

# The Catholic Guardian

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"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

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## ENCYCLICAL ON THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

(Continued from our last issue.)

To the reasons thus far adduced to show that Christ the Lord should be called the Head of the society which is His Body three others may be added here. They are closely related to one another.

We begin with the similarity which we see existing between Head and Body, in that they have the same nature. Our human nature is inferior to angelic nature; and yet, be it observed, through God's goodness it has risen above angelic nature: "For Christ," as Aquinas says, "is Head of the angels; for even in His humanity He is superior to angels. Even as man He illumines the angelic intellect and influences the angelic will. But in respect to similarity of nature Christ is not Head of the angels, because He did not take hold of the angels—to quote the Apostle—to the seed of Abraham." And Christ not only took our nature, He became one of our flesh and blood with a frail body that could suffer and die.

But "if the Word emptied Himself, taking the form of a slave," it was that He might make His brothers in the flesh partakers of the divine nature, in this earthly exile through sanctifying grace, in heaven through the joys of eternal bliss. The reason why the only-begotten Son of the Eternal Father wished to be a Son of Man, was that we might be made conformed to the image of the Son of God and be renewed according to the image of Him Who created us. Let those then who glory in the name of Christian all look to our Divine Saviour as the most exalted and most perfect exemplar of all virtues; but then let them also be careful avoidance of sin and assiduous practice of virtue, bear witness by their conduct to His teaching and His life, so that when God appears they may be like unto Him and see Him as He is.

### RESEMBLANCE TO CHRIST

The whole Body of the Church, no less than the individual members, should bear resemblance to Christ. Such is His will. And we see that realized when following in the footsteps of her Founder she teaches, she governs and offers the Divine Sacrifice. Embracing the evangelical counsels she reflects the Redeemer's poverty, obedience and virginal purity. Enriched with institutes of many different kinds as with so many precious jewels, she points out Christ deep in prayer on the mountain, or preaching to the people or healing the sick and wounded and bringing sinners back to the path of virtue, or in a word doing good to everyone. What wonder then if, while she walks this earth, she be persecuted like Christ, hounded and weighed down with sorrows.

Christ must be acknowledged Head of the Church for this reason too, that, as supernatural gifts have found their supreme fullness and perfection in Him, it is from this fullness that His Mystical Body receives. It is an observation made by a number of Fathers, that as head of our mortal body is the seat of all the senses, while the other parts of our organism have only the sense of touch, so all the powers that are found in Christian society, all the gifts, all the extraordinary graces, all attain their utmost perfection in the Head, Christ. "In Him it hath well pleased the Father that all fullness should dwell." He is gifted with those supernatural powers that accompany the hypostatic union. Is not the Holy Spirit dwelling in Him with a fullness of grace, than which no greater can be imagined? To Him has been given "power over all flesh"; "all the treasures of wisdom and knowledge are in Him" abundantly. The knowledge which is called "vision", He possesses with such clarity and comprehensiveness that it surpasses similar cele-

tial knowledge found in all the saints of heaven. So full of grace and truth is He, that of His inexhaustible fullness we have all received.

These words of the disciples, whom Jesus loved, lead us to the last reason why Christ our Lord should be declared in a very particular way Head of His Mystical Body. In us the nerves reach from the head to all parts of the body and give them the power to feel and move; in like manner our Saviour communicates power to His Church so that the things of God are understood more clearly and more eagerly desired by the faithful. From Him shines into the Body of the Church whatever light illumines supernaturally the minds of those who believe, from Him every grace to make them holy; as He is holy.

