wars, famines, pestilences; and by

# The Catholic Record

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LONDON, SATURDAY, APRIL 7, 1923

#### SOVIET RUSSIA AND RELIGION

Soviet Russia which admits puting to death a million and a quarter of its miserable subjects, including some fifteen hundred Orthodox priests and twenty-eight Orthodox bishops, has just commuted the sentence of death on the Catholic Archhishon Zenliak of Moscow to imprisonment "in strict isolation" for ten years. Monsignor Butchkavitch, his Vicar-General, however, remains under sentence of death, like innumerable others for alleged treason; though as the defence pointed out neither the Archbishop nor his Vicar-Feneral nor the fifteen other priests had been even accused of being connected with any counterrevolutionary activities. Their trial and sentence arose out of their refusal to give up the sacred vessels of the altar at the demand of the Soviet Government. The Pope offered to pay the Soviet Government the value of these Church treasures; and, at the present time, out of the fund set apart for this purpose is assisting the Catholic Relief Work amongst starving Russians that is financed chiefly by American Catholics.

After the sentence to death of these Catholic prelates requests for clemency from all over the world-including urgent appeals from the Pope and the Governments of Great Britain and the United States-poured into Moscow. Both the Archbishop and the Vicar-General, like most of the 2,000,000 Catholics of Russia, are Poles. And the Central Executive Committee, which met to consider the requests for clemency, charges the Vicar-General with "counterrevolutionary action with direct connection with an enemy bourgeoisic state, who used his position charges must go back to the time when Poland was "an enemy State." ment's own statistics of executions for "treason," the executioners must not be very exacting in the matter of proof.

Answering the appeals of Socialists for recognition of Soviet Russia | ceased. The vow was kept. in the British Parliament, Ronald civilized legal system of adminisremained unfulfilled in Russia."

strengthened their case by their for the film rights of the Passion procedure in this instance. Further Play. Despite the depreciation of sets forth: light is thrown on this subject by the mark the highest priced seat the New York Times' editorial, was 100 marks, or about 33 cents, on tion of the conditions existing in inferior, there is something terri. who lived on his own estate, and "Justice in Russia," which we our first visit in May; before the Oberammergau now. Perhaps an fically wrong with his conception of married a daughter of the Earl of reprint in another column.

freedom of religion.

The attitude of the Russian Revolutionary government to relig- or a hundred times what they many instances, did not have money Catholic Charity; of love for the ion is given by Mr. Orch, Russian charged. Yet, they kept to the to provide the ordinary necessities fellow-man for the love of God. correspondent to the London Times, fixed price of from 100 marks down of life, and the Play Committee was Our Lord who wished all men to be Margaret's Convent had opened its

was not anti-religious. It was, rather, unreligious. The Church was, in the main, with the people.

These people are now very very like an order of the control of the cont

passively, accepted their rule still

clung to their religion.

At first the Bolsheviki moved from public places and put up placards with the legend "Religion is a narcotic for the people." They organized regular anti-religious public lectures, especially among the Red army soldiers. Finding that religious subjects, when made optional instead of compulsory in the schools, were yet taken as usual, they forbade all such teaching. They forbade the baptism of infants and the employment of children under eighteen on church premises. They caused all Bibles and books on religious subjects to be removed ols and public libraries, and in their place they put the teachings of thei materialistic faith. their communistic,

Then came the attack on the Church itself, the killing of a score and more Bishops and more than a thousand priests (according to Bolshevist published statistics.) and the persecution of all the clergy did not readily side with the Bolshevist Government in its demand for the Church treasures. The renegade priests, laymen under a new Supreme Church Administration, which is a subsection of the Agitation Department of the Com-

munist Party.
Meanwhile, the Church has "become more powerful in Russia than ever it was." The peasants and the factory workers flock to churches. Even remnants of the made irreligion their boast, are now seeking comfort in the Church. But it is the youth under the direct influence of governing atheists to whom the Bolsheviki are looking to destroy the Church utterly and to stifle all religion except that which finds its expression in communism and its god in a materialistic universe. One cannot be sure that the increasing number of child criminals is due to this alone, but undoubtedly the effect of the attempted banishing of religion from the minds of children and youth enters into the shocking statistics of crime.

The anti-Christian and anti-religious demonstrations at Christmas, where Buddha, Mohammed, etc., as well as our Divine Lord and His Blessed Mother were caricatured, were so gross that eye-witnesses declared that it was impossible to describe their blasphemous obscen-

We have been promised another religion" for Easter.

