

Quake Torn Chile Rallies To Rosary

(The author of this story is the founder of the Family Rosary Crusade. In this account of his crusade in Chile, he tells of the return to the Catholic Church of Gen. Carlos Prats del Campo, president of Chile from 1957 to 1961 and from 1963 to 1965.)

By FATHER PATRICK PEYTON, C.S.C.

Santiago — (NC) — Experience in Family Rosary work over the past 17 years has filled me with the conviction that God in His great goodness does not assign a work to someone and then leave him to do it alone. He does the greater share Himself.

So it was in Santiago. We had scarcely arrived when a thousand doors opened wide to give the Family Rosary Crusade the welcome, prestige and power it needed to capture the love of an entire nation. There was the welcome of the Apostolic Nuncio, Archbishop Opilio Rossi, and of the Apostolic Administrator of Santiago, Archbishop Emilio Tagle.

There was the cooperation of press and radio. And there was the extraordinary gift from the Chilean Ambassador to Peru, Eduardo Cruz Coke, of his duplex apartment in the heart of downtown Santiago as headquarters of the crusade.

The first objective of the crusade was to reach thousands of impoverished and destitute people living in the great city's depressed areas.

OUR BLESSED Mother reached out through the Family Rosary Crusade to dear mothers, fathers and children, to fill their hearts and feed their minds upon the extraordinary truth that God loves them to such a degree that He became one of them.

This truth — the incarnation of our God, the price He paid to redeem them and the destiny He purchased for them — was brought to those dear people during January, February and March in 15 color Rosary films with Spanish dialogue, each a half hour in duration.

To accomplish this task, friends gave means to put in motion 50 projects, screens, transformers, 20 sets of the Rosary films, four jeeps and other necessary equipment.

How the Rosary films spoke to the hearts of the people is measured by their response. In each of the 150 areas of Santiago where the films were shown, only one of the Myseries would be shown at a time. To see the entire series a person would have to come 15 times. This is exactly what happened. The attendances in the months of January, February and March reached over 3,000,000 and an average of 84,000 every night.

After Santiago, the same procedure was followed with the poor of Valparaiso, San Felipe, Talca, Chillan, Linares, Rancagua and other towns. Then, please God, they will be brought to the cities and towns of the south of Chile that have suffered the terrible calamities of earthquakes.

The first action of Our Blessed Mother was through the medium of the Rosary film apostolate. Her second action was the regular diocesan crusades that began in London, Ont., in 1946 and have since moved across the world until Our Blessed Mother has left her impact of millions in some 45 countries and 280 dioceses.

In early March this second phase, the diocesan Family Rosary Crusade, began.

IT WAS THEN that Archbishop Tagle told me of his great worry: Gen. Carlos Prats, former president of Chile was seriously ill and in danger of dying without the sacraments. He had been baptized a Catholic but since his

days as a young officer had not practiced his religion.

Weeks passed. On April 10, the Archbishop phoned and asked me to accompany him that evening to the home of the ex-president. Time was running out.

Mrs. Ibanez and her family welcomed the Archbishop and me. I had not been there long when Mrs. Ibanez told me that her husband's paternal ancestor came from Ireland. Our common Irish blood was to be a bridge between us. His daughter, who had seen the Rosary films, told me that her father would like to see me.

I told him that I would give him my rosary. With great spontaneity and happiness he took it from my hands. Later I learned that he never wanted to be parted from it, and that he had a little container made for it so that he could always have it with him.

The visit lasted no more than five minutes. The next day Gen. Prats sent for a priest. On April 23 he died, having received the last sacraments.

Just as Gen. Ibanez reached out for the rosary and clung to it, so did the nation he had governed. Three days after his death, the Family Rosary rallies began in Chile.

