

The Catholic Guardian

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

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ALL-KERALA PILGRIMAGE

Persecuted Catholics Seek Protection of St. Thomas, the Apostle

His Grace Dr. Mathew Inspiring Speech

The Catholics of Madras gave a warm welcome reception to the All-Kerala Pilgrims who came on foot from San Thome Cathedral, Mylapore, to visit St. Mary's Cathedral in George Town.

I welcome you spiritual children of St. Thomas, sons of the soil which has been blessed by the presence of one of the first Apostles of Christ, St. Thomas. I welcome in you the Christian blood of twenty centuries because long before the Britons, the Saxons, the Franks and my own forefathers knew and loved Christ, your own forefathers knew Him and loved Him for they have been taught to know Him and love Him by one of His Apostles. I welcome you to the city of Madras, to this city the soil of which has been impregnated with the blood of St. Thomas, your apostle martyred by that same race whose blood runs in the veins of the one who persecutes you today. I welcome you in Mylapore Cathedral as pilgrims for indeed you have come here not as revolutionaries, or rebels; as politicians or rioters but as pious people who after asking man uselessly to redress your grievances, you have finally turned to God, our Father who is in Heaven. Following the inspired advice of the Psalmist you have confided to Almighty God your trials, your tribulations and your difficulties and full of hope wait for His action for you know that He will do the needful. The Psalmist in fact says *Revela viam tuam Domino et spera; Ipse faciet.* It is with that hope that you have come and that you have not feared the arbitrary orders of unreasonable people who believe that they can prevent man to have recourse to God. It recalls to my mind Lucifer who wanted to dictate and rule in the Kingdom of God, in the Spiritual spheres. Michael the Archangel stood and cried 'QUIS UT DEUS?' Who can dare to command in the spiritual Kingdom of God? Who can dare to prevent men from turning to God in their tribulations? Knowing that there is no more powerful weapon than prayer which defeats even the atomic bombs and the longer and larger guns, you have had recourse to a pilgrimage of prayer and penance, for you know well what Our Lord said. Certain tribula-

tions, certain trials, certain temptations are not overcome but by prayer and penance. 'Hoc genus daemoniorum non ejicitur nisi in oratione et jejuniis.' Following the example of the Christians throughout the history of the Church, you have had recourse to a pilgrimage not to a meeting of protest, not to revolutionary acts but to the most legitimate act man can do to turn to his Creator and to ask Him through the intercession of His Saints and particularly of St. Thomas to redress the grievances and injustices which are committed against you. You come to the tomb of St. Thomas the Apostle who has given you the faith in Christ to ask him to protect in you and in your children and in your family that faith which he gave you and to safeguard your legitimate rights. Is there any crime in your action? Is there any foolishness in your coming as pilgrims or is it foolishness on the part of those who wish to prevent you to pray?

His Grace then congratulated the Pilgrims for the beautiful example of Faith and courage they had given in coming in spite of the suspicion which has been slurred on them. He congratulated them to be the first to give this example which will have to be followed by many others in future for the future does not seem to be bright. He exhorted them to be united for united they would be a great power. He recommended to all Christian denominations to be united in the defence of the interests of Christ which were the interests of God and assured the spiritual co-operation of all the Faithful of Madras who would be united with the pilgrims especially on Sunday. He asked Almighty God to grant to that corner of India that peace and tranquillity which had existed always until a certain day and he hoped that through the intercession of St. Thomas that peace which the world cannot give would be given in answer to their prayers by Almighty God in spite of man.

SILENCE OVER SAKHALIN

Bleak silence is the only response so far to questions about what has happened to five Catholic missionaries, their parishioners and their churches in the southern part of Sakhalin Island, which has been occupied by the Russians since the end of the war.

Sakhalin is the island which figured in the recent disclosure of the secret Yalta agreement by which it was promised permanently to Soviet Russia. It is a long, narrow strip off the east coast of Asia, separated from the mainland by the Gulf of Tartary, or Sakhalin, and was Russian territory until 1905, when the southern part was ceded to Japan.

