

'Holy Nun' In Italy Had Saviour's Wounds

Rome — (RNS) — Sister Elena Aiello, stigmatic nun whom many Italian Catholics revered as a saint, died here at the age of 66 in the Rome house of the Congregation of the Little Sisters of the Passion which she founded 33 years ago.

Sister Elena was known throughout Italy as the "Holy Nun" who in 1936 was said to have prophesied the outbreak of World War II and to have warned Mussolini personally against participating in Germany's side.

THE STIGMATA on her body reputedly first appeared in 1922 and were repeated each year on Good Friday. It was during one of her moments when she was bleeding from her five wounds that the nun reportedly told of the coming war.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, June 30, 1961

Last year on Good Friday, in the midst of her phenomenon, Sister Elena remained lucid throughout and discussed the conditions of mankind and the dangers facing it.

At other times while bleeding the sister would go into a trance, speaking languages she had never learned, including ancient Greek, Hebrew and Aramic, the tongue spoken by Christ. After awakening from her trance she would describe how she had conversed with saints.

Doctors who examined her wounds and analyzed her blood said it was the same type as that in her veins.

The religious congregation founded by Sister Elena was recognized officially by the late Pope Pius XII in 1948 and has since spread to many parts of Italy. In Calabria, where she lived, the nun founded 18 homes for abandoned children.

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

THIS COLUMN IS ADDRESSED TO PRIESTS.

Do you remember the many details in God's description of the Tabernacle to Moses? The most significant facts were of concern to Him — the colors of the veils, the shape of the hooks, the size of the Holy of Holies. Even the dimensions of the tent, its openings, its coverings, the location of each piece of furniture were part of Divine Revelation. But there was one thing missing. What was it? A chair! There was a laver, a tabernacle light, censers, but there was no place to sit down. The reason: the priest was always to be on his feet, active, moving about, "effecting a reconciliation to God in time of wrath."

In keeping with this idea, Scripture pictures Our Lord as sitting after He had finished the work of Redemption: OF FERENS HOSTIAM IN SEMIPERNITUM SEDIT IN DEXTERA DEI. Our High Priest could sit down because He had finished the work the Father had given Him. But this is not the time of our sitting. That will come only after we have spent our allotted Three Hours in applying Redemption, not only to our parishes but to the world.

What are some practical ways of being active in the consecration of the world to Christ?

1. Read Mass occasionally for the propagation of the Faith, as found in the missal. The Church put it there that we might transcend parochial, diocesan and national interests and take upon ourselves the burden of bringing the entire world to Christ.
2. Send your surplus Mass stipends to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. All Mass stipends sent to the National Office are forwarded to missionary bishops for missionary priests.
3. Educate a seminarian that your priesthood may be prolonged in time as well as in eternity. You can educate a seminarian for about \$250 a year. How such a sacrifice would make up for our failings, for our sittings when there should be standings!
4. When there is hunger in the world, feel it as your own. While there is a man in prison, see yourself behind the bars. Africa and Asia are "part of your body." If one member of the Church suffers, the whole body suffers.

It is important to understand that while each missionary society has its deserving needs the Holy Father, as he said, is to be "first and principally aided." Some missionary societies are well cared for; others are poor. Some come from rich countries; others come from impoverished nations. The only way to equalize aid is by giving to the Holy Father, and this you do through The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. All alms given to it go to the Vicar of Christ. May we hear from you? Your brother in Christ, Fulton J. Sheen, National Director.

GOD LOVE YOU TO C.W. for \$50 "For whatever purpose the Holy Father wishes, especially for the poor and the hungry." ... to Mr. and Mrs. E.L.P. for \$100 "I received my bonus check and decided to send one-half of it to you for the poor of the world." ... to Mrs. U.A. for \$8 "In thanksgiving for our new home and my husband's new job."

You who are interested in missionary activities throughout the world will want to read MISSION, a bi-monthly publication featuring stories, pictures and details of our Holy Father's Missions. Send a request to be put on our mailing list along with your sacrifice.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y. or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

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Throngs at St. Patrick's Rites

Dublin — (RNS) — Croke Park — Dublin's vast sports arena named after a former Archbishop of Cashel — was turned into an immense open-air cathedral in which nearly 100,000 persons crowded for the crowning event of the week-long Patrician Congress news.

This was a Pontifical High Mass celebrated by Gregory Peter XV Cardinal Agagianian, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, who was named by Pope John XXIII as Papal Legate to the Congress. The Congress brought to an end the Patrician Year in Ireland, which was officially opened in the Armaigh archdiocese last March 17 to mark the 1,500th anniversary of the death of St. Patrick, Ireland's patron saint.

Cardinal Agagianian sang the Mass at a great glass-walled altar beside which sat six other Princes of the Church. They were John Cardinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland; Paolo Cardinal Marella and Paolo Giobbe, both of the Roman Curia; Benjamin Cardinal de Arriba y Castro, Archbishop of Tarazona, Spain; Julius Cardinal Doepfner, Bishop of Berlin; and Laurian Cardinal Rugambwa, Bishop of Bukoba, Tanganyika, the first Negro member of the Sacred College, who came to Ireland after a visit to the United States.

Also in the sanctuary, in addition to many other archbishops and bishops, was Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York, who afterwards gave the final lecture of the Congress. He spoke before a crowded audience in the Theater Royal on "St. Patrick in Our Times."

Outside the sanctuary were hundreds of priests, monks, nuns and Brothers, as well as representatives of the army, the police, the nursing profession, and contingents of Boy Scouts and Girl Guides.