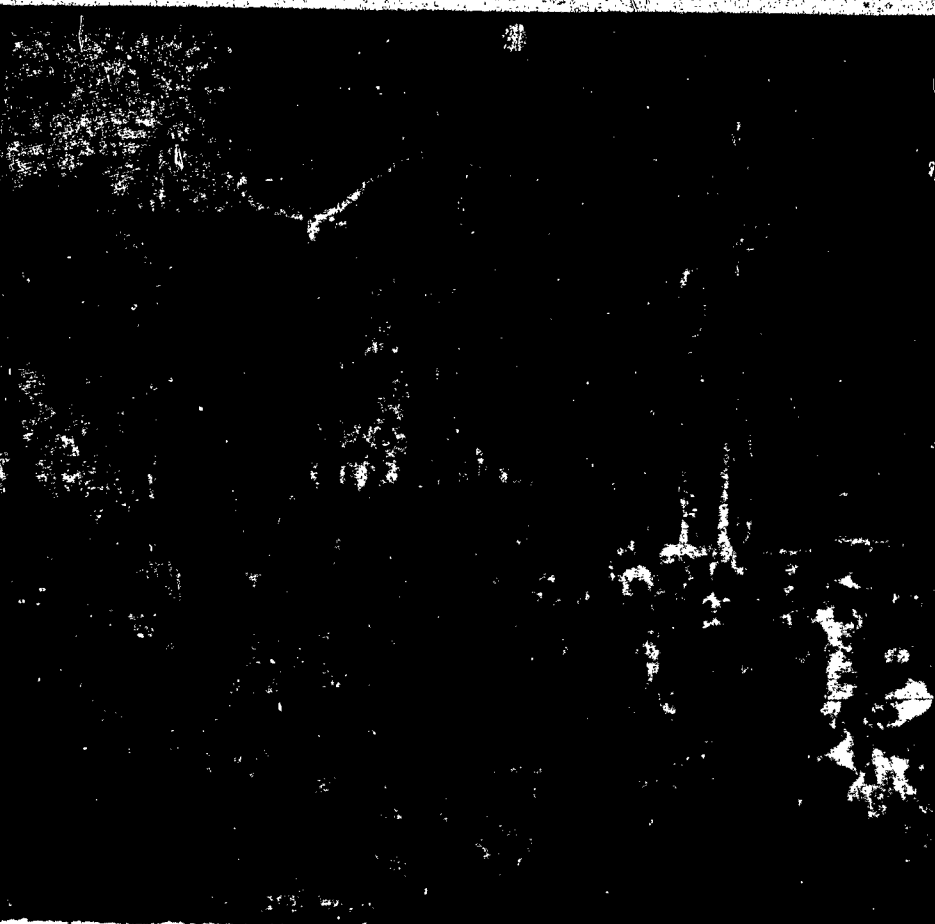
The first Rosary rally took place May 1, the day of communion rallies. It was in the small country town of San Carlos, whose document of devotion to the Rosary dated 1864, and it was present at the communion rally in the forenoon.

That afternoon 10,000 people crowded into the same plaza for the Family Rosary rally. It was the largest public gathering ever held in San Felipe, for any purpose.

The next rally was at Valparaiso, second largest city of Chile, a seaport where communism is potentially strong among the very poor. Bishop Raul Silva Henríquez of Valparaiso told the crowd, estimated from 70,000 to 80,000, broke all past records of gatherings for any purpose.

The third rally was at Santiago, capital of Chile, on May 15. The site was the famous Parque Cousiño, an immense park where independent celebrations are held annually. That it might be filled and overflowing could not be imagined.

Yet that day a flood of people inundated that park like the sea. The crowd was estimated from 800,000 to 900,000. (This was reported to be the largest gathering in Chile's history since 1904.)



Famous Memorial Bridge

Over a million and a half pilgrims yearly cross this Memorial Bridge of the Rosaries at Canada's Rosary Shrine in Cap de la Madeleine, Que. Although it spans but a tiny brook on the Shrine grounds, it recalls a natural ice bridge which formed across the St. Lawrence River in the early Spring of 1879 to allow stones to be brought over for an urgently-needed new parish church. But the ice bridge was not won without many, many sacrifices and the promise of dedicating the old church, built in 1714, as a permanent shrine to the Queen of the Most Holy Rosary. Our Lady of the Cape Shrine, halfway between Montreal and Quebec, will be the site of an International Marian Congress in 1982.

