

Family Farm U.S. Backbone

Melrose, Minn. — (NC) — The importance of the family farm in the American way of life was emphasized here by a bishop who is an expert in the rural life field.

Bishop Peter W. Bartholome of St. Cloud was the principal speaker at the main banquet of the two-day sessions of Ploverville, U.S.A., which brought some 20,000 rural life leaders from all sections of the country to this community.

Among the speakers were Gov. Elmer J. Anderson of Minnesota, Secretary of Agriculture Orville L. Freeman, Harold E. Stassen, State Atty. Gen. Walter F. Mondale, Donald William of the Soil Conservation Service, Washington, D.C., and State Agriculture Commissioner Duane Wilson.

Bishop Bartholome, former president of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference, said: "The land is God's greatest material gift to mankind. Everything in human affairs depends on the land."

The prelate warned: "At the present moment there is a danger in our country that we are forgetting the importance of the family farm in the life of our nation. It is very necessary, therefore, that the soil conservationists of America, the farm organizations, the Department of Agriculture, keep always in mind in their planning, in their legislation and in their programs of action the importance of the family-sized farm."

Bishop Bartholome said much of the economic, political and social disturbance in the world today can be traced to inequitable distribution of land ownership. In Latin America the fundamental problem is agriculture and large land ownership has created serfdom and poverty, the prelate asserted. The same is true in Asia, he said, while Africa's problem is mainly of the land, its ownership and cultivation.

"In the past 50 years," the Bishop said, "the forces of communism have recognized this fact and whenever they wish to penetrate into any country to take over its government, their first program which enables them to succeed is a call for agrarian reform."

"This happened in Russia, in China, in the countries immediately behind the Iron Curtain," he continued. "Within the last few years the slogan call of Castro was agrarian reform, promising ownership of land to the poor and downtrodden. This same propaganda is being used in countries of South America. This indicates quite clearly that the communists are more alert to the basic problem than the free Western nations as to the importance of the land and the desire that is found in the human heart to possess a few acres for himself."

Bishop Bartholome said in the past 200 years in this country an ideal situation of land ownership has prevailed. He said: "The family farm which gave life and strength to our nation, which developed independence, character and free citizens has been our agricultural pattern during these years."

The Bishop warned that farming now is fast becoming a commercial venture, and that farmers are moving off the land. America cannot afford to destroy the family-size farm, he said. He urged that a bureau be set up in the Department of Agriculture that "will study the Christian philosophy of the land and through that thinking, which is basic to Christian civilization, laws and programs be evolved that will foster the family-size farm in the United States of America."

"I realize that this is swimming against the tide, but there must be a few voices raised that will alert us all to the dangerous trends into which agriculture is falling at the present time," the Bishop said.

The soil bank was cited by the Bishop as a glaring example of the way the government at the present time is ignoring the problem of the land and the family-sized farm. He commended the gathering of rural life enthusiasts the passage of the Mater et Magistra encyclical of His Holiness Pope John XXIII dealing with agriculture.

"The soil conservationists of America, in my opinion, know and understand the importance of the land in the life of a nation," Bishop Bartholome said. "They love the land. It is only when we can maintain and understand the dignity of the farmer who deals with the land and the important place that he occupies in a nation that a nation remains strong."



Galveston — (RNS) — A pre-dawn tornado, an offshoot of hurricane Carla, smashed St. Mary's Roman Catholic school as it slashed across Galveston, Texas. The twister caused extensive damage to the parochial school but no injuries were reported. Elsewhere in Galveston and its suburban areas Catholic churches served as refuges for uprooted families forced from their homes by the storm which took 12 lives and caused damage to structures and crops that may exceed 200 million dollars.



Kaplan, La. — (RNS) — This scene in Louisiana attests to the extent of human suffering caused by Hurricane Carla and two tornadoes in Louisiana and Texas. Throughout the stricken area, Catholic churches were used as refuges before the hurricane and as evacuee centers and emergency hospitals later. Photo shows a long stream of families registering for shelter at Lake Charles, La.

Carla's Fury

Churches In Ruins

Galveston — (RNS)—Hurricane Carla and the two destructive tornadoes which trailed in the bay area, caused extensive damage to Catholic churches and institutions. Church buildings in Galveston were hard hit, according to first reports. No immediate estimate of the damage was possible, but entire parishes were stripped of structures and in some instances the condition of outlying churches and schools were still unreported three days after the storms rocked Texas.

