

# Vatican Files Tell Story of Two Civil Wars

By MSGR. JAMES TUCEK

Vatican City — (NC) — The files of a century-old newspaper here recalled the daily news accounts of a tragedy suffered in the United States 100 years ago.

The newspaper is the Vatican City's *L'Osservatore Romano* and the tragedy was the Civil War. The centenary of the founding of the former and the centenary of the beginning of the latter will be marked in 1961 within months of each other.

The Civil War began with the firing on Fort Sumter off Charleston, S.C., by Confederate shore batteries on April 12, 1861. Three months later, on July 1, the first copy of *L'Osservatore Romano* was issued.

The year 1861 witnessed the tragedy of brother fighting against brother in both the United States and Italy. Troops from Piedmont in northern Italy had invaded the Papal States toward the end of 1860 and annexed the papal provinces of the Marches and Umbria.

In the month prior to the firing on Fort Sumter the Kingdom of Italy was proclaimed by the first Italian Parliament meeting at Turin on March 17, 1861, and Victor Emmanuel was declared the first king of Italy. The Kingdom of the Two Sicilies in southern Italy was yet to be conquered and the remainder of the Papal States to be annexed.

Italy would fire upon Italian before this would come to pass, just as in the United States, American was firing upon American.

There were Americans in Rome who received the news of the outbreak of the Civil War with great concern. The United States had diplomatic representation in Rome at the time with the title of Resident Minister. Gen. Rufus King, U.S. Minister in Rome, would have certainly received the news with greatest concern.

There were also the priests and students at the newly opened North American College. Three or four of the 38 students were Southerners. Doubtless they watched the small one or two paragraph wire dispatches on *L'Osservatore's* back page that gave ac-

count of the war's progress almost daily.

But Father William McCloskey, rector of the college, insisted that the students desist from all discussion of the war and its issues and that they confine themselves to prayers for peace.

Father McCloskey's worries were expressed shortly after the news reached Rome in his letter to Archbishop John B. Purcell of Cincinnati. "Where is it going to end?" he wrote. In any event he decided to ride out the storm and keep the students in Rome, since the difficulty of passing through the blockaded ports would make their return perilous.

The South's victory at the Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) on July 21, 1861, gave its government confidence and put it in the position to invite foreign recognition and perhaps eventual foreign aid, which it could already see would be needed. Aware of this, the Union's Secretary of State, William H. Seward, in October of that year asked Archbishop John Hughes of New York to go to France to try to dissuade Napoleon III from giving support to the Confederacy.

The Archbishop accepted only on condition that he be made no partisan to the struggle but go only as a private citizen on a mission of peace. After France, Archbishop Hughes proceeded to Rome and took lodging at the North American College during his stay.

Fire broke out in Charleston on December 11, 1861, destroying along with a great part of the city both the cathedral and the bishop's residence. The news reached Rome with the dispatch in *L'Osservatore* which appeared January 8, 1862, saying: "The news is confirmed of a considerable fire at Charleston; a great part of the city and its most important public buildings are destroyed."

Almost always these dispatches appeared on the last page under the heading of either "Direct Telegraph Dispatches" or "Latest News." In the dispatches the Union forces were always called "the federalists" and the Confederate forces "the separatists."

Apparently the North American seminarians saw the news of the Charleston fire or were told about it because one of them, Claudian Northrop, a Charlestonian, wrote to his brother about it.

At this time also Bishop Patrick Lynch of Charleston was writing to his students in Rome. He wrote one letter to another Charleston seminarian, William Meriwether, giving some details on how the war was going and telling how one of Northrop's brothers had been wounded in battle near Richmond.

In that year of 1862 only one seminarian from the South, John Smith, entered the North American College. He dropped out of the seminary later, but how he originally got through the blockades to reach Italy remains a mystery to this day.

An item in *L'Osservatore* on February 8, 1862, reported: "Gen. MacClellan appeared before a congressional committee to explain the progress of military operations. It is rumored that he expressed confidence that the rebellion will be smothered shortly." The war was to drag on for another three years of bloodshed and destruction.

*L'Osservatore's* news on March 1 was that "the expedition of Gen. Burnside has completely destroyed the Confederate fleet at Roanoke." On March 26 it reported that "the House of Representatives had adopted Lincoln's project for the emancipation of the slaves."

