

WORK OF "BIG SISTERS"

BLESSED BY POPE

Chicago, Ill., Jan. 6.—The Papal blessing extended as a special mark of approval and appreciation for their work to the Big Sisters, was bestowed upon hundreds of members of the organization and their families, by Right Rev. Edward F. Hoban, auxiliary bishop and spiritual director, in the Gothic chapel at Quigley Preparatory Seminary on Sunday afternoon.

The ceremonial followed a sermon delivered by Rev. Joseph W. Casey, of Mount Carmel parish, an address by Bishop Hoban, and a Solemn Benediction sung by the Seminararians. The papal blessing was accompanied by a letter to Mrs. George V. McIntyre, president of the Big Sisters, from Cardinal Gasparri, the Papal Secretary of State which read as follows:

"My Dear Madam: I did not fail to present to the august throne of His Holiness, the tribute of devoted and filial sentiments of love and attachment expressed for His Holiness by your praiseworthy society of the 'Big Sisters.'"

"The Holy Father appreciated very much this solemn testimonial of faith and loyalty, all the more dear to him because you rendered especially precious the beautiful deeds of charity and of social service, to which this association has been consecrated with such flattering results, for the welfare and protection of our young womanhood."

"His Holiness therefore, acquiescing to the religious desire communicated to him by your ladyship, is most pleased to grant to you and upon your charitable undertakings His Apostolic Benediction, which he extends indeed from his heart to all the ladies of the association, and to the members of their families, with the hope that they may continue to labor, with ever increasing enthusiasm and always greater success, for the final triumph of a program of action so holy and so useful for the religious, moral and social betterment of mankind."

"In communicating the above message to your ladyship, I have the pleasure of assuring you of my highest regard, Yours Most Devotedly, in Our Lord, P. CARD. GASPARRI."

BATTLE FOR FAITH IN PHILIPPINES

By Rev. Michael Mathis, C. S. C.

There is only one remedy for the distressing condition of things Catholic in the Philippines. Catholic America must do as much to preserve the faith of the 8,000,000 Catholic Filipinos, as Protestant America is doing to destroy it.

Self-sacrificing priests are urgently needed to break the bread of life to the famishing Catholics of the forty pastorless parishes of the Manila diocese and to those of the other dioceses of the islands. What one American priest can do in the Philippines is shown by the effective service of the Rev. Edwin Byrne, a secular priest from Philadelphia, who is secretary to the Bishop of Jaro. For six years Father Byrne has been giving only his spare moments to the students of the public high school in his own town and these spare moments have been sufficient to counteract the proselytizing influence of Protestant rivals.

The decisive battle will be won or lost in the schools. It is inspiring to visit the American Jesuit college, the Ateneo de Manila, and to see the marvels accomplished within a year. It is inspiring to catch some of the enthusiasm of the Rev. Father Byrne, S. J., the rector, who is constantly appealing for more American educators to take up the apostolate in the Philippines.

It is also inspiring, even if somewhat pathetic to visit the only parochial school of Manila, which is attached to the Irish Redemptorist parish. The results attained are excellent and the spirit of the teachers is truly apostolic, but there is confirmed again the sad fact that every nation save America is well represented among the Catholic missionaries of the Philippines. The school is managed by a Belgian nun.

Unquestionably the most potent non-Catholic agency in the Philippines is education. Elaborate educational facilities can be offered by the rich Protestant sects to the Catholic students. There have been instances where the public schools of the land have been used to belittle and cast slurs upon things Catholic. The whole public school system has a Protestant atmosphere. The normal school itself is presided over by a Protestant minister and both the normal schools and the universities are honeycombed with Protestant dormitories and Y. M. C. A. hostels, whose alluringly low rates and intensive proselytism have only one purpose, the winning of the faith from the Catholic student.

Filipino Catholics have attempted to counteract these influences by providing one dormitory for boys and another for girls at the Manila University. This is of course very praiseworthy but at most only a small fraction of the students can be reached.

Inasmuch as the present condition of affairs in the Philippines followed upon American occupation and the Americanization of the

islands it is a peculiar duty of American Catholics to save the faith of the Philippines.

