

Federal Aid To Parochial School Pupils Faces 'Massive Surge' of Opposition

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New Mother General At Mercy

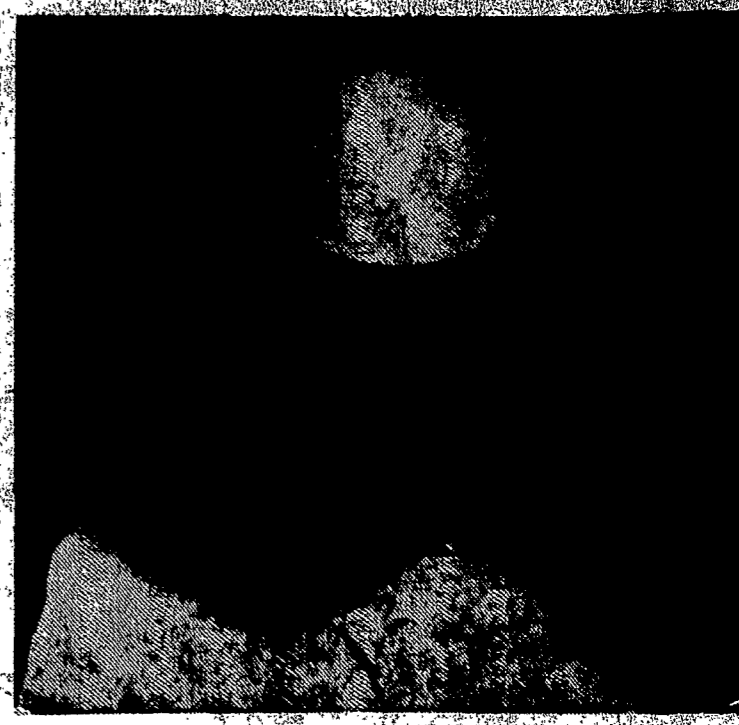
Mother Mary Bride was elected Mother General of the Rochester Sisters of Mercy for a six-year period, Wednesday, July 5, at a general chapter presided over by Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey.

Mother Mary Gabriel was elected Mother Assistant and first councilor. Mother Mary Adolphine, Mother Mary Alphonsus, and Mother Mary Florence were elected second, third, and fourth councilors respectively.

Mother Mary Bride (Claire) entered the Rochester Sisters of Mercy in 1934. She celebrates her silver jubilee of profession of vows this year.

She was chairman of the business department of Our Lady of Mercy High School until 1949 when she was appointed mistress of novices. Elected to the post of Mother Assistant in 1955, Mother Mary Bride has served in that capacity until the present time.

Asked to comment on her election to the office of Mother General, Mother Mary Bride remarked: "One feels very humble at such an expression of confidence by one's sisters, and turns to God for strength to be worthy of it. May He help us all to do what we ought."



MOTHER MARY BRIDE

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Berlin Church's Last Link With Million Catholics

By MANFRED WENZEL

Berlin — (NC) — Three years ago Pope Pius XII called Berlin the "symbol of a nation torn apart."

The late Pontiff's description is still true as this city becomes the focal point of the Cold War, stepped up by renewed Soviet efforts to make the division of Germany permanent.

Pope Pius also described divided Berlin as a "point of contact between two alienated worlds."

The new Soviet demands in regard to Germany make it uncertain whether West Berlin—till now an island of freedom in a Red-ruled sea—can remain a point of contact between East and West or whether the whole city will be swallowed by communism.

The intensified conflict raises religious as well as political and military issues. Should the Soviets succeed in swallowing up the former German capital, West Berlin's flourishing Catholic community of 276,000 souls would seem destined to share the persecution that has been the fate of the Church in communist East Germany and elsewhere behind the Iron Curtain.

West Berlin will also cease to be a meeting place for the Catholics of East and West Germany. This seems certain to dishearten the Soviet's zone's 1,100,000 Catholics, who have been encouraged in their struggle against communist rulers by their meetings here with their free coreligionists from the West. It was to one such meeting—the German Catholic Congress (Katholikentag) of 1950—that Pope Pius XII spoke.

In a broadcast message to Olympic stadium packed with 150,000 people, he said that Berlin, "while a symbol of a nation torn apart, also proves the unity arising from a supreme truth that binds you all, even though outwardly you may be separated."

Catholics from East Germany, where bishops cannot function freely, can still come to West Berlin to get guidance from Church authorities who are free to speak out against communism.

