisters ideal training for their future roles as missionaries in poor rural areas of Texas and Mexico.

Supreme Court Bypasses Boycott Case

Washington — (NC) — The U.S. Supreme Court declined to rule in a case involving the question of whether a state denies religious freedom by insisting a child attend a public or other qualified school, contrary to the child's religious beliefs.

The case involved Alta Wold, 14, who stopped attending public school in March, 1955, in King County, Wash., after her family joined the Seventh Day Church in Spiritual Israel.

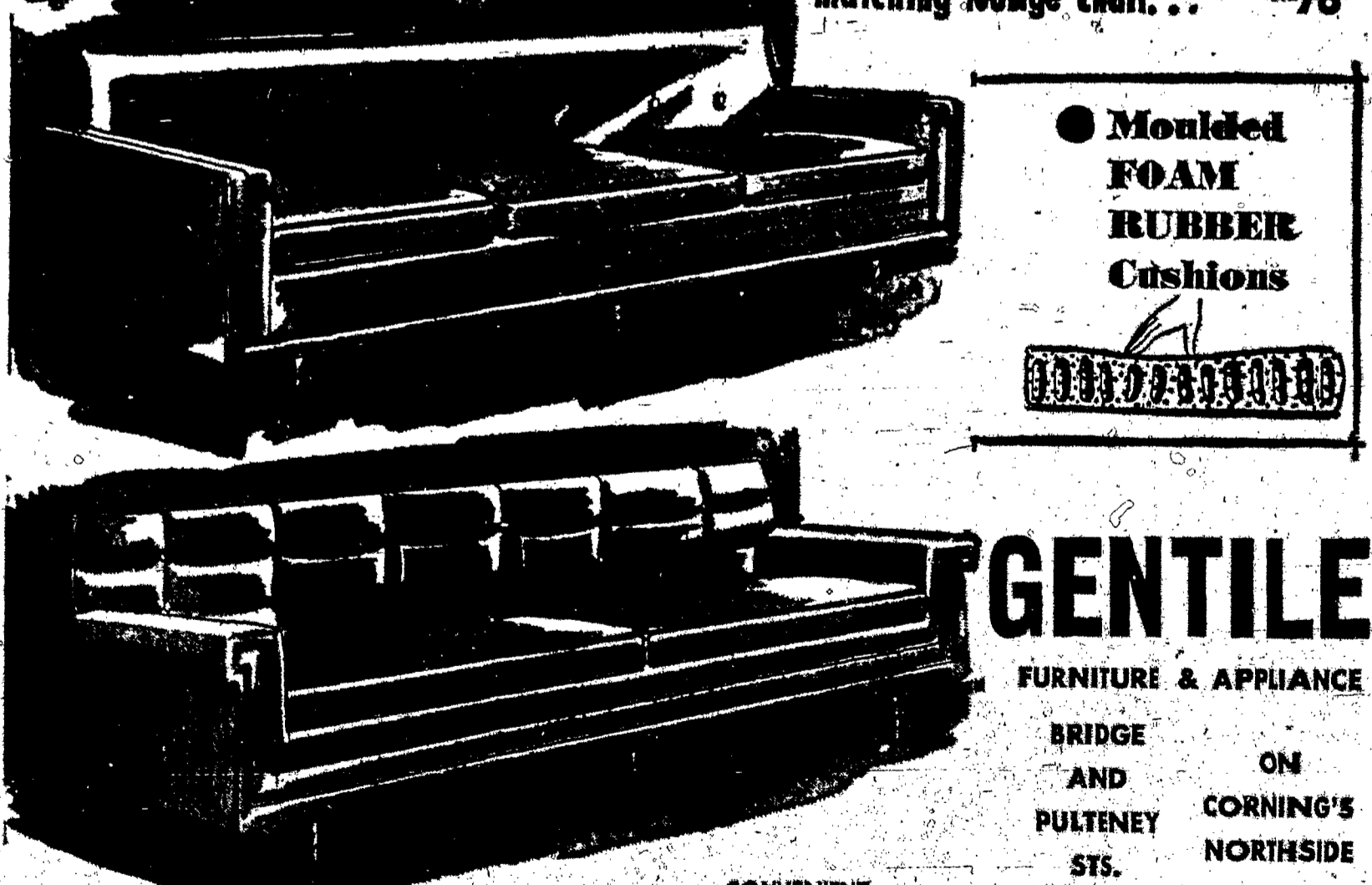
In 1955 Mrs. Wold began teaching her daughters at home, but the Washington State Supreme Court held this did not conform to the state educational requirements.

In appealing the case to the nation's highest court, the Wolds said their faith forbids eating meat or hot spices, cutting their hair, playing or listening to musical instruments.



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