

CHINA'S GREAT NEED IS MISSIONARIES

JOSEPH LO PAH-HUNG SAYS CATHOLIC PRINCIPLES ARE NECESSARY TO SAVE THE NATION FROM ATHEISM

"Unless Catholic missionaries come to China in great numbers very soon, it may be too late." This is the statement of Joseph Lo Pah-hung, K. S. G., head of the Shanghai Chamber of Commerce, who is visiting the United States on his way to Rome.

"It is already too late in Japan," said Mr. Lo. "Modern learning with its atheism has swept completely across Japan. That nation is completely immersed in materialism. As soon as China can adjust her internal difficulties she will enter a period of commercial prosperity. Even now the culture of Europe and America is being brought into the country by the returned university students. The whole nation is anxious for western civilization. Unless they receive Catholic civilization the Chinese will become materialists as have their Japanese neighbors.

SUGGESTS IMPORTANCE OF SCHOLARSHIPS

"The returned student is an important factor in the future life of China. If we can get a great proportion of these young men into Catholic universities they will bring the proper code of ethics, the true principles of government back to the Orient. If every Catholic university in America would provide an education for but one Chinese youth, great good would be done. Returned students are securing the positions of influence in China. If these students judge right and wrong by Catholic principles China will be safe.

"English speaking missionaries are most valuable to the Church because every Chinese wishes to learn English. Everything points to favorable opportunities for American foreign missionaries if only the American people will support them and enable them to take advantage of these conditions.

"Unless the present situation in China is handled most carefully by the foreign powers a coalition of China and the Soviet Government of Russia probably will result. Armed interference or any untoward movement on the part of the foreign powers might prove most disastrous to China's welfare. Bolshevists agents are flooding the nation with soviet propaganda and the masses are inflamed against foreign capitalists. Any action which might be misconstrued easily could swing the mob in favor of Russia.

APOSTOLIC ZEAL AND HUMILITY OF THIS CHINESE MULTI-MILLIONAIRE

Mr. Lo's participation in Catholic activities in his native land was recently cited by Bishop Muldoon as an example for imitation by Catholics. Mr. Lo not only gives thousands of dollars annually to Catholic charities but he works daily among the poor, teaching catechism and doing other similar work. His interest is all embracing and on several occasions when Chinese bandits were captured and condemned to death, Mr. Lo has gone to them and instructed them in the Catholic religion. To those who accepted his instructions he made the request that they intercede for him in Heaven. He is a daily Communicant.

The esteem in which Mr. Lo is held in China was illustrated just before his departure on his present tour. A prominent and wealthy Buddhist came to him and had had heard of Mr. Lo's intended trip. When the latter confirmed the report the Buddhist presented him with \$2,000 with the request that he give it to the most worthy charity he encountered on his trip around the world. Another donation for a similar purpose was made by a wealthy pagan.

HONORED IN THE UNITED STATES

While in the National Capital Mr. Lo was the guest at a luncheon given in his honor by the Rev. John J. Burke, C. S. P., General Secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. The guests at this luncheon included: the Right

Rev. Thomas J. Shahan, Rector of the Catholic University of America; Admiral William S. Benson and Mr. Paul Marella, Auditor of the Apostolic Delegation to the United States. Following the luncheon Mr. Lo was taken on an automobile trip about the city, visiting the Lincoln Memorial and other places of interest. The party stopped at Georgetown University Hospital and were shown through that institution by the Rev. Walter G. Summers, S. J., and Sister Mary Joseph. Mr. Lo expressed his appreciation of the manner in which the hospital is managed. He was entertained at dinner at the Chevy Chase Club by Father Burke, the company including: the Rev. Dr. James H. Ryan, Dr. James Gannon and Dr. August Ku. In the evening Mr. Lo called at the Chinese Legation to present his respects to Dr. Eze, the Chinese Minister.

Mr. Lo sails from New York on the "Laconia". He will visit London, Paris, and Lourdes before going to Rome for his Holy Year visit. While in Washington he received a message urging that he return to China as soon as possible. On his trip across the continent Mr. Lo has been entertained by prominent business men of Seattle, Portland, Ore., San Francisco, Chicago, New York and Boston. He has visited all of the institutions conducted by the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America. He is accompanied by Dr. August Ku of Shanghai, Rev. Francis J. Caffrey, A. F. M., superior of the Maryknoll house in Seattle, and John Guthrie, of Seattle.

THE AMERICAN SOLDIERS' MEMORIAL IN FRANCE

By M. Massiani (Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

In the center of the main square of Nantillois, a little village in Argonne at the foot of the famous elevation on which Montfaucon stands, there is to be erected a monument to the memory of the Pennsylvanians who died in the Great War.

The first stone was laid a few days ago in the presence of General Price, formerly in command of the heavy artillery of the 28th American Division. With the General were many local notables and Mr. Cret, Professor at the Philadelphia School of Decorative Arts, who designed the monument.

General Price, who is a Catholic, asked the Dean of Montfaucon to come and bless the site and the first stone. The Dean is himself a former artillery officer, having served as a captain of artillery before entering the priesthood.

Canon Colin was assisted by Abbe Lepoutier, pastor of Romagne, the chaplain of the great American cemetery in the Argonne.