In March, the Bishop of Berlin, Julius Cardinal Doepfner, urged visiting Catholics from the Soviet zone to cooperate with Protestants there in the common battle against communist atheism. Last December he called on East Germans to pray with their fellow countrymen in the West for Germany's reunification.

The present conflict over (Continued to right of cartoon above)



For Murdered Jews And Their Tormentors

While Berliners face the hazardous future of Soviet slavery, all Germans are haunted by their link to the Nazi regime of terror against the Jews. As the Adolf Eichmann trial grinds to its climax, Germany's bishops asked their people to say this prayer of reparation. Those who are appalled by the German record of brutality should remember American consciences were not stirred to action until Pearl Harbor. The reparation prayer, therefore, has a wider application than just Germany.

Lord, God of our fathers! God of Abraham, of Isaac, and of Jacob! Father of mercy and God of all consolation! Thou didst receive Israel Thy servant and didst send to him and all men Jesus Christ Thy Son as Redeemer. Though He was without guilt, Thou didst deliver Him for our sake so that, through Him, we might all be delivered.

"We confess before Thee: Countless men were murdered in our midst because they belonged to the people from which comes the Messiah according to the flesh. We pray Thee: Lead all those among us who became guilty through deed, omission, or silence that they may see their wrong and turn from it. Lead them so that they examine themselves, be converted, and atone for their sins. In Thy limitless mercy forgive, for the sake of Thy Son, that limitless guilt no human atonement can wipe out.

"Comfort the mourners, calm the embittered, the lonely, and the sick. Heal the wounds that have been inflicted on our souls. Make us, and all men, understand more and more that we must love each other as Thy Son loved us.

"Give to the murdered Thy peace in the land of the living. May their death, unjustly suffered, be to their salvation through the blood of Thy Son Jesus Christ, who with Thee lives and reigns in the unity of the Holy Spirit, God, forever and ever. Amen."

Berlin goes back to the division of Germany and its former capital among the Allied powers at the end of World War II. At that time it was decided to split Germany up into zones of occupation by the U.S., Britain, France and the Soviet Union.

Berlin was to be cut up into similar sectors. Since then the occupation zones of the Western powers have become the independent Federal Republic of Germany. The Soviet zone, which entirely surrounds Berlin, has become the German Democratic Republic, ruled by a puppet-communist regime which the Western nations do not recognize.

Berlin itself remains divided between the western sectors—now a self-governing area which is politically a part of the Federal Republic—and the Soviet sector. The latter is considered by the Reds as the capital of the East German Democratic Republic.

The Soviet Union is now trying to make the present division of Germany—which has not been confirmed by a peace treaty—a permanent thing, thus forcing the Western powers out of their sectors of the city.

What has the Church to lose in Berlin should the Soviets succeed? Dedicated to democracy, West Berlin has been an area of full religious freedom. The Church here is growing and making energetic progress, although Catholics account for only 12.5 per cent of the sector's total population of 2,200,000.

West Berlin has 74 parishes, including a number of new churches, and 82 other places where Mass is offered by 145 parish priests. There are 18 religious communities of men with a total membership of 11,000 and 122 Brothers. There are 1,388 Sisters in the city's 78 convents. Catholic schools and organizations are flourishing. Charitable work among the many refugees from communist areas is at present the major activity of Church organizations here.

By contrast, the situation of the Church in East Germany is marked by sharp restrictions and outright persecution. Public religious activities of any kind are made difficult if not impossible. Communist authorities make it hard for East German Catholics to go to West Germany to attend meetings or retreats or even to visit relatives. Bishops from West Germany are forbidden to enter the Soviet zone.

The Catholic press has been suppressed by the East German communists who have also banned Catholic organizational activity. Church buildings is obstructed, and numerous priests and laymen have been jailed for their loyalty to their religion.

Scripture 'Warning' Spurs Bible Study

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

A just-issued Vatican "warning" will spur rather than stall current explosive advances in study of the Bible.

First reports from Rome indicated the "warning" put a lid on a 1943 decision by Pope Pius XII to give Catholic Biblical experts full freedom to reexplore many long-held viewpoints about Bible history.

The latest Vatican statement calls for "discretion and reverence" but leaves the experts still free to explore the "new horizons" opened by archeological discoveries.

What prompted the Vatican's statement? What Biblical viewpoints need to be readjusted? And what were the discoveries which touched off this academic chain reaction?

American news reports this past spring quoted Episcopal Bishop James Pike as saying he thought many Bible events were "myths." German and French writers in the early 1950's had the same idea. "The Bible is a collection of legends," by Ernest Renan, turned even the Saviour into a mere coincidence.

