

Portugal Schools Teach Religion

By SUSAN LOWNDES MARQUES

Lisbon—(NC)—Religious instruction is obligatory in all public schools in Portugal, though there is no State religion and Non-Catholics have complete freedom of worship in this overwhelmingly Catholic country.

Religious instruction in the public schools is guaranteed under the 1940 concordat between the Holy See and Portugal. The country has followed in the arrangement a step similar to the fact that the State here has no educational system of her own.

In the state high schools, with very low fees, train the majority of pupils taking secondary education. They also have compulsory religious instruction classes, usually given by the local priest and sometimes by chaplains or lay people appointed by the bishop.

There is a large number of small private schools run by individuals. But a substantial proportion of secondary education is in the hands of the religious orders.

The results, for instance, have two big schools, one in the north at Santo Tiras, which has about 450 boarders and 70 day scholars, and another in Lisbon, with 800 pupils. The latter has both these schools in about 4200 a year. They are considered to be among the best in Portugal.

The Marist Brothers have two schools in Lisbon, one for day students only in the center of the city where the fees are about \$130 a year, and the other, a boarding school. These two schools have an enrollment of several hundred boys.

The same congregation has a school near Leiria and four secondary schools in Angola and Mozambique in Portuguese Africa. The Marists also have a private teacher's training college in the latter province.

PORTUGUESE Dominicans run a large day school in Lisbon where the fees are about \$40 a term, and the Salesians have a day school of over 600 boys in the Lisbon suburb of Estoril. It is divided into secondary and technical courses. Sons of well-to-do parents pay while those who cannot pay attend free.

The Missionaries have trade schools in other parts of Portugal and there are small fee-charging schools run by individual priests or small groups of religious.

Some of the current schools dot the country. They are run by a variety of religious orders and congregations, though they seldom have more than 100 pupils.

The oldest convent school and still one of the best is that founded over 100 years ago by the Irish Dominican nuns at Beja. Successes in Lisbon. They have some 400 pupils who follow the Portuguese course of high school studies under lay teachers, but have the advantage of learning English from the nuns.

Both the cost of education and the salaries of the teachers in the state primary schools are low despite the steady rise in living costs. An average of \$700 a year is earned by a primary teacher, who usually must supplement this by giving private lessons. There is a preponderance of women teachers.

High school or lycium teachers earn about \$1,200 a year. If employed in state schools, they are entitled to a substantial pension on retirement.

Primary education is officially compulsory. But in scattered country districts a small percentage of children escape the educational net, as there are not enough inspectors to see that every child goes regularly to school.

Elementary schooling ends at the age of 11 and only 10 per cent of the children in Portugal go on to higher education which means either a technical course of five years at the official high school course of seven years, which is essential to enter any Portuguese university.

THE UNIVERSITIES are entirely State controlled. His Eminence Manuel Cardinal Gouveia Carajez, Patriarch of Lisbon, and other bishops have expressed hopes, however, that a Catholic university will be founded one day. In the meantime there is a Catholic residence hall attached to Lisbon University, which is intended particularly for students from the country and from the overseas provinces.

The three universities at Lisbon, Coimbra and Oporto are not residential. Students either live at home or in lodgings or university hostels. This all helps to keep the cost of a university education to the minimum.

There is a need for religious formation institutes for the laity, but at present the Catholic influence in the State of university students is being slowly eroded by the secularist movement.

tends to be very theoretical. But young people want action. This is especially true of undergraduates, some of whom have started social action groups in the university towns. Because Catholics form such an overwhelming majority, there is no incentive to bear witness to the Faith that is felt when they are in a minority.

Every Easter season, large groups of secondary and university students, often numbering as many as 2,000, join at special Easter-time Communion Masses.

Thus it can be seen that education in Portugal, although not against the Church, cannot be called Catholic education in the true sense. Portuguese children are not credited with absorbing much religion at the public schools. Their greatest chance of doing this is either at home, at the weekly parochial catechism classes, or in one of the various forms of Catholic Action at the university level.

Vast Monument Honors Spain Dead

Madrid—(RNS)—Gaetano Cardinal Cisneros (center), Prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome, presides over ceremonies for the consecration of the Basilica of the Holy Cross at the national monument for Spanish Civil War dead near Madrid. The ceremonies concluded with the formal proclamation of the church as a basilica in the presence of members of the Spanish government, headed by Generalissimo Francisco Franco, Chief of State. The memorial project in the Valley of the Fallen, which includes a church, a Benedictine abbey and a workers' hostel in addition to the mausoleum, took 18 years to complete and cost an estimated \$24 million.

Congo Threatens School Take Over

Leopoldville—(NC)—The Congolese government has called for the separation of Church and State in this strife-torn new African nation.

In its program introduced in the Senate here, the government has also shown its desire to take over education, including mission schools.

The program has not yet been discussed in Parliament. It is scheduled for debate in mid-August. But observers here believe it has a good chance of being approved.

In the government itself and in Parliament there are a strong anti-Catholic majorities. Even among opposition groups in Parliament there are a number of anticlerical deputies and senators. This is true despite the fact that the Congo has more Catholics than any other country in Africa—4,881,815 in a total population of 13,540,000.

Meanwhile, however, a group of young Congolese has issued a statement accusing Premier Patrice Lumumba of setting up Marxist dictatorship. The Union of Congolese Workers, formerly called the Confederation of Christian Trade Unions, has strongly attacked government economic policies.