The Dean delivered an eloquent address in which he affirmed the faithfulness of the priests and parishioners in praying for the American soldiers who shed their blood on French soil. La Croix de la Meuse concluded its account of the ceremony with the following tribute to the American general: "General Price left among us a deep and unforgettable impression of great distinction and exquisite kindness."

The monument at Nantillois will cost 200,000 francs. Another monument, also designed by Mr. Cret, will be erected in memory of the 28th division at Vermeilles, in the Argonne. The first stone was laid a few days ago.

MODEL CHURCH

WROUGHT BY 118 ARTISTS IN PARIS

By M. Massiani (Paris Correspondent, N. C. W. C.)

The International Exhibition of Modern Decorative Arts is drawing large crowds to Paris. Its installation cost more than one hundred million francs, and all nations, with few exceptions, are represented. In the center of the Exhibition stands a church, constructed especially for the occasion, which has just been opened solemnly by Cardinal Dubois in the presence of many prominent Catholics and distinguished artists. It is a living testimony to the vigor of modern religious art.

Why this church? The general program of the Exhibition provided for the construction, along the bank of the Seine, of a French village which would include a house representing each of the French provinces—Lorraine house, a Breton house, and so on. There were to be a baker shop, a school, a town hall, etc., each building being constructed and decorated according to the newest style and used to shelter the exhibition of furniture, painting, sculpture or utilitarian objects created by modern art in each province.

As soon as this general plan became known, a group of Catholic artists conceived the idea of asking that a church be erected in the center of the village, thus establishing the traditional place of religion in the city. The church would house the exhibits of religious art, and would proclaim the existence of a flourishing Christian art. Then, too, the belfry and cross, rising above the village, would give the proper "finish" without which the village would not seem like a real village at all. But to conceive the idea was not sufficient. It was necessary to

execute it. And this required money, not to speak of a certain unanimity of opinion which was essential if harmony was to prevail in assembling the works of numerous different artists.

Thanks to a subscription opened by a review, La Vie Catholique, the money was raised, thousands of Christians contributing to the fund. The direction of the undertaking was then entrusted to the Society of Saint Jean, which is made up of artists, painters, sculptors, architects, professors, priests and writers, anxious to work together for the progress and development of Christian art.

"For the church proper, a jury accepted the plan presented by a young architect, Jacques Droz. The edifice is built on simple lines, of reinforced cement, roofed with tile. It is a short church, without a nave, composed, so to speak, of three apses, the fourth side being formed by the portal. Each apse forms a chapel. The lines of construction are substantial and geometrical, borrowing nothing from the Renaissance, the Gothic or the Baroque. The general impression is somewhat that of a church in Provence, due to the flat tower pierced by double windows through which the bells may be seen swinging in the air, a feature of the churches in the district between Marseilles and Toulouse.

On the front of the tower, occupying practically the entire width and height, there stands out, in high relief, an immense statue of Christ, nailed to the cross, so that in a way, the front of the cross gives the impression of a huge crucifix. This composition is emphasized and made to stand out by bright polychrome effects. Thus, the image of the crucified Saviour dominates the little tower of the town hall, the companies and domes of the nearby palaces not far from the bizarre and badly equilibrated tower of the pavilion of the Soviets.

The decoration and furnishings of each chapel was entrusted to a special group. The main altar, dedicated to the Sacred Heart, are the work of the "Ateliers d'Art Sacre." The director of the studio, the famous painter Georges Denys, painted in rather light colors, representing Calvary, with a workman, a peasant, an artist, a savant, a mother, young girls and others standing at the foot of the Cross. Lower down, the retable of the altar is decorated in the center with a painting of the Holy Face by Georges Desvallieres, the artist who, two years ago, went to Pittsburgh to superintend the installation of the French Section of the International Exhibition of Painting.

The right chapel, dedicated to Christ the Redeemer, has an altar, paintings and statues, communion rail and stained glass windows furnished by the group known as the "Artisans de l'Autel."

The left chapel, dedicated to "Our Lady of Peace," is the work of the "Catholique des Beaux-Arts."

The back of the chapel is covered by a large painting recalling the medieval tradition of the Tree of Jesse, but the medallions on each branch of the tree contain portraits, not of the descendants of the prophet, but of the French saints.

A fourth society of artists, known as "L'Arche" received the mission of decorating the reverse of the facade. Exhibitors belonging to no society also supplied various statues, holy water fonts or pews.

WORK OF 118 EXHIBITORS

In order not to increase beyond measure the number of Stations of the Cross, the fourteen stations were entrusted to fourteen different artists. It goes without saying that the work does not give an impression of unity, but it was impossible to proceed otherwise, in view of the conditions.

In all, the little church contains the works of 118 exhibitors, including many of great value and not a single one of indifferent character. Various objects pertaining to religious art also are found in other parts of the Exhibition, notably among the exhibits of tissues, printing and bookbinding.

Mass will be celebrated in the chapel every Sunday morning, and numerous visitors inspect the church during the week. To Christians it presents a lesson in the art of decoration, an initiation into the modern forms of art. To non-believers it is a striking demonstration of the fact that the most talented of artists, without human respect, are placing their finest talent at the service of their Faith.

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