Other writers made a shambles of the rest of the Old and New Testaments in an attempt to be "modern" during an era that sparked with one scientific discovery after another.

Many Catholic scholars were warped with this idea of "modernizing" the ancient faith according to contemporary designs. The Vatican in a 1907 decree condemned this "modernism" with the unfortunate aftermath that authentic experts retreated into silence rather than risk being labeled heretics.

Fortunately, the man who could rescue Catholic Biblical scholarship from its hazardous condition was already at work in the actual land which produced the Bible. Dominican Father M. J. Lagrange, founder of the Biblical School at Jerusalem in 1890 and editor of the famed journal "Revue Biblique," had a wide reputation as a great scholar with deep religious faith, two needed characteristics for one in his position.

Father Lagrange pointed out that authors of the Bible's 72 different books used a variety of literary forms to get their ideas across to their readers—poetry, proverbs, annals and even fiction—and the first step to understand a Biblical passage is to determine its literary form.

Extensive archeological discoveries in Egypt, Turkey, Persia and Palestine during the first half of the 20th century yielded undreamed of information.

(Continued on page 3)

A Life of Sacrifice

By FATHER HENRY ATWELL

A priest is ordained for sacrifice, says the Church's ordination ritual.

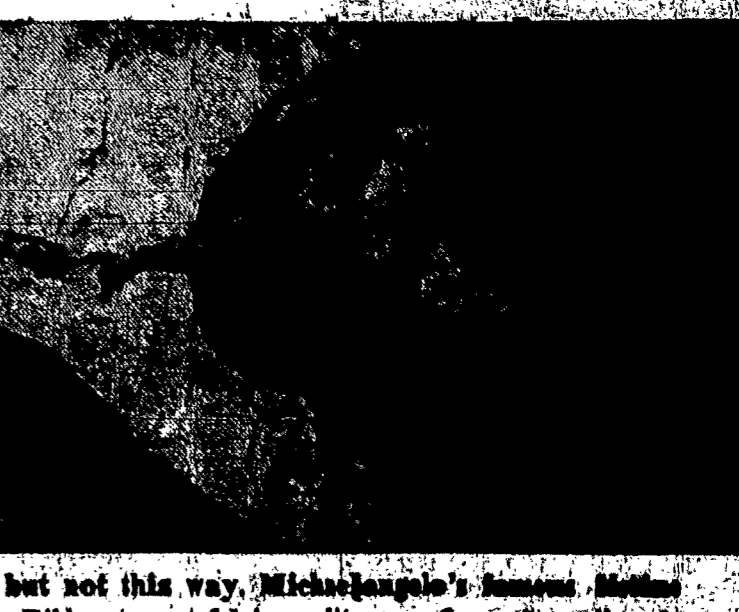
Four years ago, Bishop Kearney said this to young Father Thomas J. Kuchman: "The sacrifice of the Mass is the most perfect and most fruitful of all sacrifices. It is a personal offering of yourself and your life."

FATHER KUCHMAN, 30, died yesterday, Thursday, July 6, of a brain tumor after two years in St. Mary's Hospital.

His only assignment as a priest was as assistant pastor at Holy Family Church, Rochester.

His funeral Mass will be offered there by Bishop Kearney Monday, July 10, at 10 a.m. The Bishop will also give the eulogy.

Father Kuchman's brother, Rev. Bernard Kuchman, will assist the Bishop in the funeral ceremony. During the two years he was



God created Adam — but not this way. Michelangelo's famous 'Adam' Chapel painting depicts Bible story told in a literary form "possible to the ancients."

New Sisters of St. Joseph

Forty young women received the religious garb of the Sisters of St. Joseph and seventeen young nuns professed perpetual vows in the order during rites at the Nazareth Convent Motherhouse, Pittsford, Friday, June 30.

Auxiliary Lawrence B. Casey presided at the ceremony assisted by Rev. Charles Connell and Rev. Conrad Sundholm.

Parents, relatives and friends filled the Motherhouse Chapel as the candidates, dressed as "brides of Christ," entered in procession.

Knocking at the altar rail, the postulants asked for the habit of a nun and were ritually questioned by the Bishop as to the sincerity of their intention and their realization of the manner of life they sought. Satisfied

with their "earnest desire," the Bishop blessed the habits, veils, rosaries and enclaves and sent the young brides from the chapel to be clothed as Sisters of Saint Joseph.

