

CATHOLIC PAPERS

THE OSSERVATORE ROMANO PRAISES BISHOPS' ACTIVITY

By Mar. Enrico Pucci (Rome Correspondent, N. C. W. C.) The Osservatore Romano, official paper of the Holy See, in a recent issue extols the promising development of the Catholic press in America and the active propaganda of the American Bishops to promote its growth and influence.

The Roman paper observes that the month of February has been chosen by the Catholic Hierarchy of the United States to be the month of the press, and quotes some letters written by the North American Bishops in aid of a better Catholic press; for instance, the letters of His Eminence Cardinal Hayes, Archbishop of New York; Mgr. Hickey, Bishop of Providence; and the message of the Bishop of Harrisburg, the Right Rev. Philip R. McDevitt, Chairman of the Press and Publicity Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

After the general mention of the Catholic Church's activity in North America in favor of the press, and particularly of the powerful work displayed in that field by the N. C. W. C., the Director of the Osservatore Romano, Count Dalla Torre, comments on this activity in a leading article.

He warmly praises the action of the United States episcopate, clergy, and laity, and extols the religious importance, and moral efficacy of the Catholic press. He also calls attention to the difficulties under which the Catholic press at present is conducted. Then he insists upon the necessity of building up the conscience of the Catholics in every country in regard to their duty towards that press which aims at the defense and propagation of Catholic ideals. He writes: "America teaches us that the strength of this conscience, of this faith, of this enthusiasm for the newspaper is built up in a quicker, more vivid and prompter way from propaganda and authority. There are men who, conscious of the responsibility which attaches to their work, declare that whatever can be done in any field of Catholic action is little or nothing compared with that which can be obtained by means of the newspaper."

WEEKLY CALENDAR

Sunday, April 19.—St. Elphege, Archbishop, was a member of a noble Saxon family. He entered the religious life and for a time lived as a hermit near Bath. Chosen Bishop of Winchester at the age of thirty, he later became Archbishop of Canterbury. When the Danes invaded England in 1011, St. Elphege was captured. His captors demanded a large ransom and when he refused to permit a tax to be laid upon the people so that the ransom could be paid, the Danes fell upon him in fury and killed him.

Monday, April 20.—St. Marcellinus, Bishop, was a native of Africa, born of a noble family. He went into Gaul and preached the Gospel with great success being assisted by his two companions Vincent and Dominus. After he died at Embrun about 874 many miracles at his tomb were reported.

Tuesday, April 21.—St. Anselm, Archbishop of Canterbury. His episcopal life was a continual struggle with Kings William Rufus and Henry I, chiefly over the question of investitures. He introduced the Feast of the Immaculate Conception to the West. The Saint died in 1109.

Wednesday, April 22.—St. Soter, Pope and martyr, was raised to the throne of Peter following the death of Pope Anicetus in 178. He ruled until the year 177. He was noted for his charities and for the vigor with which he opposed the heresy of Montanus.

Thursday, April 23.—St. George, Patron of England. This Saint was a tribune under Diocletian who made bold to rebuke the Emperor for persecuting the Christians. He was cruelly tortured and finally beheaded.

Friday, April 24.—St. Fidelis of Sigmaringen, born in 1577, became a rich and eminent lawyer, but retired

to enter the Capuchin Order. He preached against the Calvinists in Switzerland and so infuriated the heretics that after he had delivered a sermon at Sevis he was attacked and killed.

Saturday, April 25.—St. Mark, Evangelist. He was converted by St. Peter whom he later accompanied to Rome as secretary and interpreter. He founded the Church in Alexandria. After governing this see in wisdom and virtue for many years he was seized by the pagans and killed.

LOW-COST TRIP TO PACIFIC COAST

A captivating four-week tour of Western Canada and the Pacific Coast, with a trip through the United States on the return journey, is being planned for Canadian teachers and their friends this summer.

Those who take advantage of this trip will see the greatest scenery on the continent—the Buffalo herd at Wainwright; Jasper National Park; with its unsurpassed mountain scenery; Mount Robson, the highest peak in the Canadian Rockies; the totem poles of Kitwanga and the mystic beauty of the Skeena River.