NOTABLE SCRIPTURAL STUDY

WRITTEN BY FRANCISCAN PRIEST

Washington, D. C. Jan. 2.—The return of Dr. Henry Hyvernat from Rome following the completion of his work at the Vatican Library in connection with the Coptic manuscripts of J. Pierpont Morgan has served to increase interest in notable scriptural works done recently by students of the Catholic University under the direction of Dr. Hyvernat and other distinguished scriptural scholars.

According to savants, few have been more interesting from the viewpoint of textual criticism, than that of the Rev. Dr. Joseph Francis Rhode, O. F. M., now stationed at the old mission Santa Barbara, whose dissertation on "The Arabic Versions of the Pentateuch in the Church of Egypt," submitted for the degree of doctor of philosophy at the University, has been accorded a high place. In the course of the work, eighteen manuscripts of the Arabic and Coptic-Arabic versions of the Pentateuch were examined, representing the Use of the Egyptian Church during the centuries which followed the conquest of the Nile Valley by Arabic-speaking Islam.

From the eighth to the thirteenth century the Greek Septuagint version of the Old Testament and the Coptic vernacular version of the same were forced out of daily use by the Moslem conquerors of the Christian Coptic population. Critical students of the Old Testament text have made but little use of the Arabic versions, and the work of Dr. Rhode promises to be of great value to these students, supplementing, as it does, hitherto vague and indirect knowledge of the Arabic versions of the Pentateuch of the Egyptian Church.

Though he does not enter upon a detailed study of the age, origin and mutual relations of the versions, Dr. Rhode has reached many important conclusions in his dissertations. New editions of the modern Arabic Bible, both Catholic and Protestant, are expected to profit by the exact and laborious studies, for which Dr. Rhode utilized the Arabic scriptural manuscripts of the National Library at Paris, the Vatican, the Oxford and the British Museum libraries. In his introduction Dr. Rhode acknowledged the assistance given him by two Catholic University professors, Dr. Franz Joseph Coln, professor of Sacred Scripture and Dr. Romanus Butin, associated professor of Semitic Languages and Literatures.

PROMINENT LAYMEN WHO DIED IN 1922

Prominent American Catholics who had taken a leading part in the nation's affairs who died during the year included General Luke E. Wright, secretary of war in President Roosevelt's cabinet, and for several years Governor-General of the Philippines; Major General James McAndrew, chief of staff of the American Expeditionary Force and the officer who directed from headquarters the offensive that broke the Hindenburg line; Colonel Daniel E. McCarthy, chief quartermaster of the A. E. F. and the first officer of that command to reach France; Bellamy Storer, former American ambassador to Austria-Hungary who died in Paris, and Congressman John I. Nolan of California were among other outstanding Catholics in public life to pass away. Hannis Taylor, former U. S. Ambassador to Spain and distinguished in literary circles died in the final week of the old year.

Daniel P. Colwell, one of the original incorporators of the Knights of Columbus died in New Haven. He had served as supreme secretary of the order for twenty-seven years, John Theodore Comes, noted architect and one of the leading authorities on ecclesiastical architecture in this country died in Pittsburgh.

Other prominent Catholics whose lives will leave their stamp on those behind them who died during the year included Edwin Mulready, of Rockland, Mass., nationally known as a temperance worker; Harry P. Nawn, of Boston, the distinguished construction engineer who built the Wachusett Dam, near Clinton, Mass.; Dr. Horatio P. Storer, then the oldest living graduate of Harvard and a convert who gained international fame as an obstetrician; Colonel Roger F. Scanlon, a noted Irish leader, and Dr. Jokichi Takamine, famous Japanese chemist who had made his home in the United States for many years.

The United States was not the only country to sustain the loss of distinguished lay figures. In Ireland the protracted conflict brought about the deaths of many prominent Catholics, among whom were listed Cathal Brugha, Michael Collins, Harry Boland, Arthur Griffith and Liam Mellows.