The entire front page of *L'Osservatore* on May 13 was dedicated to the 70th birthday of Pope Pius IX. On the back page of the same issue it carried the news of the bombardment of New Orleans.

The issuance of the Emancipation Proclamation of September 23, 1862, was given a three-line notice in *L'Osservatore's* issue of January 20, 1863. With a New York date-line on January 3, it said: "A proclamation was published by Lincoln which, declaring the state of the South rebellious, orders that all slaves inhabiting those states are to be free."

The first inkling of Gettysburg reached Rome on July 16 when *L'Osservatore* reported that "the entire army of Lee is in Pennsylvania. More details were given in a later dispatch which said:

"An encounter between the Confederates and Meade's army has taken place at Gettysburg (spelled 'Gettisburg'). The battle lasted several days.

"Meade's report counts much damage; the number of the dead and wounded is considerable with many generals

among them. The report announces that the Union has taken numerous prisoners and has maintained its positions. The Confederates will not renew the battle. A message from Lincoln announces that news from Meade up until the evening of the third gives evidence of a great victory for the Union forces."

Now Bishop Lynch of Charleston was commissioned by President Jefferson Davis of the Confederacy to call at the European courts to persuade public opinion in favor of the Southern states. Where- as Archbishop Hughes had been sent to France, Bishop Lynch's special mission was to Rome.

Bishop Lynch arrived in Rome in June, 1864. Although he was invited to take lodging at the North American College, he chose to lodge elsewhere, possibly mindful of the delicacy of his mission.

Minister Rufus King inquired at the Vatican about Bishop Lynch's presence in Rome and he was assured by the Vatican Secretary of State, Cardinal Giacomo Antonelli, that the Bishop was recognized only in his ecclesiastical capacity.

Prior to this Gen. Sherman, on May 5, 1864, had begun his march through Georgia. News of Sherman's march in the pages of *L'Osservatore* coincided with the arrival of Bishop Lynch in Rome. *L'Osservatore* never gave it that name. "March through Georgia," but day by day it tallied the name and number of towns and villages that were being devastated and the Bishop must have read the news with anxiety.

Hardly a year later *L'Osservatore* reported in its April 21, 1865, issue: "Grant announced by telegram that he believes Lee's capitulation is imminent."

Three days later the news dated from New York, April 13, was "Lee has capitulated with his whole army. Lincoln has suspended the draft and the enlistment of volunteers."

The assassination of President Lincoln on April 14 was reported without editorial comment on the front page of *L'Osservatore's* issue of April 27, 1865. It read:

"London, April 15: Reuters Agency has it from New York that Lincoln was assassinated last night with a pistol shot; he died this morning. An attempt was also made against Seward. He is not expected to survive."

"Lincoln was assassinated in a theater. The assassin, called Booth, killed him with a pistol shot from behind... it is impossible to describe the effect produced on commercial affairs. Public opinion is struck with horror. The New York stock exchange is closed."

The first place on *L'Osservatore's* front page that day, however, was given to the announcement that "the Ecclesiastical and Vilabus of Pope Pius IX of December 8" had been printed and were available to the public.

Father McCloskey upon receiving the news wrote to Bishop E. P. MacFarland of Hartford: "The Americans here are in mourning, the ladies wearing black, the gentlemen, crepe on the left arm."

Bishop Lynch of Charleston was still in Rome. With the surrender of the South he was caught in an embarrassing situation and was fearful of the consequences of his return to the United States. But a general pardon issued by President Andrew Johnson gave him courage. Returning by way of Paris, he took an oath of allegiance at the U.S. legation in Paris and set sail for New York.

The struggle was over in the United States, but war was to continue in Italy for five more years.

By 1867 the last of the war-

time Southern students at the North American College had returned to their home dioceses, as one student wrote "to a country reduced to poverty and to a strange land."

In that same year, 1867, the U.S. Congress voted to discontinue funds to support the Rome legation and thus implicitly suppressed it. Gen. King tendered his resignation on January 1, 1868. The diplomatic mission was never again to be opened (Myron Taylor was the personal envoy of Presidents Roosevelt and Truman), though to this day the *Annuario Pontificio*, the Vatican's official yearbook, lists the legation as "vacant."