# OBERAMMERGAU TO COME

TO AMERICA as a priest to carry on a direct and knows the story of that vow; that mans in general and Bavarians in seriously. Our faith is a living active State treason." Here they if God would spare their beloved particular. But that is by the way. faith. We have sure and unchange- on a gentle elevation at Beaumont speak of the Celtic age of light, evidently refer to Poland, and the village from the plague that was He conversed with us as though able moral teaching. We have unalready fastened its grip on But according to the Soviet Govern- Oberammergau, they and their descendants would in thanksgiving, reverently present every ten years the sacred Drama of man's Redemption, the Passion of our Lord and Saviour, Jesus Christ. The plague

"They say it is becoming com-

Foreign Affairs, denied that failure have heard. The writer who saw money is not the measure of values; to it? to do so was due to prejudice and the Play twice last summer cannot said: "One of the essentials to repress a feeling of indignation at recognition of any Government was the calumny, for calumny it is pure that there should be some definitely and simple; and one that can hardly survive the fact that the tration of justice. These conditions villagers refused peremptorily and The Soviets have certainly not depreciated currency-of \$1,000,000 son to visit America. The Committee in its statement mark had sunk to 2,500 to the dollar, of into the sturdy character of who has been properly instructed in of justification declares that the and the hundred mark seat was worth these people may be gained from his holy religion ought as a matter into the Church by Bishop Gillis, Soviet government guarantees "the exactly four cents! Commercial the knowledge that, at the time an of course to be superior to one who

ment of a modest remuneration to

something like saving a handful of he visited Munich to have his teeth melted almost as fast; \$10,000 worth of marks when we were in Germany would now be worth \$100, and the \$100 may soon go to \$50.

Why then did the Passion Play Committee, supported by the whole village, refuse the wealth offered by the moving picture firm? That is a question that many might ask. So immersed are we in the materialism of our environment that even Catholics, we believe, will be found who would join in the query. But there are values for which materialdissolution of the Church, its leaders | ism has no measure; there are places martyred, has been rapid. The Government has fostered dissension by countenancing organizations of entered into possession of men's souls.

Southern Germans like the Rhinelanders were civilized centuries bereceived that civilization from the great law-giver and civilizer of Europe, Ancient Rome who prepared the way for the missionaries of the Cross. Long ages of Chrispeople the heirs of all that is best in three thousand years of European civilization.

To regard the villagers of Oberignorant artisans is to make an the orders for handiwork that came egregious mistake. Peasants and at the time of the Passion Play, the craftsmen they are, but steeped in carvers would today be chopping ages of unbroken Catholic tradition and Catholic culture. They regard could be found for this work in the Passion Play as closely akin to America, through the medium of an a solemn act of religious worship; exposition, the problems of the simulated emotion of actors but living during the trying years has its wellspring deep in souls ahead, the orphans cared for, the whose faith is simple, profound, much-needed hospital and schools unquestioning. They know that built, and above all, the Passion they are preaching Christ and Him Play given again in 1930 in comcrucified to hundreds of thousands from all parts of the world. And to make one of the six thousand that at each performance sit gripped such demonstration of "freedom of and thrilled by the old but evernew story of the suffering and death of the God-man, is to realize one it is easy to enter into the spirit No; the Passion Play of Ober- of the Oberammergauers who re- Arts, will arrive during October. ammergau is not coming across gard commercializing the Passion the ocean; but some of the Passion Play as something akin to sacrilege. York, Washington, Philadelphia and Players have arranged to come, not Two of us visited professionally a Chicago. to exploit the reputation of Play or physician of Munich. By the way, Players, but to get work that they for a thorough physical examinamay live; and also carry out the tion, prescription and advice he vow of their ancestors of three charged us about 80 cents eachcenturies ago in the spirit in which another example of the exploiting devastating the country and had English were his mother tongue. limited means of grace. We are Finding that we were tremendously Impressed by the Passion Play, his face lit up and he told us that for possess in our theology the true not give himself as usual to the We have at hand the answer to all "It makes one realize, does it not," things besides money?" It does. It deal of responsibility. We have McNeill, Under - Secretary for mercialized" is a remark many will transports one into a world where much to live up to. Do we live up where the familiar materialistic measurements seem not only inade-

quate but sordid. And so Anton Lang with a group of his fellow artists is accepting the invitation of Raymond C. Schindler

government were in Russia in March (or were of Russian nationality, according to Mr. Orch). The millions who, for the most part have always been devoted to the the receipts were finally turned over quisite to the saving of the soul. good of the whole community after to the actors the mark stood at The Church does not make condefrayal of the costs and the pay- 8,000 to the dollar! Anton Lang verts fast amongst non-Catholics; with a modest bill, but it was for 200,000 marks !