One Japanese priest and four Polish Franciscans—three priests and a brother—were ministering to the 550 Catholics among the 450,000 non-Christians in the Prefecture Apostolic of Karajuto in southern Sakhalin when the Soviet

troops moved in from the north.

The missionaries were not among the refugees who fled to the Japanese coast in fishing boats. Nor could any of the refugees report news of their fate.

The NCWC News Service on two occasions last month made inquiries concerning the missionaries and their flock at the Soviet Military Mission of the Russian Embassy in Tokyo. The answer was that no information could be obtained because "no connections exist between here and Moscow" for communications and nothing could be decided until the Russian members of the Allied Control Council arrive there.

The chief of the Russian group said he expected the Soviet unit of the Control Council would arrive last Saturday but recommended to the NCWC correspondent not to return for a fortnight.

SOVIET ISLAM AND BRITISH COMMONWEALTH

The question of the relations between the Soviet Union and Islam, in its largest terms, is one of mounting urgency, and the particular question of the relations of the Soviet Union with Turkey has an immediacy that only those can realize who are informed of recent frontier incidents or are aware of the nature and volume of the Soviet celebrations of the twenty-fifth anniversary of the Georgian S.S.R., a territory already enriched recently at the expense of the Russian S.F.S.R., or of the demands that the Armenians shall recover their national unity. Both the Georgian and the Armenian Soviet Socialist Republics are finding *Pravda* a sympathetic place for publishing claims for frontier revisions at the expense of Turkey. These claims are, of course, intimately bound up with the activities of the Tudeh Party in the adjacent Persian territory of Azerbaijan; and the whole matter is of the most direct and vital importance for the system of communications upon which the British Commonwealth depends.

It is an extremely important and insufficiently recognized part of Soviet foreign policy to seek the support of, and to work through, Islam. The great mass of the population in the Netherlands East Indies is Moslem, and that is among the perhaps not at once perceptible explanations of the recent solicitude for the Indonesians on the part of the Government of Soviet Ukraine. Concern for Moslem interests is also the key to M. Vyshinsky's con-

tribution to the discussion of the Levant in the Security Council. The Anglo-French arrangement now being made in Paris for the withdrawal of our troops from the Levant is viewed with disquiet by the Turks as well as by the Christians of the Middle East. The heads of the Christian bodies in the Levant, the Catholic Maronite Patriarch and the Orthodox Metropolitan alike, wrote not long ago to President Truman and to Pope Pius XII, seeking support for their desire that their French protection shall not be withdrawn. It was particularly striking to read the terms in which the Orthodox Metropolitan of the Lebanon, Archbishop Elie Karain, wrote to the Pope on November 5th, 1945, in view of the terms in which other Orthodox Metropolitans are writing elsewhere. "Tres Saint Pere," he began in French—we translate:—

"The Christians of the whole world are accustomed, at all times and in all places, to direct their gaze towards Rome in their moments of distress. We in our turn, most Holy Father, although an Orthodox prelate, come to solicit your support, that we may be able to triumph over the peril which today threatens all the Christians of the Near East."

Peril is indeed the word. The focal point of the world's crisis has shifted during these last few weeks from Central Europe to Asia, comprehending in that term not only China and Manchuria, India and Indonesia, but also the Near and Middle East.—*The Tablet.*

VATICAN DENIES PEACE PLAN

A Communist allegation that the Holy Father in 1940 helped Germany with a peace plan is denied by the Vatican newspaper "Osservatore Romano."

Vatican Radio broadcast the following statement:

On January 24 the Prague Communist paper "Rude Pravo" published an article under the heading "Allies Discover Sensational documents: The Pope helped Germany in 1940."

It is said that the news had come from the "Daily Worker" diplomatic correspondent, based on facts which had come to light during the Nuremberg trial.

The story was that the Pope was the focus of a peace plan which would have favoured the Right, and also promised that all Eastern European problems would be settled in Germany's favour on condition that the German Army broke away from Hitler and Ribbentrop and called off the blitz war in the West. He is also said to have agreed that Goebbels should become Fuehrer of Germany.