The struggle in Italy reached its climax with the fall of Rome on September 20, 1870. The city was annexed to a unified Italy the following October 2.

Both nations, the United States and Italy, then set themselves to the long and arduous task of recovery. Out of the sufferings all would become stronger: the United States, Italy and the Church. And, paradoxically, the two leaders of the two losing sides, Pope Pius IX and General Robert E. Lee, would be admired by succeeding generations for their motivations and nobleness of conduct in defeat and would become heroes each in their own nations.

## Steelworker Takes Vows

Boston — (RNS) — A former steelworker from Bridgeport, Conn., who became a medical doctor has taken life-time vows of poverty, chastity and obedience here and becomes the first physician of the Sons of Mary, Health of the Sick.

He is now known as Brother George J. Hungerman, F.M.S.I., M.D. and will leave in April with a group to establish a social center to serve the sick and poor in Lima, Peru. This center, the first operation of the order in a foreign land, also will train native nurses and catechists.

## Pope Names Cardinal

Vatican City — (RNS) — Giuseppe Cardinal Ferretto, 68, was named by Pope John XXIII as Bishop of Sabina and Poggio Mirteto in place of Marcello Cardinal Mimmi, Secretary of the Sacred Consistorial Congregation, who died March 6.

Cardinal Ferretto, a long-time official of the Roman Curia, was created a cardinal only last January and ranked among the most junior of the 68 cardinal-priests. The other six suburbanarian sees are Ostia, Albano, Frascati, Palestrina, Porto and Santo Rufina, and Velletri.

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## K.C. Charter

CHARTER of Council 4691, Knights of Columbus, known as Pope Pius XII Council, Irondequoit is held by Grand Knight Tye Moffatt. Presentation was made Passion Sunday at Rochester Yacht Club after Mass celebrated by Bishop Kearney in St. Thomas Apostle Church. The knights and their ladies later hear the Very Rev. Charles J. Lavery, C.S.B., St. John Fisher College president at the breakfast.

## Prayer Day For Students

Third and final Day of Recollection of the school year will be held for the students of St. John Fisher College on Sunday, March 26. The day will open with a conference at 9:30 a.m. and will conclude with the celebration of Holy Mass at 4:15 p.m. in the college chapel. The special preacher will be the Rev. Robert Arway, C.M., a member of the faculty of Niagara University. He will be assisted by the priests of the college faculty.

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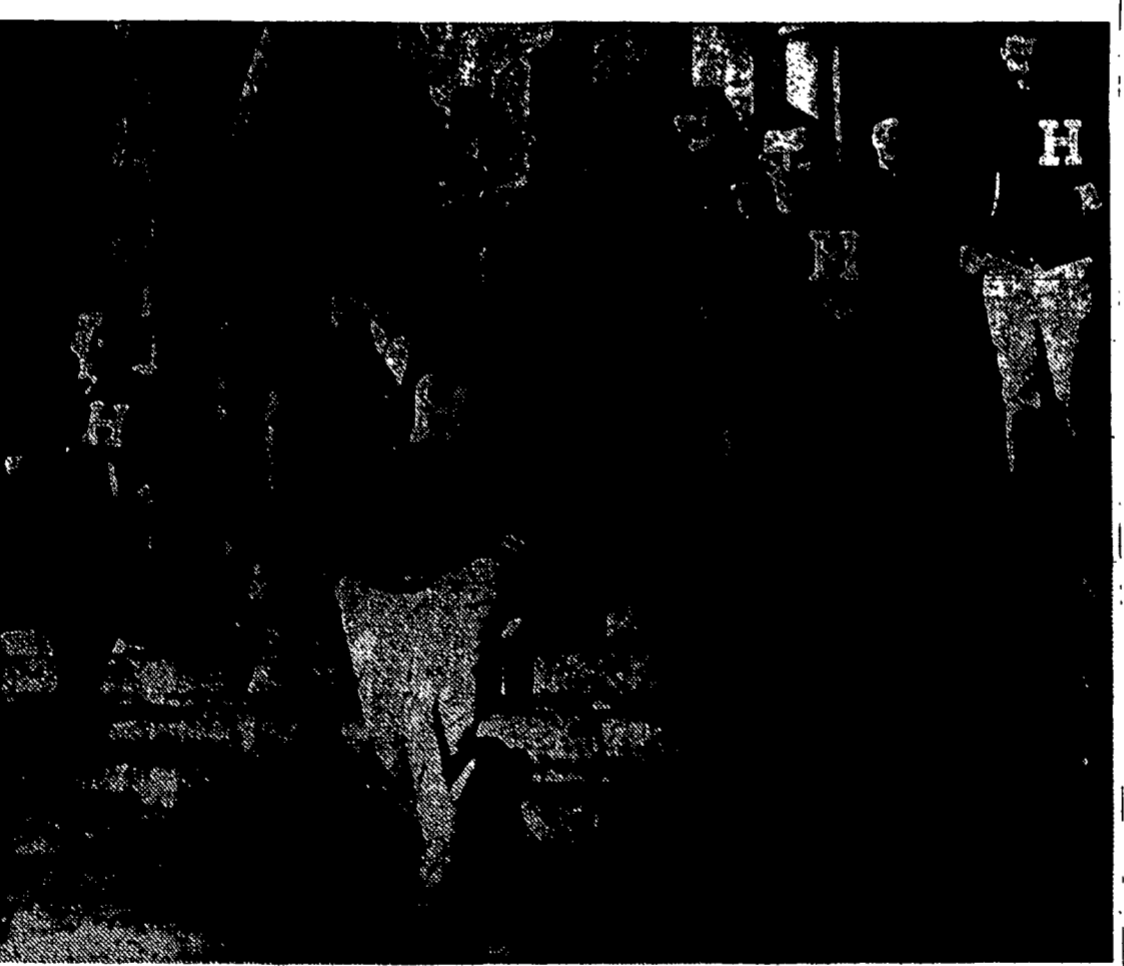
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## Peace Corps Volunteers