Christ enlightens His whole Church. This is evident from almost numberless passages from the Sacred Scriptures and holy Father. "No man hath seen God at any time: the only-begotten Son Who is in the bosom of the Father, He hath declared Him." Come a teacher from God to give testimony to the truth, He shed such light upon the nascent apostolic Church that the chief of the Apostle exclaimed: "Lord, to whom shall we go? Thou hast the words of eternal life." From heaven He assisted the evangelists in such a way that as members of Christ they wrote what they had learnt at the dictation, as it were, of the Head. And for us today, who still linger on in this earthly exile, He is the author of faith as in our heavenly house he will be its finisher. It is He Who grants the light of faith to believers; it is He Who from His divine riches imparts the supernatural gifts of knowledge, understanding, and wisdom to the pastors and teachers and above all to His Vicar on earth, so that they may faithfully preserve the treas-

ury of faith, defend it, with reverence and devotion explain and protect it, it is He Who, though unseen, presides at the Church's Councils and guides them.

### HOLINESS FROM CHRIST

Holiness begins from Christ; by Christ it is effected. For no act conducive to salvation, can be performed unless it proceeds from Him as its supernatural cause. "Without Me," He says, "you can do nothing." If we grieve and do penance for our sins, if with filial fear and hope we turn again to God, it is because He is leading us. Grace and glory flow from His unbounded fullness. Our Saviour is continually pouring out His gifts of counsel, fortitude, fear and piety, especially on the leading members of His Body, so that the whole Body may grow daily more and more in spotless holiness. When the Sacraments of the Church are administered by external rite, it is He Who produces their effect in souls. He nourishes the redeemed with His own flesh and blood, and thus calms the soul's turbulent passions; He gives increase of grace and is preparing future glory for souls and bodies.

All these treasures of His divine goodness He is said to disburse to the members of His Mystical Body, not merely because He, Who is the Eucharistic Victim on earth and the glorified Victim in Heaven, lets His wounds and prayers plead our cause before the Eternal Father, but because He selects, He determines, He distributes every single grace to every single person "according to the measure of the giving of Christ." Hence it follows that from our Lord as from a fountain-head "the whole body compacted and fitly joined by which every joint supplieth, according to the operation in the measure of every part, maketh increase of the body unto the edifying of itself in charity."

(To be Continued)

## REMARKABLE SPEECH BY LORD GORT

A remarkable speech on the complementary roles of Church and State in the life of Christian people; on the inspiring leadership of the clergy during Malta's darkest hours; on the steady and progressive influence of tradition, and on the Christian courage and strength with which men must face not a war in which Christianity is at stake, but also the immense tasks on the post-war period, was made by General Viscount Gort on the Feast of Candlemas when he received the parish priests from every town and village in Malta and the neighbouring island of Gozo.

### EMPIRE BEING PURGED OF MATERIALISM

"Malta has suffered and she has been purged by fire," said Lord Gort, "but this fortress can thank Divine Providence for her deliverance from disaster and for the growing success which are destined to lead us to final victory."

"But of what is the British Empire being purged in these war years? Surely it is being cleansed of the greedy materialism of the past and of the luxury which caused so many people to live selfishly and to forget that a life devoted to the service of their King and their fellowmen leads to far greater spiritual contentment than a life devoted solely to material advantages.

"It is supremely important not to

forsake our old traditions and age-long customs. I am conscious that everyone here to-day feels especially content to be privileged to take part in this ancient ceremony, which is more than a picturesque survival of a bygone era.

"Among the many vivid and lasting memories of those days, the Government and the Service commanders will never fail to recollect the unflinching support which the clergy always gave to those charged with the grave responsibility of ensuring the survival of the fortress. Your example and your words of encouragement constantly inspired the people.

"Never did you fail to co-operate wholeheartedly with the Government in the vital task of explaining to your flock the reasons which led to the cutting down of supplies. Nor did you fail to denounce the nefarious practices of those selfish and sinful people who sought to advance their own personal ends by trading in the black market....

"Mindful of his words, it is perhaps not merely a matter of academic interest to recall that it was a German, Thomas Erastus, who first propounded the vicious theory of the subordination of the Church to the State, and of religious belief to political expediency. Erastianism plays an important part in the set-up of the Axis Powers, and I

(Continued on Page 4.)