"Today conditions are at their marks a pound when it can be from Mrs. Anton Lang to a friend in this country gratefully acknowl- sight of all men. edges a gift of \$5 which, she says, will materially assist in caring for a baby she expects soon.

"It was these conditions that brought men of Oberammergau to the realization that desperate measures were needed and the way out was finally discovered. The art of Oberammergau is as old, fore the birth of Christ; they Passion Play itself. Its woodcarvers, potters and painters come from generations of wood-carvers. potters and painters. It is doubtful if any other community in the world of like size has as many tian civilization have made these artists, whose works have won such distinction in the art exhibitions of Europe as have the works of these simple people.

"Germany can no longer afford ammergau as uncouth peasants and these luxuries and were it not for wood in the forests. If an outlet and the reverence that character- village would be solved. The famiized the performances is not the lies would be assured a comfortable pliance with the vow made over three hundred years ago. In other words, the Oberammergauer was offered the opportunity to work out his own salvation."

According to Mr. Michelson it is expected that the Oberammergau that this is indeed a mission, per- craftsmen who have united for the petual and unique. For such an purpose of this visit under the name of the Oberammergau Home They will visit, in addition to New

## HOW WE CAN HELP By THE ORSERVER

What a world this would be if not swayed hither and thither by every wind of religious caprice. We weeks after witnessing it he could application of all moral principles. have Holy Mass and the Sacraments. he asked, "that there are other All this brings to us a very great

How is it that you can take individual cases, and on comparing them, not only does it not seem that Catholics are better than others actually it sometimes seems that finally the incredible sum-in their of New York and Mr. Peter Michel- the others are better, and in fact they sometimes are? It ought to be "Few Americans have any concep- olic. When the Catholic is morally ized! These villagers could have offer of \$1,000,000 for a film of the has never had the same advantages.

filled the vast auditorium at fifty play was rejected, the villagers, in Take for instance the matter of teenth year. in an article in the current Atlantic in the current Atlanti summed up by the New York Times: travelled through Southerm Ger- teachers whose work must begin we all love one another? Do we not Leslie joined the Community, the The revolution of March, 1917, many, yet the calumny of exorbit- now if there is to be any Passion leave it open to non-Catholics and to Ursulines of the Incarnation, and unbelievers to say that if we ignore was, therefore, at the time of "The receipts from the Passion that test and never try to measure her death its oldest member.

played his wonderful Christus, when given, the same seats sold for about in a Church which teaches all mistake not, was the author of the the distribution was made was \$2.50. These prices were never intruth and teaches it unerringly; a History of St. Margaret's Convent three dollars and a half in our creased, and when the play closed in money as the mark stood at that September last, the mark was only money as the mark stood at that September last, the mark was only theology as an indispensable prereserved as an indispensable prereserved as the mark is that its founder. Bishop latitude the British added to their

worked eleven months in rehearsals and the fault is in us her children. and performances and received a We could make her name so re-But, alas, saving marks was total of 27,000. Following the play spected that no man would ever dare to say anything against her. something like saving a handful of this unseasonable snow; their value fixed and the dentist presented him Of what effect would it be for eration may be cited a full-page admalignant men to say that our Holy vertisement of the writings of Col. Church was evil if we her children stood as her witnesses; if in our in some of the leading American popworst. Shoes cost not less than daily lives we proved that she is ular magazines. In this advertisewhat she tells an unbelieving world ment, Ingersoll is described as the that she is. What amount of preobtained. Everything else is in judice or hatred could stand the "most powerful man of his proportion and actual living is againt the edification of a united time." "He stood alone as the almost impossible. A recent letter body of Catholics numbered in greatest thinker and orator this millions and living their religion in

although not so well known, as the Church require us to do. Why do we make it necessary for the priestto be sober and chaste and honest, the preaching of the Gospel to all nations?

No sooner does a young man develop a vocation to the holy priesthood, (and vocations are scarce enough too;) than he has to dowhat? He has to set to work, not to make new converts to the Church but to prevent the people who are already Catholics from going to hell in spite of the Church and despite all the graces they receive on every hand through membership in that Church. And all his life he is kept at that heart-breaking labor. And yet we sometimes hear Catholics ask what the Church is doing to make converts and why she does not make more converts. How can she make converts while all the time of her priests is taken up in persuading the Catholics, who should be themselves assisting in faith. thoughts now and then to getting into Heaven.

