

Nation Pays Tribute to Cardinal Spellman

Nation's No. 1 Churchman Dies Suddenly at 78 Years



Cardinal Was 'A Great Man' ---Bishop Sheen

Bishop Sheen said this week of the late Cardinal Spellman, here shown bidding Bishop Sheen farewell last December as he left to become Bishop of Rochester:

"The battlefields and soldiers will mourn, for they lost their chief of chaplains. The missions will grieve, for they lost their open-handed friend. Church history will write finis to him who wrote so large on its pages. The death of a great man like Cardinal Spellman gathers up all humanity into one heart, shedding one common tear. In life, he claimed our attention, our respect and our love. That does not deny him in death the more beautiful tribute of our prayers."

Bishop Kearney

Late Cardinal Likened To His 'Francis' Patrons

Just five years ago, Bishop Kearney penned a touching tribute to Cardinal Spellman, in the closing lines of Father Robert Gannon's "Life of Cardinal Spellman." With his permission, we are reprinting it now:

"When Ellen Spellman looked at her baby in a little New England town many years ago, she probably did not consider it a very momentous decision when she said:

"I'll call him Francis."

"Just which of the famous saints who bore the name was in her mind, we do not know. What we do know is that the choice seems to have been inspired, for in the apostolate of that son, there have been combined all the great virtues that marked the three outstanding saints that bore the name:

- the Little Man of Assisi;
- the great deSales of Geneva;
- and the patron of missionary zeal, Francis Xavier.

"Combining the Christian simplicity of purpose, devotion to the poor, the sick and the orphaned that marked the life of the saint of Assisi, with the culture and passionate zeal of the great Francis deSales, he has still found time for a challenging and often dangerous apostolate as a Shepherd in Christ of our Armed Forces, just like the adventurous apostolate of the greatest of the missionaries, St. Francis Xavier.

"So let us say that the little mother in Whiteman years ago probably never realized that she was a prophetess, when she said:

"I'll call him Francis."

3 Episcopal Sees Filled

Washington — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has made the following appointments in the hierarchy of the United States:

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Most Rev. Richard O. Gerow has resigned as bishop of Natchez-Jackson and has been transferred to the titular See of Vageata.

Bishop Joseph Brunini has been named to succeed Bishop Gerow as Ordinary of Natchez-Jackson.

Most Rev. David Maloney, who has been auxiliary bishop of Denver, has been designated the bishop of Wichita.

Most Rev. Eldon Schuster, formerly auxiliary and administrator of the diocese of Great Falls, Mont., has been named the bishop of Great Falls.

These actions of the Holy Father were announced here by Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, Apostolic Delegate in the United States.

A mighty crowd of saddened fellow countrymen paid their last solemn respects yesterday, (Dec. 7) to the nation's first churchman — Francis Cardinal Spellman. The cardinal-archbishop of New York died suddenly last Saturday (Dec. 2) at 78 of a massive stroke.

Thousands packed St. Patrick's Cathedral for the solemn Requiem Mass celebrated by America's six surviving Cardinals at 1 p.m. Tens of thousands more lined the sidewalks surrounding the Fifth Avenue Cathedral as the Mass proceeded.

At the time of his death, Cardinal Spellman was spiritual head of two of the world's most populous Sees — the New York archdiocese with 18 million Catholics and the U.S. military ordinariate with some two million Catholics. He had been a priest for 51 years, a bishop for 35 years, and a cardinal for 21 years.

For many Americans, Cardinal Spellman was a symbol of the Catholic Church. He had been a dominant figure on the American scene for more than a quarter of a century. A friend and confidant of popes and presidents, his statements on communism and education won headlines throughout the world.

He travelled hundreds of thousands of miles, many of them as military vicar of the U.S. armed forces. His annual Christmas visits to U.S. servicemen at farflung posts around the world became an institution. His 15th consecutive Christmas trip and last such visit was made to South Vietnam in 1966 when he stirred worldwide controversy with his defense of United States policy in Southeast Asia.

On Christmas Eve in Tan Son Nhut, the cardinal said that "anything less than victory is inconceivable." The statement caused worldwide reaction.

On his return to New York Cardinal Spellman amplified the statement, saying of the U.S. troops he was backing: "Victory in their eyes does not mean wholesale slaughter or crushing of their enemies. Nor does it mean the conquest of North Vietnam. It means rather convincing the enemy to come to the conference table ready to work out a just and honorable solution."

As recently as September, Cardinal Spellman defended his Vietnam views saying that he realized he was being labeled a "hawk" because of his statements and his visits to the troops but that such reaction

did not worry him. "I really don't care what I am called," he said, "because I believe in ministering to the spiritual needs of these men and women."

Becoming embroiled in political debates and ministering to servicemen were only two of the many roles he played. He also became noted as journalist, diplomat, translator and pilot during the busy life which began in the small town of Whitman, Mass. He was born there on May 4, 1889, the son of Ellen (Conway) and William Spellman, a grocer.

He spent his youth in his home town where he attended the public grammar school and Whitman High School. He was a good student and athlete. To earn pocket money he helped his father in the family grocery store and delivered newspapers.

In September, 1907, he entered Fordham University and distinguished himself there for his academic record, work on college publications and in debating, and as second baseman for the college team. Shortly before his graduation he left to enter the priesthood and was sent to Rome for his theological studies by William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston.

Father Spellman was ordained in Rome on May 14, 1916, and a month later was awarded a doctorate in theology from the Urban College, run by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

His first assignment was as an assistant at All Saints Church in Boston. He served in the Boston archdiocese until 1925 holding posts including assistant chancellor and editor of The Pilot, archdiocesan newspaper.