To-day's "Osservatore Romano" says that, faithful to his principle to leave nothing undone which might serve the cause of peace and spare the world the disastrous effects of a terrible war, the Pope, in response to important German political and military circles, agreed to transmit certain statements on their war aims and on possible conditions of peace to the belligerents and to transmit any reply to the Germans.

For this purpose the Pope used only

official channels. It is incomprehensible, therefore, that the relative documents should constitute a "surprising discovery by the Allies."

The Pope's action was limited to this incident. He neither presented peace plans of his own nor made proposals for the unilateral solution of Eastern European problems in Germany's favour nor for Goebbels to become German Fuehrer.

The aim of the German circles concerned may be defined as Germany's liberation from National Socialism.

No mention was made of the Soviet Union in any way or at any time.

In any case, the episode occurred at the end of 1939 and beginning of 1940, at a time, therefore, when the Soviet Union was in friendly relations with National Socialist Germany.

JUST OUT

Meditations on Holy Mass

(in Tamil)

By CHEV. S. ARULANANTHAM

Cost 60 cts. per copy. Postage 6 cts.

Available from:—

- (1) The Hon. Secretary, Literature Committee, St. Patrick's College, Jaffna.
- (2) The Manager, St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

Church Calendar

MAY 1946

FRI.	...10	S. Antoninus.
SAT.	...11	Our Lady of Mercy.
SUN.	...12	3 E. S. Pancratius.
MON.	...13	S. Robert Bel.
TUES.	...14	S. Boniface.
WED.	...15	S. J. B. de la Sal.
THURS.	...16	S. Ubald.
FRI.	...17	S. Paschal Bay.

The Catholic Guardian

MAY 10TH 1946

CONTROLS SHOULD BE SCRAPPED

The Director of Commerce and Industry, Mr. Balfour has submitted to his Minister his considered opinion that the Control of Imports should continue indefinitely. The closing date of control must depend on the development of the industries in Ceylon. Referring to this proposal of prolonging the import control the "Times of Ceylon" had a fine sentence which deserves repetition. "Bureaucrats are like certain breeds of dogs—once they get their teeth into the body politic they refuse to let go." Regardless of the hardships caused, officialdom tenaciously clings to controls. These came in the wake of the Emergency Regulations during a terrible war and people put up with them as part of its trials and miseries. This month is the first anniversary of the end of the conflict in Europe and one cannot honestly maintain after a lapse of one year the Emergency still continues with all kinds of controls that came with it. Mr. Balfour indeed states his reasons why he wants the import control to be kept on. They appear plausible but break down when subjected to critical examination. To be fair to Mr. Balfour let us say that he wants to cut down luxury imports but not essential imports. Who is to decide what are luxury imports and what are essential imports? He proposes a Committee. The people are sick of Committees and Advisory Boards. The fear of the Director is that if imports are allowed freely, the people would buy what is not really necessary for them and spend whatever money they have accumulated during the war and when the Ceylon industries which are still in the air produce their articles, these will find no buyers, the people having already lost their purchasing power. And thus local industries would languish and die. But when will these industries be started? What will be the quality of the articles turned out? The things locally produced will always be in an advantageous position, not having to pay freight and duty, and they will be quite able or should be able to compete with imported ones. The fears of the Director seem groundless. By restricting imports not only are the prices of the articles kept up but the cost of living in consequence would continue to be high. But the chief reason why all controls should be swept away without delay is the necessity to raise this country from the sink of cor-

ruption into which it has fallen. Dishonest practices of all kinds, lying, cheating, thieving are rife in social and official life. These evils did exist before the war but they have been tenfold aggravated by the chances given by the controls. A few days ago Mr. Rodrigo, the Textile Controller, made the admission that cloths worth Rs. 30 million had disappeared in one year into the black market. How many million rupees worth of goods from other controlled departments had similarly disappeared who can say? The control system has done an enormous amount of moral harm to the country and it should be scrapped without further delay.