## WHAT THE FRENCH BISHOPS ARE SAYING

A correspondent of the Swedish "Aftonbladet" asserts that when the French hierarchy met recently in Paris the Germans put great pressure on Cardinal Suhard to obtain a collective statement condemning "partisan" activities, but that "the Cardinal bluntly refused, and, with two exceptions, the Bishops also." In his Christmas message, however, according to Vichy Radio, the Cardinal "condemned the appeals made by the extremists who are inciting Frenchmen to carry out acts resulting in bloodshed. The Cardinal exhorted people not to carry out acts of personal vengeance; and, despite any differences of opinion which may exist between them, they should learn now how to love one another and how to unite. Patriotism cannot justify anarchy." A similar message from Mgr. Megnin, Bishop of Angoulême, is also quoted.

One of the two exceptions mentioned above may have been the Archbishop of Bordeaux, who has issued a New Year Pastoral Letter in which, says "Le Moniteur" of Clermont-Ferrand, he "condemns Bolshevism, which is advancing on the gates of Europe, and the dangerous alliance made with it. The past year has seen the authorities make efforts in favour of the workers and the family, and for the reconstruction of the country, so that despite defeat it may live in honour and dignity. But it

has also seen a deplorable split between Frenchmen, a weakening of the sense of authority and its exercise, and the recrudescence of banditry and petty acts of personal revenge."

The second exceptions may have been the Bishop of Arras, to whom a highly collaborationist Pastoral Letter has been attributed by the Germans; although we do not regard their text as sufficiently reliable to quote.

A CIP despatch from Lisbon quotes a number of Advent and other recent Pastoral Letters of the French Bishops, on the subject of public order. Mgr. Serrand, Bishop of St-Brieuc, stressed the impracticability of any other form of government under the circumstances, but maintained that the authority of Marshal Petain is derived from the vote of the Chamber on July 10th, 1940, so seeming to suggest, at a time when the Chamber was being reconstituted in North Africa, that what has been given by a vote can be taken away by a vote. Mgr. Lasteuil, Bishop of Limoges, said that the Vichy Government is the legitimate Government of "our defeated and occupied country." Mgr. Beguin, Archbishop of Auch, stressed the prospect of civil war, and appealed for national unity "about the flag and him who bears it."

(Continued on Page 4.)

## Catholic Book Club

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### Notice to Local Managers and Teachers

All Catholic teachers are invited to sit for an examination in Religious Knowledge on a syllabus prepared for them. Copies of the syllabus can be had from the District Superiors. A written examination and a practical test in the teaching of Catechism will be held in the middle of May 1945 on Part I and in the middle of May 1946 on Part II of the syllabus. A Diploma will be awarded to those who satisfy the examinations.

The Parish Priests are kindly requested to encourage the teachers to take part in the examination and help them in every way to get through the syllabus.

J. EMILIANUS PILLAI, O.M.I.,  
General Manager of R.C. Schools,  
Jaffna, 26-4-44.

## Church Calendar

MAY 1944

FRI.	...5	S. Pius V.
SAT.	...6	S. John.
SUN.	...7	4 Sun. after Easter. S. Stanislas.
MON.	...8	S. Michael App.
TUES.	...9	S. Gregory.
WED.	...10	S. Antoninus.
THURS.	...11	Our Lady of Mercy.
FRI.	...12	S. Pancratius.

## The Catholic Guardian

MAY 5TH 1944

### POPE'S INTENTIONS AT MAY DEVOTIONS

In a letter from the Holy Father to the Papal Secretary of State, Cardinal Maglione, the latter writes: "The tragic situation in which Rome finds itself to-day causes the Pope great concern. Therefore his children should turn in prayer to God's Mother Mary. They should implore her that the centre of Christianity be spared the hazards of war."