They were replaced at the altar rail by the Sisters who were to pronounce their perpetual vows. Individually, each recited the formula of profession, vowing "perpetual poverty, chastity, and obedience in the Congregation of the Sisters of Saint Joseph."

The Bishop, with special prayer, then presented to each Sister the brass-bound profession crucifix which she will wear as a sign of her espousals to Christ.

After the profession ceremony was completed, the newly-clothed Sisters re-entered the Chapel, knelt again at the altar rail, and were given the names

by which they will be known in religion.

FOLLOWING the ceremony, Bishop Casey offered Mass. In his sermon, he expressed the gratitude of the Diocese, to the Sisters for their "willingness to leave home and parents and serve God exclusively and thus fill the gap of teaching Sisters" to the parents for their "wisdom and selflessness in letting their daughters choose a vocation which will give them true happiness."

Continuing his address to the parents, the Bishop pointed out that "the Sister is the one of all your children who will remain closest to you through the years. You will find that the ties of love between you and your daughter in religion will grow stronger as time passes. You are fortunate, then, in giving her to the Lord, that you can still keep her in a very real and precious sense. Moreover, you will share before God in the tremendous good for souls she will do as a nun."

The Bishop exhorted the Sisters to the practice of obedience especially, as a short cut to perfection. "All your offerings," he told the Sisters, "will be changed into pure gold by Him whom you serve. Keep always the generosity of soul you possess today." He concluded, "and everything else will fall into its proper place."

THE FORTY new nuns are as follows, listed according to their religious name, family name, parents and parish: Sister Ann Marie (Ann J. Lortcher), Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Lortcher, St. Patrick's, Victor. (Continued on page 1)

Teacher Jailed

Berlin — (NC) — Officials of Western powers here have protested against the conviction of a Catholic teacher for political activity by a court in the communist-ruled sector of Berlin.

Anna Mrgalski, 72, was sentenced to 10 months in jail. She has already been under arrest for eight months. She was accused of working for the Christian Democratic party of West Germany.

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-agent plan. TROTT BROS., 1120 ML. Hope. GR 3-3271.—Adv.

25 Years Of First Fridays

Paray-Le-Monial — (NC) — A marble plaque commemorating the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Catholic Laymen's First Friday Club Movement has been installed in Shrine of the Sacred Heart here.

Joseph W. Burns, chairman of the Catholic Laymen's Associated First Friday Clubs in New York, arranged for the installation.

The movement was founded in 1936 by the Catholic Laymen's First Friday Club, Midtown Group, in New York City. There are now 16 clubs in the New York metropolitan area, more than 70 throughout the U.S. and others outside the U.S.

The purpose of the clubs is to spread devotion to the Sacred Heart of Jesus, to encourage attendance at Holy Communion on nine consecutive First Fridays, and to meet at breakfast, luncheon or dinner where a speaker talks on a subject of interest to Catholics.

Council Favors Freedom Riders

Rochester's Catholic Interracial Council has gone on record in favor of the controversial "Freedom Riders."

The Council singled out Gordon Harris of Brighton for special commendation. He is now in jail in Jackson, Mississippi, sentenced for six months for his part in an integrated bus ride into that state.

THE COUNCIL issued this statement today drawn up at a meeting Wednesday, June 28. "The Catholic Interracial Council of Rochester commends the Freedom Riders, and particularly Rochester's Gordon Harris, who at the risk of great personal danger and suffering have sought the implementation of basic human rights for all persons. We must remember

that the violence which has sometimes attended their activities has in no case been their doing. Rather their activities have been marked by admirable self-restraint and non-resistance.

"The Catholic Interracial Council reserves its criticism for those who have impeded the peaceful movement of the Freedom Riders by shamefully abusive tactics. The Council applauds the Riders for their courage and for their prudent, non-violent response to abuse."

Buffalo Group Joins NCCW

Buffalo — (NC) — The Buffalo Diocesan Council of Catholic Women has been organized formally and affiliated with the National Council of Catholic Women.

Bishop Joseph A. Burke, of Buffalo, announced that Kathleen M. Whelan, of this city, will serve as the first president. The formal inauguration ceremony was held in Holy Angels church.

Officers of the Catholic Interracial Council are Herman J. Walz, president; Dr. Nathaniel J. Hurst, vice-president; and Margaret C. Kenney, secretary.

LAST WEEK'S PAID CIRCULATION 66,106



Seen to be garbed as nuns, "brides of Christ" from procession to chapel.