EDITORIAL NOTE

Jaffna Schools.—Our local contemporary the "Hindu Organ" asks this question: What is wrong with our Schools? And analysing the number of passes in Examinations during recent years concludes that there is something seriously wrong with them. Although they do not do badly in examinations like J. S. C. and S. S. C., in higher examinations like the H. S. C. and the University Entrance Examinations the results have been decidedly poor for years. According to our contemporary the number of passes obtained in the higher examinations by all the schools in Jaffna together is less than those of a single leading College in Colombo. If this happened once in a way one may not mind it but year after year it has been so, says our contemporary. What can be the reason? The Jaffna school-going youths are credited with enough intelligence to compete successfully in examinations with those in the South. Their failure must be due to lack of serious and sustained work or to a lowering of the standard of studies in the Jaffna schools or to both. Some people may pooh-pooh the test of Examinations but examinations do test the standard of work of both of the students and teachers. Jaffna could not boast of its wealth of money but it took pride in its wealth of intelligence; but if it lags behind even in this, it must necessarily go to the wall. This is a matter well-worth inquiring into.

The Belgian Election

The B.B.C. has repeatedly told listeners in this country that the Catholic vote in Belgium is so large only because collaborators and quislings have swelled it. On Monday evening, announcing the results of the provincial elections, it permitted itself to use the term "fascist." It is therefore all the more desirable to make it clear that M. van Acker's Government was so anxious to ensure in advance that the Catholic vote should not be inflated that not only did it refuse to consider the enfranchisement of women until after the election, but it disenfranchised no fewer than 322,000 collaborators and other *inciviques* precisely to prevent them from swelling the Catholic vote, while at the same time declining to disenfranchise on similar grounds about 100,000 artisans, mostly left-wing in their politics, who had collaborated to the extent of voluntarily assisting the Germans in building the Atlantic Wall and erecting other fortifications. If all Belgians of both sexes had been allowed to vote without restriction, as in the British General Election, there is little doubt that the Christian Social Party would have been given that decisive majority which has in fact been denied it.

I Would Welcome A Prosecution

—Says Mgr. MacDonald

"If pointing out the truth (no matter how unpleasant it may be) be libel, then I welcome the prosecution.

This statement formed part of a reply made by Mgr. Andrew Joseph MacDonald, Archbishop of St. Andrews and Edinburgh when he was told that Mr. D. N. Pritt had complained in the House of Commons of his criticisms of the Russians.

Mr. Pritt asked the Attorney-General if the Archbishop might be prosecuted for libel. Sir Hartley Shawcross replied that he did not consider he would be justified in instituting proceedings for criminal libel.

I AM GLAD

In justifying his previous statement that the Russians had "surpassed the worst achievements of Nazi degenerates," the Archbishop said in his reply: "I am glad of this opportunity of bringing to the public attention a matter which must perturb the consciences of freedom-loving Christians.

"Excesses are an inevitable concomitant of war and to be expected and lamented; but—and I would stress this—the excesses displayed by the Russian Armies in the way of mass deportations, political murders, wholesale thieving, raping, crimes perpetrated not merely on former enemies but also on Allies, crimes for which our Nazi enemies are even now being tried at Nuremberg, these excesses, if allowed to continue, will spell the doom of Christian civilisation in Eastern Europe."

Catholic Support for Catholic Press

"The Catholic press is the voice that reaches everybody," "All associations and members have, therefore, an interest in giving assistance to Catholic newspapers: from prayer to propaganda, from sales to soliciting subscriptions, from the furnishing of news to making individual contributions.

"The newspaper is an expensive modern weapon, but an indispensable one. A battle is not won by placing infantry against tanks. The peaceful battle of Catholic Action will not be won unless associations of Catholic Action and individual members make every effort and every sacrifice to obtain for the Catholic press the maximum technical equipment and the largest circulation." "It is the hour of Catholic Action. It is, the hour of the Catholic press."

Cardinal Tien

Cardinal Tien's broadcast to China on March 7th, the first time the Vatican wireless has transmitted Chinese. He thanked the Chinese Church, Government and people. After paying tribute to the Apostolic Delegate to China and to Mgr. Celso Costantini, the Cardinal said even though the Church in China has now the honour of a Red Hat it is the Chinese clergy who must accept responsibility for building up the Church in their country in accordance with the full Christian vocation of China.