Boston — (RNS) — Members of the Hawks, a "juvenile decency" gang in the Charlestown section of Boston, have volunteered their services this summer as members of President Kennedy's Peace Corps. Here, they are shown leaving St. Francis church after praying together with their spiritual advisor and organizer, Father Kenneth B. Murphy (in doorway). The priest recently wrote the President on behalf of the boys and offered their services for the program. He said they wished to be sent to work on a governmental project somewhere in the world during the summer or to act as hosts to foreign youths in their homes.

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## Holy Name Men Plan Father-Son Breakfast

Auburn — The annual Father-Son Communion and Breakfast of the Holy Name Society of St. Mary's Church will be held on Sunday, April 9. Holy Name members and their sons will receive Holy Communion at the 8:30 a.m. Mass.

The breakfast will follow in Lyceum Hall. Rev. Dr. Joseph L. Hogan, S.T.D., professor of Dogmatic Theology at St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, will be the guest speaker. Reservations should be made by April 2.

The arch meeting of the society was held on Sunday morning. Following Mass and breakfast in Lyceum Hall, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. James D. Cuffney, V.F., described the progress on the new St. Mary's School on Clymer Street. William Cornell, a member of the society, showed colored slides of the new school building from the breaking of ground to the present time.

OFFICERS OF the Holy Name Society are: president, Ralph Quill; vice president, Francis Brogan; financial secretary, Frantz Douglass; recording secretary, Leo Flynn; treasurer, Joseph Hickey; marshals, Charles Dae, John White, Louis Reilly and Thomas Quigley. Monsignor Cuffney is the moderator.

St. Mary's Parish will sponsor a concert on Tuesday, April 11, at 8 p.m. at Emerson Auditorium, East High School for the benefit of the new school. The concert will be given by Christopher Lynch, famed lyric tenor, star of television, radio and recordings.

The noted Irish singer will be accompanied here by Miss Lorraine Moreau, a young soprano. Lynch will be making his second appearance in Auburn. Six years ago he gave a benefit concert for the Carmel High School sponsored by the Beardsley are architects for Catholic War Veterans Post 625.

Tickets are now on sale and may be procured from members of the committee: Rev. John T. Walsh is moderator of the Concert Committee.

A year ago the parishioners pledged \$282,000 for the erection of a new school building. The building is now three-fourths completed and will be opened in September 1961. The two story fireproof brick building contains 34,600 sq. ft. of floor space. Beardsley and

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Which disease do you think is the single greatest killer of children under 15? Shockingly and tragically, the answer is—cancer.

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