France witnessed the deaths of Baron Denys Cochin, a former minister and distinguished Catholic patriot; Leon Harmel, one of the leaders of the French Catholic social movement; Gabriel Latouche, veteran journalist, and said to be the best informed laymen on religious matters in France; Henri Bazin, poet and war correspondent; M. Alexandre Guasco, general secretary for the Central Council of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, and M. Georges Lemoine, former president of the Academy of Sciences.

News of the death in Austria of the Countess Maria Theresa Ledochowska, founder of the St. Peter Claver Society for the African Missions, caused universal regret throughout Europe and the United States. In England, a distinguished convert and one of the world's greatest singers and composers passed away in Sir Charles Santley. Signor Luigi Denza, the celebrated Italian composer, died in London. Hans Huber, one of the leading figures in musical circles on the continent, died in his native Switzerland.

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, Jan. 14.—St. Hilary of Poitiers, was born and educated a pagan and did not embrace Christianity until near middle age. He entered Holy Orders and was chosen Bishop of his native city in 353. Because he upheld the orthodox cause against Arianism in several Gallic councils he was banished by the Emperor Constantine to Phrygia. In exile he composed his great works on the Trinity. After a great personal triumph at the Council of Seucia he was allowed to return to Gaul where he died 368.

Monday, Jan. 15.—St. Paul, the first hermit, was born in Upper Egypt about the year 290. He retired into the desert during the persecutions and finding himself suited to the solitary life of prayer and penance, he remained there. Many remarkable things are related of his manner of life and of his death.

Tuesday, Jan. 16.—St. Honoratus, Archbishop, was of a consular Roman family settled in Gaul. Retiring from the world he founded the famous monastery of Lerins on the small island known as St. Honoré. He was, by compulsion, consecrated Archbishop of Arles in 426 and died in 429.

Wednesday, Jan. 17.—St. Antony, Patriarch of monks, was born in the year 251. He gave away his vast possessions and entered the desert to perfect himself in the life of the spirit. Many souls flocked to him for advice and after twenty years of solitude he consented to guide them in holiness—thus founding the first monastery. He died peacefully at a very advanced age.

Thursday, Jan. 18.—St. Peter's Chair at Rome. It was an ancient custom observed by the churches to keep an annual festival of the consecration of their bishops. The feast of the Chair of St. Peter is found in ancient martyrologies. Christians justly celebrate the founding of this mother church, the center of Catholic communion in thanksgiving to God for His Mercies to His Church, and to implore His future blessings.

Friday, Jan. 19.—St. Canutus, King, Martyr, was King of Denmark. He was noted for devotion to the cause of Christianity and for his solicitude for the welfare of his people. A rebellion having sprung up in his kingdom, the king was surprised at church by the rebels. Perceiving his danger, he confessed his sins at the foot of the altar and received Holy Communion. Stretching out his arms before the altar, the Saint fervently recommended his soul to his Creator; in this posture he was struck by a javelin thrown through a window and fell a victim for Christ's sake.

Saturday, Jan. 20.—St. Sebastian, martyr, was an officer in the Roman army. He led multitudes to the faith, among them the Prefect of Rome. When Sebastian was betrayed by a false disciple, he was led before Diocletian and at the Emperor's command was pierced with arrows and left for dead. But God raised him up again and of his own accord he went before the Emperor and conjured him to stay the persecution of the Church. Again sentenced, he was beaten to death with clubs.

CATHOLICISM GROWS IN WALES Since the Principality of Wales was raised to the rank of an ecclesiastical province by the late Pope Benedict XV. in 1916, with the metropolitan archiepiscopal See fixed at Cardiff, Catholicism has made the most remarkable progress amongst the Welsh. Under the first Archbishop, Mgr. Bilborough, this progress was not so much marked; the new archdiocese being in a transitional stage. But since that native son of Wales, Mgr. Francis Mostyn, was appointed Archbishop and Metropolitan in March 1917, not only has the Church gone ahead, but in its way the Metropolitan city of Cardiff has become one of the most important centres of Catholic life in the kingdom.

