

'Providence' Stays Open In Quake

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sanitation, a hospital is just another building.

By the time the first evacuees from Presbyterian Hospital arrived, Providence was again operational.

The elevators had stopped running. This meant casualties had to be carried by stretcher and litter to the nursing floors. Screening and sorting was done in the emergency room area and then victims had to be moved outside to ascend a wide stairwell that would provide passage for litters. The first rush of patients were laid in a hallway on mattresses stripped from second floor beds.

By 6:30 — the quake hit at 5:37 p.m. — casualties were arriving at every entrance. Many of the essential supplies had been dumped onto roofs, and had to be salvaged and sorted for use.

Meanwhile, smaller tremors continued to rock the building. But they were mere tickles compared to the first giant blow.

VOLUNTEERS from every walk of life poured into the main lobby, where they were assigned emergency tasks. The homeless, dazed and shocked and attracted by the hospital lights, were given hot coffee and mattresses on which to lie.

All available doctors reported to the emergency room area and from there they fanned out to serve in surgery, x-ray, laboratory. They were undaunted by the stream of injured.

Nursing service workers from Presbyterian Hospital joined the Providence staff and volunteers to provide full coverage. There was no division of race or religion — only those needing help and those doing the helping.

There was comfort for a stunned and broken city to hear the news via emergency radio broadcasts. "Providence is operating and caring for casualties."

Sister Barbara Ellen had her four nun assistants supported by Sisters from the Catholic high school coordinated the task of keeping the hospital open during and caring for patients.

Dr. Don Val Langston, chief of the hospital's medical staff directed the overall medical effort and Dr. Fred Hillman, chief of surgery supervised surgeons. At no time was there panic or hysteria among the patients, homeless or the personnel charged with their care.

There was a time for every one present when he or she thought, "Providence is going to last through this quake." For Sister Barbara Ellen, a plucky, smiling nun of deep faith, who saw the hospital open in October, 1962, the time came early. For some of the skeptics it did not come until Easter Sunday.

Shortly after midnight, early on the morning of Holy Saturday, one elevator was operating and patients enjoyed the luxury of moving to the floors the easy way. Throughout the night practically all of Anchorage remained dark, but the lights of Providence gave proof that Anchorage had not been totally extinguished.

"TO SINGLE OUT any individual act of service to the hundreds who helped. As far as I am concerned it was a night when heroism and sacrifice were commonplace," said Sister Barbara Ellen.

The soldiers and airmen who provided every conceivable service and supplied every need, the electrician who repaired a pump to prevent flooding, the chaplains who gave last rites to the dying and comforted the injured, the cooks who made coffee and sandwiches, the radio operators who linked us with the city, the engineers who kept the water and power on, all must share Providence's victory along with Anchorage's dedicated doctors and nurses, the nun said.

A quake victim spoke for patients. He said as he was being wheeled into emergency surgery, "This hospital cost six million dollars. Tonight it would have been a bargain at ten times that price."

Family Meeting Set For June

Washington (NC) — Bishop John J. Wright of Pittsburgh will be the keynote speaker at the 29th National Catholic Family Life convention here June 25 to 28.

Bishop Wright will speak on the convention theme, "The Glory of the Child." Other speakers at the convention will be Anton C. Pegis, professor of philosophy at the Institute of Medieval Studies in Toronto; Father Robert F. Drinan, S.J., dean of the Boston College Law School; Dr. Karl Stern, author and psychiatrist; and Rev. Martin Marty, assistant editor of the Christian Century, a Protestant journal published in Chicago.

Joan of Arc, Symbol Of Right of Conscience

Pittsburgh (NC) — St. Joan of Arc epitomizes "the Catholic concept of the rights of conscience," Bishop John S. Wright of Pittsburgh said in a lecture under the auspices of the St. Thomas More Society and the Catholic Physicians Guild.

He said that she testified to "the sanctity and sublimity of the vocation of a Christian person within the Church and within history... and stood in sharp contrast to Martin Luther, the classic example of the Protestant conscience."

"Her final norm for everything was what the Church thinks," the bishop noted. "She died a witness to the reality of the Church."

Bishop Wright discussed the legal and medical aspects of St. Joan's life and career. He questioned the jurisdic-

tion of the ecclesiastical court which tried her, as well as its competence to pass on St. Joan's appeal, as it did, when this appeal had been directed actually to the pope.

Bishop Wright explored the various medical theories that have been advanced over the years to explain phenomena in St. Joan's life, theories ranging from bovine tuberculosis to psychopathic paranoia. He argued against their plausibility and said that the simple and miraculous fact was that "Joan was a girl sent by God to accomplish a mission."

The bishop commented that the greatest monument to her career is "the fact of modern France." He speculated that France under England was destined to be Protestant Christian; "we owe it to St. Joan that France is Catholic," he concluded.



From Bullring To Seminary

Madrid (RNS) — Shown here with cape and sword at one of his last "corridos" is 27-year-old Spanish torero Juan Garcia Mondeno who recently entered the Dominican Order in Leon, Spain, to study for the priesthood. Among those present as he was received into the order was his well-known fellow torero, Antonio Ordóñez of Madrid. Associates disclosed that Juan had long cherished the hope of becoming a priest, and finally took the first step after earning what he considered would be enough to provide for the material needs of his family.