Our Lady Of The Cape

Cap de la Madeleine was spring for the building of a new Madeleine in the Marian Year noted for devotion to the Immaculate Conception, that it was in 1954 when a second Papal visit from the very early day of devotion to her to have the old Shrine of the Status took place at the hands of the Pope.

To satisfy a growing need, a spacious Rosary Temple was built in 1965. It is to be dedicated June 22, 1982, when Father Leo Desjardis, pastor of Cap de la Madeleine, fulfilled his vow to do so. Our Lady worked as a prodigy in causing the Rosary Shrine to be built here and the Shrine is recalled here day and night throughout the year.

On May 15th of this year, the Apostolic Delegate visited the Shrine to bring a Purification Candle donated by the Pope and the Shrine to be blessed. The Shrine, the Miraculous Statue Day to this year's Marian Festival, the Feast of Assumption, has been dedicated, and the Shrine is recalled here day and night throughout the year.

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British Bishops Say

'Worldliness' Today's Heresy

London — (RNS) — The Catholic hierarchy of England and Wales, in a joint pastoral letter, told the faithful that the heresies they are called upon to combat today are not false doctrines, but "the worldliness which is at war with the spirit of Christ."

The bishops' pastoral was read in churches throughout the country on Martyrs' Sunday, which climaxed a week of prayer for the canonizing of 40 Martyrs of England and Wales who died for the Faith in the 16th and 17th centuries.

The 40 are among 197 English and Welsh martyrs who have been beatified and are called Blessed. Among them are 32 priests, one Brother, four laymen and three laywomen.

"It is not solely for recognition of their heroism that we have petitioned the Holy See that they should be declared saints," they continued. "In this age of material prosperity, we need the example of their lives to show that self-sacrifice is better than worldly well-being; that devotion to Holy Mother Church, dedication to the work of God, the dignity of the priesthood and the cooperation of the faithful in the redemption of the world are enduring and surpassing values."

"THE HERESIES we are called upon to combat today are not the falsehoods of doctrine which the martyrs were trained to refuse. Rather, it is the worldliness which is at war with the spirit of Christ. We need the example of sacrifice if we are to meet the growing requirements of the Church for prayer and religious life through the intercession of the Martyrs, will become worthy heirs to their inheritance."

On Martyrs' Sunday, pilgrims gathered at Lancaster Castle, where some of the martyrs were imprisoned, and walked half a mile from that point to the local cathedral. Martyrs' Sunday was chosen as the Sunday nearest to the Feast of St. John Fisher and St. Thomas More, the only two of the English Martyrs who have already been canonized. Their feast fell on July 3.

All over the country, Sunday

COURIER JOURNAL 15

Sherry To Edit Calif. Register

Baltimore — (NC) — Gerard J. Sherry has resigned as managing editor of the Catholic Register, Baltimore archdiocesan newspaper, and accepted a similar post with the Central Catholic Register, newspaper of the Monterey-Pescadero diocese in California.

Archbishop Francis P. McGovern of Baltimore, announced he had accepted the resignation "with deep regret but, nonetheless, great admiration." The prelate added, "During the four years he has been with us, he has been mainly responsible for the vitality of the Register."

(His editorial page column "Randoms at Random" will be continued in the Courier Journal each week.) Mr. Sherry's resignation is effective August 1. He has been managing editor of the Register since April, 1956. Under his direction the paper won 12 national and state awards, plus citations for journalistic achievement.

Captain O'Neill Plans Retirement

Cornwall — Capt. Thomas A. O'Neill, 50, of 340 Dodge Ave., long active in Catholic Boy Scout activities in Cornwall and throughout the area for many years, last week announced plans for retirement from the Cornwall Fire Dept. after 39 years of department service. He is currently on sick leave.

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