Special places of honor were reserved for President Eamon de Valera; Prime Minister Sean Lemass and members of his government; Lord Mayor Maurice of Dublin, an Anglican; and a group of distinguished laymen from all parts of Ireland.

When the Papal Legate arrived, he was driven around the stadium in an open-topped Rolls Royce with an escort of military motor cyclists. Thunderous applause greeted him as he went by the crowded stands and terraces. The applause was repeated when, in his specially-made vestments of Celtic design, he led the procession of cardinals and bishops along a red carpet stretching across the field to the altar.

It was a warm, sunny day and hundreds of flags and colorful army and scout pennants fluttered in the gentle breeze as the Mass began.

At the moment of the Consecration, trumpeters sounded a royal fanfare in honor of the



Dublin — (RNS) — Gregory Peter XV Cardinal Agagianian, Papal Legate to the Dublin Patrician Congress, imparts his blessing to a Dublin crowd. The Patrician Year marked the 1,500th anniversary of the death of St. Patrick, Apostle of Ireland. The prelate was accorded an enthusiastic welcome from Dubliners and visitors gathered for the eight-day celebrations.

Holy Eucharist, and an army officers' guard of honor flashed their swords in salute. Meanwhile, the 1,500-year-old Bell of St. Patrick was rung to symbolize the linking of the living faithful present with the great saint who first brought the Faith to this ancient land. Then a great hush descended as all — priests and people — knelt in moments of worship and silent prayer.

THE SERMON of the Mass was preached by Archbishop Joseph Walsh of Tuam, who reviewed the life of the famed Apostle, and appealed to the Irish people to continue the missionary work he started.

In addition to Bishop Sheen,

special lectures during the Dublin Congress were delivered by Father Maurice P. Sheehy, an authority on Irish ecclesiastical history; and Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, of the Catholic University of America, Washington, D.C.

A few hours before he was to deliver his lecture in the National Stadium, Msgr. Ellis fell while boarding a bus and broke his arm. The injury, however, did not prevent him from fulfilling his engagement.

Appearing with his arm in a plaster cast, Msgr. Ellis said that just as Ireland's St. Columban and his contemporaries enriched the continent with the precious heritage brought by

St. Patrick, so in a far more remote time and place, his bequest was still a living force among the descendants of his spiritual children who crossed the seas.

"It is found," he said, "in the souls of many of the more than 150,000 converts who entered the Catholic Church in the United States last year through the ministrations and example of priests, religious and lay of Irish ancestry. It is felt in the lives of numerous American-Irish who staff foreign mission stations around the world, and it is cherished as well by thousands of those who man the parishes, and ecclesiastical institutions at home."

Mexico

Center Trains Lay Leaders

Cuernavaca — (RNS) — Fordham University's Center of Inter-cultural Formation, established to prepare lay and religious personnel for service in Central and South America, was formally opened here.

Father Laurence J. McGinley, S.J., president of the Catholic university in New York, officiated at the opening ceremonies. He hailed the center as a "staging area for service south of the Rio Grande."

Msgr. Ivan D. Illich, former vice-president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico, will direct operations of the center. He said the requirement for admission will be "a demonstrated desire to serve Latin Americans in the strengthening of religious, social, or economic structures."

ON THAT BASIS, he said, providing accommodations for approximately 130 students. Enrollment for the initial session includes students from the United States, Canada and Europe, more than half of whom are lay people. It is planned to have the center establish a similar course in Brazil, beginning Dec. 15.

The center began its first 16-week course in a former hotel

Faith Freedom Said Peace Key

Ottawa — (RNS) — Attempts to force men's consciences by legal sanction or other social pressures were condemned here at the 16th annual convention of the Catholic Theological Society of America.

In an address before the convention, the Rev. William F. Cahill, administrator of St. Joan of Arc parish, Menands, N.Y., and former acting dean of St. John's University School of Law, Brooklyn, N.Y., asserted that to approve of such practices is a denial of Catholic tradition which holds that "truth, goodness and the grace of God have their own powers to encourage men's minds and hearts."

The priest-lawyer reminded his audience, composed of Catholic theologians from the U.S. and Canada, that the late Pope Pius XII had contended that civil guarantees of religious freedom are a "necessity to achieve the great needs of our time, world peace and a worldwide community of law."

But Father Cahill noted, Catholic theology does not presume that the guarantee of religious freedom means there is no difference "between right and wrong, or that moral right and wrong are matters of opinion."

"No state," he added, "gives

25 Years Of Missal

Ottawa — (NC) — A weekly "missal" begun here 25 years ago has grown in a quarter century from a printing of 1,000 to as many as 300,000 copies weekly.

The small pamphlets contain the Mass prayers for the Sunday of the current week. Other pamphlets are issued for special feasts. They are distributed at church to those who do not have their own missals.

this guarantee without reserving its right to punish or to withhold its protection from conduct, however conscientious, which clearly and seriously disturbs the public peace.

"The purpose of the guarantee itself is to keep peace and order from the disturbance which a pluralistic community would suffer if the free, but orderly, exercise of belief was not assured by law," he said, observing that this had been the teaching of Catholic theologians for centuries.

Declaring that 19th century Popes had never departed from this teaching, Father Cahill defended their condemnation of "libertarian" doctrines "whose real import was a denial that human freedom is limited by man's duty to God."

"Pius IX and Leo XIII insisted, as their successors have done in the present century," he said, "upon the basic law of conscience, that it must answer to the God of truth and light."

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