Prospective Converts

Why Not Wait For Reunion?

Liverpool (NC) — The current slump in conversions to the Church in Britain is a byproduct of the Vatican Council and other Christian reunion moves, according to some British Catholics.

The director of Liverpool's Catholic Information Center has reported this belief as a result of a survey he initiated in Britain's Catholic newspapers.

Father Francis J. Ripley disclosed that the first group of 312 respondents listed about a thousand reasons for the conversion decline.

ABOUT HALF of the replies, the Vatican Council and a growing attitude toward Non-Catholics which, it is thought, persuades Non-Catholics that one church is as good as another and Catholics are beginning to agree with this view.

The upshot, it is felt by the respondents, is that prospective converts feel that reunion is dipping soon, so why not wait for it.

Changing liturgy changes, some say that the change from Latin to the vernacular suggests to prospective converts that the Church is now acknowledging that the 16th century reformers were right after all.

In other replies the clergy are said to be too indifferent about making converts and too casual in their treatment of them. The gulf between clergy and laity is widening, the managers of the clergy are becoming worse.

Only 21 cite opposition to birth prevention as a cause for conversion. The writers include 23 priests, 97 converts and 12 laymen.

Associate Editor: Brooklyn (NC) — Father Joseph G. McCarthy has been named an associate editor of the Tablet, Brooklyn diocesan newspaper.

Polish Reds Push 'Soviet Man' Image

Warsaw (RNS) — With religion completely banned from the schools, the Communist regime in Poland has now evolved a plan aimed at forming and educating Polish youngsters in the image of the "Soviet man."

Announced by the Ministry of Culture, the program has created deep concern in Roman Catholic and other Christian bodies throughout the country, according to reports here.

The Ministry's plan calls for re-arranging the teaching of Polish history and language and related courses in such a way as to bring about, in the shortest possible time, a "new generation" of Poles "fully aware of the great social and other changes" brought about by the October Revolution of 1917.

POLISH children in the first grade will begin learning the meaning of the "Red Flag" of "our people's democracy." In the second and third grades subjects such as the "life and work of Lenin," "the brotherhood of Polish-Russian arms," and "the leadership of Gomulka" will be taught. Wladyslaw Gomulka is First Secretary of the Polish Communist Party.

In grades six and seven, pupils will be instructed in "the meaning and beneficial" role of the Polish Communist Party and its programs.

All students are to be "ideologically educated" regarding the "values" of the Communist system of government and "thus better equipped to live in a new social order."

Russian will be taught along with the children's mother tongue. Russian will be a compulsory subject from the fifth grade on to make Polish children fully acquainted with "the life of the Russian people, their patriotism and devotion to communism," and also with "Russia's economic, cultural and social achievements."

The new program aims at familiarizing Polish children with the "heroes" of the Russian revolution. These include Felix Dzierzynski, a Polish nobleman who became the first head of the Soviet secret police under Lenin. He won Soviet fame for the cruel and inhuman manumission in which he crushed all anti-Revolutionary elements opposing the Bolsheviks.

The Vatican's representative in India, Apostolic Internuncio Archbishop James Knox, recently visited refugee camps in the eastern Indian state of Assam and learned that 400 to 500 families are fleeing into India daily from East Pakistan.

More than 35,000 Christians, including more than 20,000 Catholics, have arrived in India from East Pakistan. They said they had to leave because of religious intolerance and economic pressure by the Moslem majority. In addition, tens of thousands of Hindus have also fled East Pakistan.

New Delhi (NC) — A Belgian missionary has been killed as a result of anti-Moslem rioting in eastern India.

Father Herman Raschdort, S.J., was reported killed by a poison arrow as he attempted to protect Moslem villagers from attacks by Christian tribesmen in the state of Bihar.

Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru has appealed to Indians to end the wave of conflicts between Hindus and Moslems, saying a religious war could be "fatal to all of us." It was the first nationwide broadcast by the Premier since he suffered a stroke in January.

Liturgy Week To Study Council's Decrees

St. Louis (NC) — The challenge of the Second Vatican Council, especially in its newly decreed Liturgy Constitution, will serve as the central theme for the 1964 North American Liturgical Week here Aug. 24 through 27.

THE THEME will treat "The Council's Challenge to the Person of the Parish, and the World, according to the planning of the Liturgical Week program committee. Headed by Father Fred Elick McManus of the Catholic University of America, a council expert, the committee met at Maryville College here.

The program will be centered on the new Liturgy Constitution, not as a document but in terms of "the source and the summit of Christian life," according to a committee spokesman.

A special tribute will be made at the closing of the Liturgical Week.

Priests Join Association

Springfield (NC) — Two Catholic priests, Msgr. Patrick A. Nolin and Father David Sevigny of St. Mary's church here, have accepted an invitation to join the Springfield Ministers' Association, a Protestant clergymen's organization.

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