In calling for "the absolute separation of Church and State," the government program stated: "The Republic of the Congo will be a secularist and democratic state, governed by the people and for the people."

The program added: "The government will use all possible means to prevent any religion whatever from being imposed directly or indirectly, particularly by means of education. The government will allow all religions of all countries to stay in their proper domain."

Facilities For Olympics

CHATEAUGUARD—(NC)—Pope John XXIII has granted to all priests accompanying groups of athletes to the Olympic Games broad facilities to hear confessions of their charges.

The facilities were granted through the authority of the Sacred Congregation of Sacramental Discipline at the request of Magr. Nicola Pavoni, president of the Committee for Religious Assistance during the Olympic Games.

The government will face serious difficulties if it tries to nationalize Catholic schools, particularly in regard to finances. Only a month after independence the Congo has a large budget deficit and growing economic difficulties. Nationalization of education as a means of solving the present school subsidy problem would be a heavy burden.

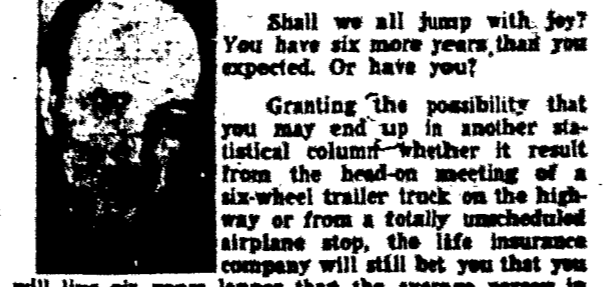
The rector of Louisiana State University, Dr. J. B. Jones, was attacked in a radio broadcast by Minister of Information Albert Kambanza. The Congolese official also attacked Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Mabele of Leopoldville.

The broadcast included the charge—which Mr. Kambanza has since admitted was false and dropped—that the rector and Bishop were involved in a plot against Premier Lumumba's life.

SERMONETTE

SIX EXTRA YEARS TO LIVE!
By Rev. James D. Moriarty

The average life span of U.S. citizens is getting longer all the time. Meeting in New Orleans the National Association of Insurance Commissioners approved a new mortality table that showed a dramatic rise in life expectancy. Back in 1941, an insurance actuary figured it, the life expectancy of a new born babe in the U.S. was 62 years. The 1941-50 increase, largely a result of antibiotics and other medical discoveries, gives us six more years to live.



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What did you do with the last six years? If you had another go around at them would it really be worth the effort? Did you use them to advantage? Have they been profitable for you, your fellow man and for God? Or have they been just another six years like any six years that might come off the end of a production line if years were made that way?

In spite of this informative bulletin the wise man will not bother about the years between 62 and 68 unless he is in that span now. The only time that is really important to anyone is not the promised six years but the time one has right now.

It was Augustine who advised us to leave the past to the mercy of God, the future to His Providence and get busy doing something about the right now in our life. It is the only thing we can enjoy to day.

You can't change the past. You can't control the future to suit your whims.

So let's get busy about the present.

U.S. Missioners At New Record

Washington—(RNS)—United States Catholic missionaries abroad now total 6,782, the new catalog of U.S. Catholic Missionary Personnel reported.

The catalog, published by the Mission Secretariat here, noted that the figure represented a 16 per cent increase over the 5,848 missionaries reported in 1958. It is composed of 3,822 priests, 2,827 nuns, 168 monks, 131 Sisters, 131 and Medical Mission Sisters, 128.

LATIN AMERICA has the greatest number of U.S. missionaries, with a total of 2,965. The heaviest concentrations are in Puerto Rico, Brazil, Peru and Jamaica. Latin America also has had the greatest increase (278) in U.S. missionaries since the last report in 1958.

Africa ranked second in increase, gaining 164 missionaries for a current total of 791. Tanzania, with 213, was the area of heaviest concentration.

Comparative statistics for all areas were: Asia 2,478; West Indies 984; Oceania 982; South America 981; Africa 791; Central America 423; North America 327; and Korea 282.

Missionary priests overseas represent six per cent of the total number of U.S. priests. Brothers in the missions also represent six per cent of their U.S. total, but mission Sisters are only 1.7 per cent of their total.

In his preface to the catalog, Auxiliary Bishop Thomas J. Sheen of New York, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and director of the Mission Secretariat, noted that there was a significant number of Sisters in staff Catholic schools in this country.

"Granted this and truth," he said, "it may never be pronounced, however, that Sisters may be sent on the missions only when national needs are satisfied."

HE CITED the example of Jerusalem and other early Christian communities which missionaries before transmission of home and continent. He added that the sending of missionaries would have the effect of increasing home production, according to the Gospel dictum, "Give all it shall be given."

Among the most notable in the United States, the Jesuits supplied most missionaries (677).

Good Example

ROME—(NC)—Citizens of Rome will be urged to give hospitality and good example to athletes and tourists at Olympic Games, according to a pastoral letter sent to be released by Clement Cardinal Micara, Vicar General of Rome.

His letter will invite Catholics of Rome "to be honor to the duty of hospitality" to "show your guests the best of the center of the Catholic world."

Papal Title For Diplomat

WASHDC—(NC)—A noted U.S. diplomat, former Ambassador Jefferson Caffery, is to be created a Knight of the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Michael.

He will be the only American to hold the papal honor, which was established in 1947 by Pope Pius XII.

Mr. Caffery has served as U.S. Ambassador to Egypt, France, Brazil and Cuba.

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