With reference to the appeal of the Pope for special prayers during the month of May we would quote the words of His Lordship the Bishop to the children of the Diocese:

"The Holy Father being deeply grieved at the sight of this wholesale destruction of human lives makes an earnest appeal to all the Catholic children of the world to unite in a crusade of prayers to the Blessed Virgin, during this month of May specially consecrated to her, for a prompt cessation of war and the restoration of peace in a spirit of justice and charity. Wars and other calamities on various occasions before have come to an end

by the powerful intercession of the Blessed Virgin, as history testifies. This war undoubtedly is more dreadful, more disastrous than all the wars that preceded it, but the power of the Blessed Virgin near Her Divine Son is so great that there is nothing she cannot accomplish by her intercession. Keeping in mind this appeal of the Holy Father, dear children, you will address during this month of May fervent prayers to the Mother of God that she may draw from Heaven all the graces necessary for a thorough change of heart among men i.e. graces of enlightenment for their minds and graces of attraction to good for their hearts. If only you suspected the treasure of grace stored up in Heaven and waiting for distribution by the hands of Our Heavenly Mother, how you would welcome the time of prayer, how pious, how fervent you would be, how eager to open heavenly treasures for your needs and the needs of others."

The May devotions offer us a most favourable opportunity to comply with the wishes of the Holy Father who wants us to have confident and persistent recourse to our Blessed Lady in order to hasten the hour of peace and to save Rome, the centre of Christianity from the hazards of war. With these intentions in their minds the faithful should go in large numbers to the May devotions that are held in most of our Churches. In order to encourage attendance, holy Church has granted an indulgence of 300 days for each day one is present at the pious exercises and a plenary indulgence once during the month.

### EDITORIAL NOTE

"The Catholic Church and Politics."—This is a wholly misleading headline of an editorial note in the *Morning Star*. It is a serious mistake that the *Catholic Guardian's* politics should be dignified into the politics of the Catholic Church." This paper as a Diocesan Journal must on many questions influence the opinion of Catholics but all the while they recognise the important distinction between a Catholic newspaper and the Catholic Church. Again, our contemporary ought to know that this country has not yet arrived at party politics. It is in the initial stage of trying to work out a good machinery of Government and seeing that so much depends on it for the welfare of this Island, a Catholic paper may well take its humble share in that important task. "Again", says the *Star*, "this Catholic solidarity whether on a religious or communal basis is not conducive to freedom in political matters. The secret vote was specially intended for securing such freedom." We reply that Catholic solidarity as long as it remains voluntary does not run counter to political freedom. And it is well to remember that the secret vote is a great incentive to many a corrupt practice at elections. The secret ballot was introduced, says Mr. John Stuart Mill, to protect the

tenant against his landlord and the servant against his master, but as all classes of persons have acquired sufficient independence he asks if the time has not come to discard the secret ballot. Vote by ballot, he argues, creates a false and pernicious impression on the voter who looks upon the suffrage as given to him for himself, for his particular use and benefit and not as a trust for the public. For if it is, indeed, a trust, if the public are entitled to his vote are they not entitled also to know his vote, asks Mr. Mill. It follows, then, that the secret ballot with the freedom it gives for dark doings is not an ideal method. Solidarity in voting approaches his ideal because it becomes generally known to whom the voters are going to give their suffrages. It is almost like open vote and is thus controlled by publicity, while secret vote has nothing to check its waywardness.

### Anglican Archbishop Urges United Nations to Avoid Damage to Eternal City

Lord Lang of Lambeth, former Archbishop of Canterbury, had this letter in "The Times" of London.

"The approach of the Armies, and especially the Air Force, of the United Nations to Rome lays upon them a very grave and anxious responsibility. Cities and towns everywhere must suffer the havoc which modern warfare inevitably causes.

"But Rome is not like any other city. It belongs not to one country only but to the world. In its ancient monuments and its churches it represents as no other city can the whole history of European civilisation and religion.

"For long centuries it has inspired the veneration of multitudes of Christian people throughout the world. Preserved as it has been through the vicissitudes of thousands of years it may truly be called the Eternal City.

"It would indeed be lamentable if by the action of our Armies and Air Forces any of its incomparable treasures of history, of art, and of religion were destroyed or even seriously damaged.

"I understand that an expert authority has been appointed to advise the armies in Italy on matters of archaeology and art, and that some time ago information and instruction were given to the Air Forces to guard against the possibility of damaging buildings of special interest and importance in Rome.