At Prince Rupert the party transfers from train to boat for the glorious water trip of 750 miles through the sheltered Seacoast of the North Pacific Coast to Vancouver, Victoria and Seattle.

On the return trip five wonderful days will be spent touring Yellowstone National Park by motor, with a trip to Salt Lake City and three days at Rocky Mountain National Park, Colorado. Then it's Denver, Clear Creek Canyon, Idaho Springs and Lookout Mountain before heading for Chicago and Toronto.

The tour leaves Toronto July 9th, and you cannot afford to miss it. Full information, fares, etc., can be secured with illustrated booklet from A. E. Bryson, 44 Silverthorn Ave., Toronto, Martin Kerr, 4 Beulah Ave., Hamilton, or any Canadian National Railways Agent.

HOLY YEAR PILGRIMAGE TO ROME

From Montreal there will be a pilgrimage under the spiritual direction of the Jesuit Fathers, with the approval of His Eminence Cardinal Begin of Quebec. Departure will be by the White Star Dominion Line S.S. "Meganitic" on May 30th, 1926, for Rome via London and Paris, thence a short tour of Europe that includes Palestine, the Holy Land, and the Vatican. One of the special objects of this pilgrimage is to attend the Beatification of the Eight Jesuit Martyrs of Canada. The ceremonies taking place in St. Peter's on June 14th and June 21st. Return is by S.S. "Meganitic" from Liverpool, July 10th, arriving Montreal, July 17th.

NEW BOOK

"Talks with Teachers." By Sister Marie Paula, Ph. D. 12mo. Cloth. Net \$1.75. This book is a distinctive and substantial contribution to practical pedagogics. Catholic teachers particularly will welcome it because its author understands their problems through actually sharing their experience. Sister Marie Paula is a member of the faculty of St. Vincent's-on-the-Hudson, a leading Catholic college, and her articles in the educational magazine have aroused general commendation. The author leaves disputed theories of education for more pretentious volumes. Her purpose here is merely to give her fellow-teachers the benefit of her observations on certain practical phases of the work.

One chapter outlines a very effective method of putting life and interest into the history class. There are many excellent suggestions for specialized study. Many stimulating passages are sure to arm the teacher against indifference and discouragement. A wealth of similarly valuable material treated tersely but to the point, makes the book invaluable to the teaching Sister.

Of course, every convent library will have as many copies as necessary to insure constant use. For Sale at THE CATHOLIC RECORD, London, Ont.

TEN COMMANDMENTS READ IN SCHOOLS

New York.—It is expected that the Board of Education of this city at its next meeting will be asked to adopt an Amendment to the by-laws governing procedure in the Public Schools to provide that the Ten Commandments shall be read without comment at least once a week. Bible reading without comment is already authorized under existing by-laws.

The movement to bring this about had its origin at a meeting attended by representatives of Catholic, Episcopalian, Jewish, Congregationalist, and Methodist organizations. Miss Helen P. McCormick, President of the Catholic Big Sisters of Brooklyn was among those who initiated the movement.

At one of the meetings recently held in connection with this movement Miss Celeste Swenson, former member of a committee which checked up on cheating in High School examinations, said:

"The cheaters invariably had no knowledge of religion. This would imply that there is a group of people in the High Schools creating trouble for us because they have had no moral training."

OBITUARY

MR. PETER LAURENCE McDONELL

At Schenectady, N. Y., on Sunday, March 22nd, fortified by the rites of Holy Mother Church, Peter McDonnell, son of Mr. and Mrs. D. J. R. McDonnell, Greenfield, Ont., passed to his eternal reward at the age of twenty-four years.

The funeral, which was largely attended, took place on March 25th, from his late home to St. Catherine's Church, Greenfield, where Requiem Mass was chanted by Rev. C. F. Gauthier. Rev. R. A. McDonald was present in the sanctuary. At the grave Rev. D. A. Campbell, cousin of the deceased officiated.

He leaves to mourn his loss his sorrowing parents, five sisters, Sister M. Fidelis of the Gray Nuns' Convent of Philadelphia, Jean, Mae Irene, Anna Gladys, and Julia Eleanor, and three brothers John Angus, Leonard and Duncan Bernard. R. I. P.