A Chinese play was performed in Rome at the College of Propaganda in honour of Cardinal Tien, the cast being drawn from the 36 Chinese students at the College. Practically all the Chinese colony in Rome, some 400 strong, were present. Cardinal Tien's titular church is Santa Maria in Via, once the title of Cardinal St. Robert Bellarmine, whose catechism was adopted as a model for the children of China by the First Plenary Council in Shanghai in 1924.

Cardinal Tien only learned of his nomination from a telegram of congratulations from Archbishop Spellman.

The word "Cardinal" having no translation into written Chinese, Marshal Chiang Kai-shek has personally invented the phrase by which it is to be translated henceforward, out of compliment to Cardinal Tien: "hu i chion Kiao" or "purple-robed Bishop."

The scion of a family once prominent in government circles, the first Chinese Cardinal in history, was born on Sept. 27, 1890, at Chengtsin in Shantung Province. He was ten years old at the time of his baptism. His ordination to the priesthood took place in 1918. As a young priest the future Cardinal devoted himself to the care of souls in the Yenchowfu area and was later appointed Director of a school in the Tsingtao sector. Gradually he came to feel that he had a vocation for the religious life. He applied for admittance to the Society of the Divine Word and was received in 1929. As Prefect Apostolic of Yangku, his life was a shining example of three virtues: zeal for souls, love of poverty, and fidelity to duty. Besides Chinese and Latin, Cardinal Tien speaks also some German, French and English. Among the clergy he enjoys a reputation as a preacher.

World Bill of Rights Against Soviet Russia

The establishment of true independence and security for all small nations now threatened by Soviet aggression and the repudiation of all secret commitments by the United States unless first ratified by the Senate were asked in resolutions adopted by the World Bill of Rights Association at a public meeting in New York.

Other resolutions urged Congress to adopt a World Bill of Rights whose acceptance would be made obligatory before a nation could become a member of the United Nations; removal from government positions of persons serving the interests of a foreign power, and assurance of refuge for displaced persons and those unwilling to return to their homeland under present political conditions.

The people of America desire peace and ask all peoples to join them in working for it, Edward T. McCaffrey, National Commander, Catholic War Veterans, declared in an address at the meeting. However, when a Government seeks to impose its will upon smaller neighbours, he said, "or shuts its ears to the clarion call of the freedom as promulgated by the Atlantic Charter—we entertain grave doubt that such a Government is truly desirous of peace." Russia and its puppet States, he stated, have put to slavery and forced labour millions of European peoples and now are attempting the same thing in Asia.

"It will be a false and tragic approach to any peace conference," Mr. McCaffrey said, "unless in all, and in particular Soviet occupied countries, are established: freedom of religion, freedom to organize political parties, a constitutional Government based on free elections and secret ballot, freedom of speech, writing, expression and assembly, and security for all citizens against unlawful arrest, detention, or persecution because of religious, political or other convictions."

The following was sent to us for publication by the Secy. S.H. Bureau.

The Devotion to the Holy Names of JESUS, MARY, JOSEPH for both the living and the dead.

His Holiness Pope Pius X has enriched the calling upon these blessed Names with rich indulgences. Was not that a powerful recommendation for an easy devotional practice?

A Short Ejaculatory Prayer

These three names form an ejaculatory prayer which we should love to repeat ceaselessly, morning and evening, at night when we wake up—for the benefit of the living and the dead. Whenever we utter them devoutly, we gain an indulgence of seven years which can be applied to the souls in purgatory: When recited daily, Plen. Ind. once a month.

Let us constantly make use of that most valuable treasure for the benefit of both the living and the dead.

A Useful Meditation

Let us also love to meditate on those three Blessed Names. In our bodily and moral trials, our consolation will be

to call on the glorious names of Jesus, Mary and Joseph.