"Now, when a general attack on German-occupied Rome seems to be imminent, it is greatly to be hoped that such information will be made as full and such instruction as explicit as possible, so that bombs (or shells) may not be dropped in the near neighbour of the Vatican or of any of the principal ancient sites and churches within the city.

"Even if this were to involve the loss of some temporary military advantage, such a loss could not be compared with a loss to civilisation and religion which would be for all time and irreparable.

"It is possible that the Germans after their manner may do much wilful damage before they are driven out and try to attach the blame to our forces. If so, let the guilt be upon their heads. But let our own conscience be clear."

### Mr. C. J. Varkey

Mr. C. J. Varkey, formerly Minister for Education, Madras, during the Congress Ministry, writes to say that he has submitted to the Governor of Madras his resignation from the Madras Legislative Assembly, and that His Excellency has accepted his resignation. Mr. Varkey resigned because of his conviction that one should not be a teacher in

a school or a lecturer in a college, and at the same time, a member of a Legislative or a Local Body, elected on the basis of a Party affiliation and allegiance. Acting on this conviction he resigned his post as Lecturer in St. Aloysius' College, Mangalore, when he was elected as a Member of the Legislative Assembly on the Congress ticket in 1937. He was also responsible for the Order issued by the Government of Madras, during the Congress Ministry, prohibiting teachers from standing for election to Legislative or Local Bodies. As he is now taking up the work of Vice-Principal of a new First Grade College at Ernakulam, he has resigned his seat in the Assembly.

## LOCAL & GENERAL

**Ecclesiastical.**—On doctor's advice His Lordship the Bishop has gone to N'Elia for a change.

**St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.**—Trinity Term re-opens on the 16th instant.

**Obituary.**—We deeply regret to record the death of Mr. Pedrupillai Christopher, Proprietor, Premier Bakery which took place in the Civil Hospital, Jaffna on Wednesday night. The event has cast a gloom over the town and suburbs where he had a large circle of friends and relations. Further particulars of the sad occurrence will appear in our next issue.

**Jaffna Kachcheri.**—Mr. C. Coomaraswamy, Government Agent, Badulla, has been appointed to Jaffna as G.A. Mr. M. Prasad who is due back there from leave, has been transferred to Badulla.

Mr. R. M. Davies, the Acting Government Agent, Jaffna, will revert to Anuradhapura as G.A.

**Deputy Civil Defence Commissioner.**—Mr. J. J. Jacob, formerly Deputy Auditor-General, who was called back from his retirement to the Civil Defence Department, has taken charge of the Department of Subsidiary Foodstuffs, as a Deputy Civil Defence Commissioner. The designation, Controller of Subsidiary Foodstuffs has been withdrawn.

**Revenue Surplus of 33 Millions.**—There was an excess of revenue over expenditure, amounting to Rs. 33,439,097, during the first half of the current financial year, according to the Treasury statement for March.

The excess of revenue over expenditure during the corresponding period last year was Rs. 17,327,481.

The total approximate revenue from October, 1943, to March, 1944, was Rs. 125,708,524, made up chiefly of the following:—Customs, Rs. 45,881,584; Excise and Salt, Rs. 12,864,208; and Income Tax, Estate Duty, etc., Rs. 38,863,737.

The chief item of expenditure during the last six months was Rs. 13,945,507 on education which is Rs. 1,892,467 more than the amount spent during the corresponding period last year.

The revenue for March was Rs. 26,306,991 against Rs. 16,327,009 in March 1943. The expenditure for March, 1944, was Rs. 14,924,049 and that of March last year was Rs. 14,370,590.

The gain on the Railway, applied to payment of arrears of annuities, was Rs. 1640,000 in March and Rs. 8,112,000 during the period October, 1943, to March, 1944.

**Free Milk Centre, Manipay.**—At a public meeting of the residents of Manipay held on Thursday 20th April, 1944 at the Village Committee premises with Mr. C. Thiagarajah, Chairman, V.C. in the chair, it was unanimously resolved to appeal to the Civil Defence Commissioner to provide a Free Milk Centre at Manipay.