Vatican Appointee
In 1925 Pope Pius XI named the young Father Spellman to a post in the Vatican Secretariat of State. He was the first American priest to hold such a position. In 1929 he was raised to the rank of Monsignor.

When Pius XI made the first worldwide papal radio broadcast in 1931 Msgr. Spellman immediately followed him on the air with an English translation of the address.

The same year, Msgr. Spellman became a figure in international affairs when he recently took a papal encyclical denouncing Mussolini's campaign to abolish Italian Catholic Action out of Italy and made it available to the press of the world in Paris.

The following year, Msgr. Spellman was named titular bishop of Sila and auxiliary

bishop of Boston. On Sept. 8, 1932, he was consecrated by Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli — later Pope Pius XII — in St. Peter's Basilica. He was the first American ever raised to the hierarchy there.

Archbishop of New York

In April, 1939, only a month after his election to the papacy, Pope Pius XII named Bishop Spellman archbishop of New York. The same year, World War II broke out in Europe and Archbishop Spellman was named military vicar to care for the millions of Catholics who were soon to join the growing armed forces of the United States. In that post he became one of the nation's most notable wartime figures.

During the war he journeyed around the world for inspections of military installations, conferences with chaplains and to meet America's fighting men in the field.

A Cardinal in 1946

Archbishop Spellman was raised to the College of Cardinals on Feb. 18, 1946. As a mark of special affection, Pope Pius XII gave Cardinal Spellman the red hat he himself had received as a cardinal and which he had received from its original owner, Pope Pius XI.

After the war the cardinal continued his Christmas visits to U.S. troops abroad and said Masses in the field for fighting men both in Korea and Vietnam.

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Vietnam Mourns Cardinal

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR
(NC News Service)

Saigon — Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York is mourned in Vietnam, one of the many countries with first-hand knowledge of his kindness and constancy.

President Nguyen Van Thieu has called Pope Paul VI expressing his "great sorrow" on learning of the cardinal's death.

"Cardinal Spellman was a great defender of the faith and of freedom," President Thieu said. "He won the hearts, the admiration and the affection of the Vietnamese, who had the happiness of either close or distant acquaintance with him. They join me in offering most sincere condolences to Your Holiness on this sad occasion."

President Thieu expressed his "profound regret" also in a message to U.S. ambassador Ellsworth C. Bunker.

"His eminence Cardinal Spellman was not only a great spiritual leader but also a staunch champion of freedom," the president said. "He was deeply attached to brotherly love among all men and the ideal of peace on earth. However, he fully realized that such ideals can be achieved only if freedom is unfailingly defended against the forces of evil."

Cardinal Spellman first visited Vietnam in late May, 1948, returning from Australia with a group of prelates and priests who accompanied him to the Melbourne centenary. He celebrated Mass in the Saigon cathedral and the then Msgr. Fulton J. Sheen (now bishop of Rochester, N.Y.) preached in French. During that brief visit, the cardinal was distressed to learn details about the imprisonment of missionaries by the communist-led Viet Minh, the Viet Cong of that period.

His next visit was in January, 1955, after his Christmas spent with U.S. troops in Korea. It was then that he watched refugees arriving from communist-ruled North Vietnam. He was deeply moved by the faith and fervor of the great throng of Catholic refugees who attended his outdoor Mass in a district where they were setting up their new makeshift homes and their wooden churches.

He returned a year later, also after a Korean Christmas, and again after Christmas in 1958. He spent Christmas in 1962, 1963 and 1966 with U.S. servicemen in Vietnam and hoped to come again this Christmas.



Francis Cardinal Spellman
1889-1967

Pope Sends Help

Refugees Face Bitter Winter

Thousands of Palestinian refugees may die of hunger, exposure and disease this winter, the director of Catholic welfare services for the Near East has warned.

Msgr. John G. Nolan, in a statement issued in Detroit, called for the immediate despatch of food, clothing, medical and housing supplies for the 1.5 million homeless in Lebanon, Syria, Jordan and the Gaza Strip.

Pope Paul VI has given \$50,000, the Vatican announced this week, and has called upon "all those who have the means to remember their needy brothers whose fate is bound both to the amount of assistance which it can be distributed, and also to the speed with which it can be distributed."

A letter written in the Holy Father's name pointed out that "In the next few weeks, near the sacred feast of Christmas in the land where there was announced the good news of peace for all men of good will, these refugees, camping under tents face with lively apprehension the coming of the rigors of winter."

Msgr. Nolan is president of the Pontifical Institute for Palestine and director of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

Comfortable America, he said, cannot fully appreciate the critical nature of the situation. It becomes cold early in Palestine.

and thousands of the refugees, greatly increased in number since the six-day Israeli-Arab war, are living in American-provided pup tents, without blankets, and with insufficient clothing and a diet scarcely above starvation level.

"I don't know if any great number will die of absolute starvation," Msgr. Nolan said, "but we do know of the terrible danger of malnutrition and exposure."

"We currently are providing 5,000 free meals a week to school children in Jerusalem alone, for they are not getting enough at home, and with hunger, disease will run wild through the camps."

"If this happens, we will be in real trouble, for we haven't anything like the amount of medicines and medical facilities needed to cope with an epidemic."

He said that 90 per cent of the refugees are Moslems, but his agencies from the beginning adopted a motto, "Need, not creed."

He added that when the work of the Pontifical Mission began in 1949 there were 960,000 refugees in the four countries, a figure that had increased to 1.3 million on June 1 last.

"Between June 5 and 11, the dates of the Arab-Israeli war," he said, "another 200,000 were added, the bulk on the East Side of the Jordan River. Principally around Amman."

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As Christmas Approaches . . .

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