JESUS! a word which calls to mind so many divine mysteries: the adorable Son of the eternal Father, who took to himself our tainted nature and died for us on a gibbet.....who rose from the dead.....ascended into heaven, where he invites us to follow him.

MARY...the sweetest name of our beloved mother, whose children will never perish, whom we daily call to be present at the hour of our death.

JOSEPH...the guardian of Mary, the foster father of Jesus, the patron of difficult causes, the patron of good death.

Lover of Jesus, of Mary, and of Joseph...call on them daily, many times a day, wherever you may be. They will prove a matchless treasure for the benefit of your soul, and of the souls of those whom you love.

The A.C.T.C.C. Meets

A meeting of the General Committee of the All-Ceylon Tamil Congress (The A.C.T.C.C.) was held at the Saiva Mangayar Kalagam Hall, Wellawatte, on Sunday, the 28th inst. at 4-30 p.m.

The letter of resignation sent by Mr. S. Sivasubramaniam, Joint Hony. Secy. of the Congress, was considered. The Committee could not accept some of the views put forward by Mr. Sivasubramaniam in his letter as to the future policy and programme of the Congress. The Congress Committee, however, placed on record its grateful thanks to Mr. Sivasubramaniam for his great services and paid a tribute to the devoted, unstinted and most generous work done by him since the inception of the Congress. As all efforts made (both individually and in Committee) to induce Mr. Sivasubramaniam to continue in office has failed, the Committee had no option but to accept his resignation with regret.

The Committee decided to hold the Second Plenary Sessions of the Congress at the Jaffna Town Hall early in August, and further decided to hold a "Congress Week" in the Northern Province immediately following or immediately preceding the Sessions. During the Congress Week several group conferences, meetings and demonstrations will be held all over the Province, an intensive membership drive will be inaugurated, and special collections made towards the Tamil National Fund which was sanctioned by the Special Congress Sessions held in Colombo on 4th October, 1945. It was also resolved to hold "Congress Week-ends" on similar lines at Trincomalee, Batticaloa, Mannar, Colombo and other districts. It was decided that the question of the Congress contesting the next election as a party, and putting forward candidates to fight on its programme and policy should be left for final decision to the next Congress Session. It was emphasized that this was the most democratic and practical method of elucidating the wishes of the Tamil people. Arrangements were made for the opening of a new Central Office of the Congress at Colombo at an early date and for the holding of weekly meetings of the Working Committee to give more drive and direction to the national movement.

Several members of the Committee have undertaken to contribute one hundred rupees each and some others fifty rupees each per month till the end of this year for the reorganising of the Central Office and revivifying the work of the Congress.

Two Sub-Committees were appointed—one to report to the A.C.T.C.C. on the Official Language question and its implications to the national educational policy, and another to define accurately the policy and programme of the A.C.T.C.C. for immediate publication.

The meeting terminated at 7-30 p.m.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Confraternity of the Sacred Heart.—The monthly meeting of the members of the Confraternity of the Sacred Heart, S.P.C. Branch, Senior Division will be held on Sunday the 12th inst. at 5-30 p.m. at the College Hall. Mr. P. Saverimuttu, B.A., will address the meeting on the "Invocation a Heart of Jesus full of Goodness and Love."

The Third Order of St. Francis.

—The monthly meeting of the Third Order of St. Francis will take place at 6 p.m. in St. Aloysius' Hall on Monday the 13th of May 1946. All the Brothers are kindly requested to be there in time. Plenary Indulgences can be gained on these dates:—17, 18, 19, 20, 21, 30 and 31. Conditions:—Confession, Communion, Visit to the Cathedral and prayer for the Pope's Intention.

'Our Lady Halted the Reds.'—Speaking in Segovia town hall after being presented by the city with a gold medal, General Franco spoke of the "strange coincidence" that the Spanish Civil War "always halted before Mary's churches."

"In Guadalupe the Civil Guards who were defending the shrine nearly ran out of ammunition and hard battles were fought to spare the Guadalupe monastery from falling into the hands of the Reds.

"The shrine of Our Lady of the Pilar was another of Mary's churches where the Red fury was quelled. It was the same in Fuensisla.