NOTES AND COMMENTS

OF ALL the war memorials erected in France there is none more dignified or in better taste than the Celtic cross dedicated to the memory of the fallen of the 8th Battalion, Argyll and Sutherland Highlanders. And its dignity arises centuries ago in the spirit in which that vow was made. Everyone knows the story of that vow; that mans in general and Bavarians in seriously. Our faith is a living that work that was another example of the exploiting that a world this would be if the catholics took their responsibilities from its very simplicity. Its height is about twenty feet, and it stands archies in new Continents. We may Hamel, overlooking the scene of one of the most sanguinary struggles gers bore the torch kindled on Easter morning at royal Tara to of the War in which this celebrated | Iona, to Lindisfarne, to St. Gall and regiment participated, and won for Fulda, to Fiesole and Southern its members, from the Germans, the title of "the ladies from hell." The cousins dwelling amid the forests of France. We have lately been reminded that St. Malachy of ceremony of dedication which took ordinary things of everyday life, the social problems of the day. We place on a recent Sunday was as Armagh shares with St. Bernard simple as the monument itself. An illustration in the Weekly Scotsman depicts the regimental pipers founded it; and long before this date Irish learning had inspired encircling the memorial playing a Alcuin to set up the school at Paris, lament.

intelligence of the death of a venerable member of the Ursuline Comwho have not their advantages, but munity of St. Margaret's Convent. Edinburgh, in the person of Mother Mary de Sales Leslie (Margaret Leslie), daughter of Archibald Leslie of Balnageith, in Morayshire, and grand daughter of a Laird The reasons Mr. Michelson thus an unheard of thing for a non-Cath- Leslie of Balnageith, in Morayshire, olic to be a better man than a Cath- and grand-daughter of a Laird-Minister of the Established Church, Play closed in September the insight into these conditions as well his responsibility; for, a Catholic Caithness. The deceased religious was a convert, having been received Vicar Apostolic of the Eastern District, in 1847, when in her six-

In 1852, shortly after St. rather, unreligious. The Church was, in the main, with the people. It was not until later that the anti-religious elements came into conrections. They came from abroad. Few of those who grasped the reins of those who grasped the reins of those who grasped the reins of the control of the con

Gillis, was a Canadian, having been born in Montreal, where he spent his youth and received his early training.

As one indication of the aggressive character of unbelief in this gen-"Bob" Ingersoll, which is appearing country (U. S. A.) has ever seen," says this fulsome panegyric, and "a Why do not Catholic priests not full set of his writings, in 12 handmake more converts? Because all some volumes," can be had for a their working hours are taken up contract and a mere song. So runs with a more or less unsuccessful this alluring bait, and the present listen and obey when we know with- Church is just such as to furnish out any further telling what the laws | fruitful soil for this insidious propaof God and the teachings of the ganda. For, how many of those who take the bait ever heard of Father Lambert's (to name but one) hood of the Catholic Church to wear scathing exposure of the shallowout their lives in efforts to get us ness and sophism of this sacrilegious mountebank to whose taking up time and energy that memory the kindest tribute would should be set free for the conversion be forgetfulness. In this connecof the world to Christ Jesus, for tion may be recalled that saying of Mark Twain's in reference to one of the notorious atheist's "most popular" lectures, that he "wouldn't give two cents to hear what Bob Ingersoll had to say about the 'Mistakes of Moses,' but he would give a good deal to hear what Moses would have to say about the mistakes of Ingersoll."

### ST. PATRICK, PRAY FOR US

By Canon William Barry, D. D., in The Catholic Times

To my thinking, as I survey past and present, the figure of St. Patrick at Tara and Armagh looms up with a greatness which takes him beyond the celebrity of most heroes. St. Patrick was an Apostle to a nation, a slave who conquered his master's clan by giving them the Catholic and R. He made of the pagan Celt the spread of Catholic truth, not to go straight to hell but to give a few when the Western world was falling asunder in political or religious revolution—in the sixth and the sixteenth centuries-these converts by their descendants came to the help of that Church from whose teaching they had learned the mystery and supernatural virtue of Christ's holy Cross. Our kindred may be proud in a spiritual sense, which implies humility towards God but independence of man, that once and again our downtrodden and far from fortunate race have contributed in decisive fashion to from converted Erin messen-Italy, as also to their the honors due from the great Cistercian Order to the holy men who which grew in time to be the chief university of Christendom. Mediæ-val copies of the New Testament EXCHANGES FROM Scotland bring still existing show in their script the Irish character; the illuminated Book of Kells, now preserved at Trinity College, Dublin, is the most beautiful text of the Gospel ever made by mortal hands. But our forecasts America made Catholic by an exiled nation, and his dream is coming true. Instead of those ancient names I have quoted of monasteries abroad, sanctified by teachers from Ireland, read now New York, Boston, Chicago; take care not to overlook Sydney and Melbourne; and glancing back to where this extraordinary movement started, see what multitudes of Irish Catholics live and thrive in Glasgow, in Lancashire, and in London. The slave Apostle has away, but which Catholic Ireland would not give up.