Dr. S. C. Thurairajah, M.O.H. Jaffna, explained in detail the scheme. 24 ladies volunteered their services to help in the distribution of Milk at the Centre, in addition to several members of the Manipay Parish Social Service League and the A.R.P. organisation of the Parish.

**Basic English Turned Down.**—Basic English has been turned down by the Commission set up by the Exiled Governments in London to examine the



## Remarkable Speech by Lord Gort

(Continued from Page 1)

believe it to be a minefield which is destined to destroy the political achievements of its masters in due course.

"We, on the other hand, rest the whole fabric of our civilisation on the twin pillars of Christian religion and political freedom.....

"But with the coming of peace we shall be confronted with serious problems crying urgently to be resolved. Yet the men and women on whose shoulders the burden will rest will themselves be weary.....

"The world we knew in 1939 has gone as surely as the world of 1914 dissolved during the years of the first world war. The fiery furnace of two world wars will have left its mark. Let us hope that the age of materialism, which rated increasing comfort as the main aim in life, will give ground to the age-long Christian scale of values and the recognition of the need to improve the lot of the poorer and humbler members of society.

"In the difficult days which undoubtedly lie before us—the unity and the mutual support of Church and State can and, I pray and believe, will both preserve stability in the country and also guarantee the moral and material progress of those whom we all desire to serve, each in our own sphere.....

### TWO POPES AND THE POOR

"It was Pope Leo XIII, in his famous Encyclical "Rerum Novarum" who drew attention as far back as 1891 to the claims of the poor and the weak upon the rich and strong. This was at a time when the forces of anarchy and revolution were already confronting reaction and indifference and threatening widespread ruin and confusion.

"It was Pope Pius XI who indicated once again, 40 years later, in "Quadragesimo Anno," that the Christian footsteps must tread the path of peaceful progress and social justice.

"Progress must be gradual and sure, but progress there must be. Remind the people that we must avoid the temptation to be impatient, as violent or spectacular methods often create greater misery than that when they were designed to relieve.....

"The new world is gradually shaping before our eyes, and in the future which is to be, it is for us to fashion our own destiny.

"I believe we cannot falter if we base our actions and our policies upon the deep and proved convictions of the Christian Faith and assess our duty to ourselves and our fellowmen in the light of our common duty to Almighty God, without Whose blessing victory by itself would be worthless and peace yet another illusion."—Universe.

## Official Statement on Military Situation in Burma

The Associated Press have asked their correspondent at the South East Asia Command Headquarters in Ceylon to obtain an official statement on the military situation in Burma and specific answers to six questions. The Agency adds that "lack of authoritative statement on the Assam situation is creating in America uneasiness and a feeling that the true picture is being withheld." There is no justification for such uneasiness and, as far as military security permits, here are the answers to the questions:—

1. Has the Allied strategic schedule been seriously dislocated by the Japanese Manipur advance?

The Allied strategic schedule has not been dislocated by the Japanese offensive. The question, however, raises many points which are dealt with more fully in the general statement which follows these answers.

2. Has the completion of the China Road been delayed?

No. The Japanese thrust to Imphal has caused no delay whatever in the progress of the Ledo Road. Up to date,

in fact, the reverse has taken place. Had the Japanese concentrated against the Chinese Army on the Ledo Front instead of the British 4th Corps on the Imphal Front the Chinese advance towards Myitkyina could not have progressed as far as it was done.

3. Is the threat greater to the Allies than the threat to the Japanese of the Allied drive towards Myitkyina?

To compare the threat exerted by the Japanese in their offensive with the Allies' threat against Myitkyina would be misleading. It is impossible to compare the relative degree of a threat based on operational strategy with one based on long range strategy.

4. Will this force the postponement of large scale land operations beyond next Autumn?

Obviously, for security reasons, a direct reply cannot be given to this question.