The credit must not, of course, be given entirely to the Welsh, for the fact remains very prominently that the Irish Catholics are very strong in the Welsh capital and in the towns that come under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Archbishop of Cardiff. Religious houses have increased, new churches and schools have been built, and now the Christian Brothers with the assistance

of some of their members from Ireland are to open up the first Catholic high school for boys in the history of Cardiff. In the city itself the Catholics are prominent in public life, and from all accounts, public life is the better for their participation in affairs. Last year the city had a Catholic for its Lord Mayor, and on the occasion of his attendance at Pontifical Mass in full civic state all the municipal organizations of Cardiff turned out to accompany their Chief Magistrate to Catholic worship.

Priests, too, take a by no means inconspicuous part in public life. Several priests, among them the Archbishop's private secretary and one of the Canon's of the Metropolitan Chapter are serving on public boards, such as that of the Guardians of the Poor, while in other directions still there are signs of great Catholic participation. The province of Cardiff covers the whole of Wales, with that part of England, that comes into the former diocese of Newport. But since Mgr. Mostyn was translated by the Holy See from the diocese of Menevia to Cardiff, the former See has remained vacant. Although many names have been mentioned as likely candidates for the bishopric, there seems to be a generally accepted opinion that Rome will not appoint to Menevia and that the jurisdiction will possibly become merged in that of the archbishopric.

The territory of the diocese of Menevia takes in the whole of the western half of Wales, stretching from the extreme south, separated from Caldey Island, up to the north sea coast. Except in the towns, which are of no great size, the Catholics are scattered, and congregations poor. Indeed, it is doubtful whether Menevia can support a bishop unless he has a private income of his own, which was the only thing that made the episcopate of Bishop Mostyn possible.

The Catholic Church in Wales is comparatively new. As recently as 1895 Pope Leo XIII. separated certain territory from the dioceses of Newport and Shrewsbury, which he formed into the Apostolic Vicariate of Wales, and it was not until 1898 that the diocese of Menevia was canonically erected. As a matter of fact there was an ancient diocese of Menevia founded by the Holy See in very ancient times, and the title was changed by Rome to that of St. David's—a title at present usurped by an Anglican prelate.

SAXON MINISTER REPROVED

By Rev. Dr. Wilhelm Baron von Fleissner The order issued by Dr. Fleissner, Minister of Religions of Saxony, refusing to excuse children from school to attend church on holy days not recognized as legal holidays by the State, is in conflict with the constitution of the German Republic, according to an opinion formally expressed by the Minister of the Interior of Berlin government. The opinion was made known in a letter addressed to Dr. Fleissner by the Berlin minister. The action of the Saxon Socialist Minister has provoked a storm of protest not only from the Catholics of Saxony but also from the Protestants. A number of Protestant papers, including the Vossische Zeitung of Berlin, have denounced his attempt to interfere with the free exercise of religion. The Vossische Zeitung declared that such an act of oppression was unparalleled even in the days of the absolute or constitutional monarchies and remarked that of all political parties, the Socialists should be most interested in preserving absolute freedom of religious practices and observances.

OBITUARY

REV. MOTHER FOLEY It is with sincere regret we announce the death in London, England, of Rev. Mother Foley, a much beloved religious of the Sacred Heart Order. For years the dear departed was Superior in London, Canada, and may we beg through the columns of the CATHOLIC RECORD that her former pupils will remember her fervently in their grateful prayers. Rev. Mother Foley was truly one of God's noblest women working in His interests and for the welfare of His children that they might grow closer to the Heart of our dear Lord, and many indeed have carried in their memories the long lessons imparted to them by a faithful, unselfish, devoted religious who has gone to her reward, loved in this life and remembered affectionately, now close indeed to the Heart of Him for whom she worked so faithfully.

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HANLEY.—On Dec. 12th, at Ovanda, Montana, Mrs. Thomas Killorin, formerly Anna F. Hanley. May her soul rest in peace. SWEENEY.—At Iroquois, Ont., on Jan. 2, Bernard Sweeney, leaving a wife, five small children, also two brothers and four sisters to mourn his sad loss. May his soul rest in peace. BEEHAN.—At Cupids, C. Bay, on December 23rd, 1922, in her sixtieth year, fortified by the rites of Holy Church, Marguerite, eldest daughter of Patrick J. and Mary Beehan. May her soul rest in peace.

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