MISSION OF THE IRISH RACE

For, if the first glorious age was

iniquitous laws, repeated confica-tions, leading on to the flight of her Empire by colonising or conquest, Ireland set up her modest chapel, began to practice the rites of religious ion, and as years went on raised up schools and all the institutions of charity by which her people—for they still clung in heart and feeling to the old country—should be pro-tected against losing themselves in the modern chaos. There was a Greater Ireland in the Western Hemisphere, and under the Southern Cross. At home a small nation, the converts of St. Patrick had given birth abroad to millions, who must be taken into account by every Government because of their creed which stood four-square against all the winds of change that blew. Here, then, was a stable power, at yet in its dealings with fellow-citizens altogether friendly, on once conservative in principle and which society might reckon. So long as the Irish Catholic held to his religion he could not be a partisan of secret conspiracies, anarchist plots, or mere schemes of effort to get us to listen to them; state of religious belief in the us who ought to need no coaxing to United States outside the Catholic eschew intolerance; and its larger lesson was that we should persuade others and not coerce them. freedom reigns," said that illustrious Irishman, the late Cardinal Gibbons, "there religion blossoms like the rose." St. Patrick's weapon was the Gospel, set forth in pleading tones by a Saint whose daily life furnished the most convincing demonstration of its truth and beauty. Wisdom has always meant for the Celtic races a super-Wisdom has always natural power, intercourse with words hidden from eyes clouded over by sin; there is in it a divine simplicity, a glamor and a magic far beyond the reach of mere cleverness in dealing with men; in Ireland it has always had its silent sanctuaries-Glendalough or Clon macnoise, or the hermit-lodges of Gougane Barra. Never did St. Patrick bring war to Ireland. He was the man of God, therefore the man of peace.

"FOR YE ARE BRETHREN

On St. Patrick's Day, which is kept in so many of the world's capitals and under soaring cathedral spires. I am hoping to say Mass at my own altar on behalf of Catholic Ireland. We began the custom here in Leamington when war was mounting to a height, and we have observed it ever since. But how melancholy must be our reflections while we pray! The language of St. Paul strikes home home to me: 'I say the truth in Christ that I have great heaviness and continued sorrow in my heart for my brethren, my kinsmen according to the flesh." Who is there but must grieve with so true a patriot and so devoted a pastor as the venerable Cardinal of Armagh, now held under Orange rule, not heeded when he implores peace among the irreconcilables that are making of their native land a desolation It was the unhappy fate of Jacob, well-stricken in years, to look on sad and helpless at his son's quarrels which only a miracle of Providence could heal. But have we any right to expect such a miracle? I think God Himself must take pity on the scattered stones and burnt dwellings of Ireland, as He looks down on the havoc wrought by her own sons and daughters. thy destruction, ing prophet, when he lamented over Sion's downfall. The hardest and strangest of all her trials during the centuries has now fallen upon our beloved country, laid waste by no Dane or Saxon. And shall we imagine that St. Patrick in God's heaven does not feel it? He does feel it, we may be sure; in the words of Holy Scripture, which describe how the Almighty regarded human perversity before the Flood, he has been "cut to the heart" by our differences, which kindle the fires of ruin all around. Precisely because our great Patron feels fo the nation he has brought to Christ we may turn to Him with confidence in this hour of distress and perplexity. Great is our need of St.
Patrick's own prayer called his
"breast-plate," or in Scripture
style the "shield and buckler of the Lord," against evil powers, leagued to destroy not only the fair inheritance we have received, but Ireland's good name abroad, as well as to transform the sympathy of the nations so long her portion to regret and amazement at a worse than civil war among those whom she would have to be brethren. There-fore I cry: "St. Patrick, pray for us, and God save Ireland."

#### RELIGIOUS SCHOOLS IN ENGLAND

Catholic schools have shown decided gains while Anglican, Wesleyan and Jewish schools have shown substantial losses in the number of their pupils during the past few years, according to statistics covering public education in England and Wales for 1919-20,

recently published.

The last figures were published for 1913-14, the War having interfered with the publication in the