5. About Allied Forces now behind Japanese lines—will their supply be hampered?

No. The airfields from which aircraft fly to supply the Allied forces now behind the Japanese lines are firmly in our hands and we have air superiority.

6. Supposing the Assam lines of communication were cut. Would that compel the withdrawal of these troops?

No.

General Statement. In considering the Allied campaign in Burma it must be remembered that the front stretches 800 miles from the Arakan through the Chindwin and the Hukawng Valley to the Yunnan. It is dense jungle country and the conditions make it impossible, with the number of troops available, to prevent an enemy with interior lines of communication and with minimum of maintenance requirements from undertaking deep penetrations. We ourselves have effected a much deeper penetration in another way by the use of air borne forces. A penetration has recently been effected by the Japanese on the Imphal Front. It was not unexpected and its aim is partly for its value as political propaganda. Its military aim is probably to establish Japanese forces in the tactically favourable position afforded by the Imphal Plain and from there to interrupt the Assam lines of communications. It must be remembered that such deep penetrations by the enemy gives us opportunities also and we took very successful advantage of this type of enemy manoeuvres in the Arakan when the Japanese forces were destroyed. Allied operations are taking the form initially of locating and pinning down the Japanese and of preventing them from gaining full use of the roads, thereby making it difficult for them to bring up heavy war equipment and motor transport. Later we intend to attack and destroy the enemy. Owing to the nature of the terrain and the difficulty of definitely locating Japanese forces in such close country, it is unlikely that the battle will be brought to a successful conclusion for several weeks. There are already indications, that the Japanese are finding it difficult to live off the country. It may occur that parties of Japanese reach the lines of communication but the possibility has been foreseen. Meanwhile Allied forces have cut Japanese communications in the heart of Burma. The operations of the forces launched by the late Major-General Wingate and now under the command of Major-General Lentaigne are still continuing. The fly-in was the necessary preliminary phase.

One effect of these operations will be greatly to assist our forces advancing South from Ledo. It is difficult yet to predict how the Japanese offensive will react on future operations in Burma. If, as we confidently expect, our counter-offensive leads to the liquidation of the Japanese divisions at present in action our prospects visavis Burma will be enhanced. Major operations are restricted once the monsoon starts, but the important object of advancing the Ledo Road will be pursued relentlessly.

Since the formation of the South East Asia Command the Japanese strength in this theatre has increased considerably. The enemy has strong land forces in Burma stronger than the general public probably thinks and since they have the advantage of interior lines of communications, we must always expect some

offensive action on their part on one or other sectors of the front. Hard fighting lies before us in Burma. The true picture has not been hidden and there is every reason to believe that the outcome of present Allied operations will be successful.

## What the French Bishops are Saying

(Continued from Page 1.)

### CHALICES FOR THE FORCES

"We do not know who had the happy idea of asking the children of France to give their silver christening-mugs for the priest-prisoners," writes "La Croix." "But we do know what the response has been: 3,000 silver mugs, each with a little cross above the engraved name of the donor, have gone to the Stalags already. They are not all of the same value, of course; some are modest enough little goblets, while others are really precious, delicately chiselled by skilled craftsmen. But all are called to the same honour, for use as chalices..... These petits Francais who have given their mugs so that it may be possible to offer more Masses in the camps, where unbappily spiritual consolations are very parsimoniously measured out to our countrymen, have made their contribution to rebuilding the France of tomorrow....."—The Tablet.

## WAR REVIEW

By A. S. Morrison—30-4-44

April ends with a growing conviction that the world is now on the threshold of great events which postulate the climax of the war.

The vast Allied air offensive hovers over Europe like a death-pall and the Germans no doubt guess right when they believe that these 3,000-plane raids are the prelude to the opening of the Second Front.