CIVIL WAR FEARED IN ALBANIA

By Dr. Frederic Funder (Vienna Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

The persecution of the Catholics of Albania, initiated by the government of the Mohammedan usurper, Achmed Zogu, has aroused that country to such an extent that the so-called government is apprehensive of the outbreak of actual civil war. Excitement among the Catholic tribes of Northern Albania is at a fever heat. The Miridites, the largest of these tribes and, in a military sense, the most powerful, are particularly incensed and it is from them that the government is particularly fearful of trouble.

In the meantime the usurper's Government has initiated a policy of terror through which it is hoped to break the opposition. This campaign culminated recently in the assassination of the former Catholic Minister Gurakuchi, recognized leader of the Albanian Catholics. He was shot down by agents of Achmed Zogu in the Italian city of Bari. He was undoubtedly the most prominent Catholic layman in Albania, and had been a member of the Albanian Parliament during the entire existence of that legislative body. Several times he was Minister of Finance, Minister of Education. During the Austrian Occupation he was in charge of Albanian educational matters where his labors on behalf of popular education constitute one of his greatest achievements. Under his direction a system of school organization was worked out and put into operation.

M. Gurakuchi was a graduate of the University of Rome and had studied at other European seats of learning. He was for a considerable time the headmaster of the first Albanian Grammar School of Elbasan, and gained wide notice as an author. Among his works were numerous school text-books. His eloquence and great personal courage gained him popularity but also made him odious to the tyrants now in power and his prominence cost him his life.

During the past few days ten other opponents of the Achmed Zogu regime have been executed in Albania. Among those killed were Captains Ali Risa Topali and Ali Tahaku—the latter, the man who had a great deal to do with establishing Achmed Zogu's complicity in the murder of two Americans last April—and also Captain Mark Raku, a noted Catholic of Scutari. The commissions of thirty-four Catholic deputies in the Albanian parliament have been declared void as a part of the Government's campaign of suppression and terror.

TO CHECK CHILD MARRIAGES

New York.—Ten rules for eliminating the evils believed to be inherent in the prevalence of child marriages are recommended in the report of the Russell Sage Foundation issued here. The report is based on several years investigation of conditions affecting the marriage of children in ninety different American cities. The recommendations include:

Work for laws making the minimum marriageable age for girls at least sixteen instead of twelve as now allowed in many States. Require five days notice of intent to marry. Abolish "forty notorious Gretna Greens" in this country where marriages are now exploited and commercialized.

Stop the railroading of "out of town" marriages by marriage license clerks and Justices of the Peace. Encourage License Bureau officials to exercise fully the discretion left to them by many State laws. Get rid of the fee system of license issuing.

Require age proof independent of parents' sworn statements. Make marriage candidates submit documentary proof of age rather than affidavits. Require both applicants to appear in person for the license. Synchronize minimum marriage age, minimum working age and

compulsory school attendance in State laws.

PROTEST IN PRAGUE

(By N. O. W. C. News Service)

Prague, Czechoslovakia, March 4.—Catholic, Protestant, and Jewish parents in impressive numbers held a demonstration at Aussig, in Bohemia, this week, to protest against the shortening of religious instruction in the schools.

With an enormous attendance, the gathering cheered speakers enthusiastically, and unanimously passed resolutions condemning the move against religious instruction; insisting on the free teaching of religion in all the schools for civil, moral and pedagogical reasons; and declared unlawful the practice of many atheistic teachers who shorten the religious instruction in the absence of ministerial ordinances forbidding such action.

Immediate issuing by the Ministry of the necessary orders halting the anti-religious movement was demanded, in the name of lawful government.

Similar gatherings are being held throughout the country, so that the Government is being placed in a position where it will have to take some action.

DIED

MOORE.—At La Salette, Ont., on Saturday, March 14, 1926, Mrs. Katharine Moore, relict of the late William Moore. May her soul rest in peace.

McKENNA.—At the home of his parents Cabot St., Sydney, N. S., on March 18th, 1926, William Edward, only son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur V. McKenna, aged six years.

LABONTE.—On February 28th, 1926, Mrs. Catherine D. Gorman, widow of the late Charles D. Labonte, at Danville, County of Richmond, Prov. of Quebec, at the age of seventy-two years. May her soul rest in peace.

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