Church officials, long after the storm had passed, were still attempting to reach unreported parishes. Telephone calls were restricted to the use of official emergency crews, adding their difficulties. In some areas, miles from Galveston, took the full brunt of the great winds, churches, schools and institutions within his See. Indications were that damage was extensive, although no loss of life or serious injuries had been reported in church-maintained structures.

Bishop Wendell J. Nold of the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, as the storms subsided, began a long inspection trip to the churches, schools and institutions within his See. Indications were that damage was extensive, although no loss of life or serious injuries had been reported in church-maintained structures. Bishop officials, long after the storm had passed, were still attempting to reach unreported parishes. Telephone calls were restricted to the use of official emergency crews, adding their difficulties. In some areas, miles from Galveston, took the full brunt of the great winds, churches, schools and institutions within his See. Indications were that damage was extensive, although no loss of life or serious injuries had been reported in church-maintained structures.

TIDAL WATERS completely destroyed buildings of three at Port O'Connor churches which escaped the full brunt of the great winds, churches, schools and institutions within his See. Indications were that damage was extensive, although no loss of life or serious injuries had been reported in church-maintained structures.

Bishop Mariano S. Garriga of Corpus Christi ordered special prayers of thanksgiving for the parishes which escaped the full brunt of the great winds, churches, schools and institutions within his See. Indications were that damage was extensive, although no loss of life or serious injuries had been reported in church-maintained structures.

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Poland Reds Stifle Faith Lessons

London — (RNS) — Sharp clashes have already taken place between the Catholic clergy and Communist authorities in Poland in the wake of a new law placing further restrictions on religious instruction outside normal school hours. This instruction can only be conducted by state-approved teachers and is subject to strict government control.

Coming on the heels of previous legislation barring religious classes from the public schools, the new law restricts religious instruction outside normal school hours. This instruction can only be conducted by state-approved teachers and is subject to strict government control.

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THE REPORTS reaching here came as Trybuna Ludu, official Polish Communist newspaper in Warsaw, and Observator Romano, Vatican City newspaper, upheld and condemned, respectively, the new development. It is predicted that many observers point the long-simmering Church-State conflict there. According to the reports, state officials sent to oversee the religious classes have been interrupting them on the pretext that this or that teaching material is subversive, or implicitly hostile to Communism.

Because of this interference, the reports said, the bishops have instructed priests to bar any further attendance by the Communist officials at the religious classes.

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By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

* * *

The most neglected Sacrament of the seven is Confirmation, not because it is not administered, but because the faithful do not see its daily responsibilities. In the Old Testament the Lord told Moses: "Bid the sons of Israel bring thee all of the olive, pure and clear, to feed at all times the lamps before the veil... Aaron shall set them there to burn before the Lord from evening to morning, a rite you shall observe continually, age after age."

The New Testament tells us that the oil was the symbol of the Holy Spirit, and those who receive a fuller measure of the Holy Spirit are committed to a twofold obligation: a) as the olive oil was beaten from the olive, so that Holy Spirit must grow in their souls through sacrifice; b) as the oil was to burn continually, so their good works must shine out upon the world that all men may see Christ in their lives.

Do you ever think of this Sacrament which calls you to be a soldier of Christ? Do you ever make an act of self-denial in order that by crushing the spirit of selfishness the Spirit of Christ may glow more brightly in your lives? Has anyone ever come into the Church because of the Light of Christ which flames forth in your actions?

Have you ever met a Communist? If so, it is likely he tried to do two things: a) destroy either your faith or your morals; b) sell you the atheism of Anti-Christ. Why do the Communists burn while we, at most, carry flickering candles? Fire has two qualities — light and heat. Light is truth; heat is zeal. It seems as if we have the light and no heat, and they have heat and no light.

As Communism takes over the world by attrition — and it is doing it — we ask what is the government doing about it. The government cannot stop Communism. But you can help to stop it in Africa, for example, by bringing the Spirit of Christ to the Africans before the spirit of Satan possesses them. The best way to do this is not to decide where you will send your \$5 or your \$5000. Rather, as a member of Christ's Mystical Body, send it to the Holy Father, the visible head of the Mystical Body. He knows where it is most needed. Mass your sacrifices by throwing your torches of zeal into one great missionary bonfire. Stir up the Spirit of Christ within you! Trim your wicks! Press the olives of selfishness! Burn daily in prayer and aim that God may be glorified. Any sacrifice you wish to make for the Holy Father will be sent to him through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Remember, you are soldiers of Christ!

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