The date of the opening of the Second Front is perhaps the best-kept secret of the war, and there is no need to speculate about it. But linked up with it; other new fronts are likely to be opened in Europe. There are straws which show which way the wind is blowing. One of the most significant items of war news last week was put away in a corner of the newspapers. This was the announcement on April 27th, by Marshall Tito, the great Yugoslav Guerilla Leader, of the capture by his forces of the Adriatic Island of Korcula. His communique goes on to state that "fighting for other Dalmation Islands is in progress." It is noteworthy that British naval units assisted in the fighting. The opening of a fresh front on the Dalmation coast is quite conceivable. Such a manoeuvre by Russia's allies would be very embarrassing for the Germans, because a successful Allied landing in Yugoslavia would constitute a direct threat to Austria, the birthplace of Hitler and his intuitions.

And then on the other side of Europe—in Denmark—sabotage on an unprecedented scale is in full blast and Swedish reports speak of landings by British para-troops.

Meanwhile, in Italy the lull continues—it is the lull before great storm, which will soon break over Hitler's Europe.

On the Russian front the truce which began during the previous week-end was interrupted by a sudden recrudescence of Russian activity in Rumania, as reported yesterday.

The siege of Sebastopol continues with uninterrupted ferocity on the part of the Russians. On April 26 the Russians announced that the storming of the approaches to the city had begun.

What will be the primary objectives of the forthcoming Russian offensive? Will it precede or be synchronised with the Second Front. No one except the Allied High Commands can answer the second question.

But as regards the Russian plans for the immediate future, there is some indication of what their next move will be. The first major move in that the-

atre of war is likely to be a resumption of the contest of strength and military skill between the Nazi General Von Manstein and the Russian Marshal Zukov. The disposition of their forces is now clear. Von Manstein has admirable communications behind him and he has also obtained a certain number of fresh divisions. Manstein, it is also evident, intends bitterly to defend the great Polish base of Lwow. As against Manstein Marshal Zukov has acquired an important base in Tarnopol for operations against Lwow. Despite the great damage Tarnopol suffered in its recapture, the Russians must by now have licked it into shape as a jumping-off point for their advance into Poland. The importance of Lwow is that its fall will open the way for a Russian drive either into Czecho-Slovakia or the heart of Poland.

It is a safe guess that simultaneously the Russians will launch powerful offensives on other sectors of their front as well.

But the most interesting development to watch will be the extent of the coordination that will be achieved by the Russian armed forces, on the one hand, and the Second Front in Western Europe, on the other. History will afford no parallel to the magnitude of this combined operation, and the forthcoming battles, it may safely be predicted, will be on such a scale as to dwarf all the other battles of this fantastic war.

While this great drama is preparing, the air war in Europe has mounted to a pitch undreamed of even by Marshal Goering—the Nazi madman who two years ago gloated over the destruction wrought in Coventry. He now knows that if the Germans continue their resistance for another year, they will not only have lost the war, but they will have lost Germany as well—because not a city will be standing in their Fatherland.

The week just ended was also remarkable for another much publicised event—the meeting between Hitler and Mussolini. Reports from Northern Italy assert that this meeting never took place—that Mussolini is dying in his villa in some North Italian town, and that the German accounts of the meeting are purely fictitious and calculated to make the world believe that the two arch conspirators are planning some new act of devilry. But fortunately, now no one need be frightened by what Hitler and his Italian partner are intending to do. Their capacity for mischief is now restricted only to their own unfortunate peoples and the unhappy occupied territories.

So much for Europe. And now one turns to the East, where too the stage is being set for momentous developments. But here one must not look for quick results. The stage is a vaster one than that of Europe and difficulties of terrain peculiar to the tropics are a hindrance to the rapid movement of large forces, except by sea.

For some time now the chief centre of interest in this theatre of war has been the Japanese invasion of Manipur State. Being a recent development, it has overshadowed the earlier British invasion of Burma in the South (in the Arakan area) and the American-Chinese thrust deep into the right flank of the Japanese in North West Burma.

However, the battle for Imphal is now over six weeks old, but even the Japanese do not claim to be meeting with much success in their drive against it, although as far back as April 2nd the Tokyo Radio announced that the fall of Imphal was imminent. On April 27th however, the Japanese radio was singing a different tune.