"Were we to recall here all the places where the lines were finally established, we could discern a higher Divine Will directing and controlling our destinies."

A gold medal presented to General Franco is the second gold Medal of Segovia to be struck. The first was awarded to Our Lady in thanksgiving for her protection of the city. The Medal was pinned to the cloak of Our Lady's statue.

Major Defeat for French Communists.—France is faced today with a further seven months of the Provisional Government as a result of the electorate's rejection of the new single-chamber constitution which was recently voted by the Communist and Socialist majority of the French Constituent Assembly.

In the coming June elections France will have to elect a second constituent Assembly whose main task will once again be to elaborate a draft constitution.

The whole right-wing Press is jubilant, identifying the rejection of the constitution as a major defeat for the Communists.

Atom Specialists for Catholic University.—Two atomic bomb scientists, one a woman, are to be on the staff of the Catholic University of America in Washington.

They are Dr. Lise Meitner, an Austrian, whose research work is acknowledged to be basic to developments in the field of atomic energy, and Dr. W. J. Moore, who had a part in developing the bomb as a member of the secret army organisation known as the Manhattan Project.

Dr. Meitner, a sister-in-law of a professor at the university, was expelled from Germany under the racial laws and continued to work in Sweden.

The Vatican.—Cardinal Villeneuve, Archbishop of Quebec, has been appointed to the Sacred Congregation of the Consistory.

On March 8th, the Pope appeared twice on the balcony of the Basilica of St. Peter's to bless several hundreds of the relatives of Italian prisoners of war who are still abroad. The families had gathered in St. Peter's Square to show their gratitude to the Pope for his interest in the repatriation of their sons and husbands.

One of the happiest figures at the recent Consistory was Cardinal Pignatelli di Belmonte, Dean of the Sacred College, who was 95 on April 10th. He got a special cheer as he entered St. Peter's supported by two attendants. He smiled and laughed as he embraced the new Cardinals one by one like a father. He has been a Cardinal nearly 35 years.

Saturday Night Dances.—Princess Elizabeth's twentieth birthday fell on Easter Sunday, and the "United Press of America" said this in its report from London:

"The King put his firm parental foot down on the high-spirited Princess's plan for a Birthday Eve Ball, according to well-informed castle sources. These sources said that the King objected that Princess Elizabeth's dancing parties had a habit of going on until the early hours of the morning, and he would have no

dancing in Windsor Castle on Easter Sunday."

There is a moral here for Catholics who indulge in Saturday night dances, although the Catholic objection is on slightly different grounds. What we object to is the early hours of Sunday being spent in this way—not at all a suitable prelude to attendance at Mass which is the first and chief Sunday duty.

Poland.—Cardinal Sapieha left Rome on Ash Wednesday to return to Poland, travelling by rail in a special coach put at his disposal by the Warsaw Government. He appears to have made visits en route, since it was not until eleven days later, on March 17th, that he arrived at Katowice, where he was met by the Bishop, Mgr. Adamski, and a delegation from his See of Cracow, headed by the Rector of the University. At Katowice and at all other railway stations in Poland great crowds were waiting to cheer him and to receive the papal blessing. Cracow was decorated with flags and the streets were packed. The Cardinal drove from the railway station to the church of Our Lady, where thanksgiving prayers were recited.

Germany.—Some 3,000 gallons of Mass wine have been made available to the German Catholic clergy under an agreement between the French and the other Allied occupation authorities in Berlin, by which 780 gallons go to the American zone, 520 each to the British and French zones and 849 gallons to the Russian zone. Some 33,500 German priests will each get fifty bottles of Mass wine a year.

It was stated by Berlin radio that the Catholic Church in Berlin maintains 45 kindergartens, 12 homes for children and infants, two hostels for boy apprentices and five hostels for girls in need of care.

Missionaries Supplied by Parachute.—Five Oblate missionaries who have been marooned in the Arctic Circle for three years were helped by the Royal Canadian Air Force, which sent an R.C.A.F. Dakota on a 4,000 miles' errand with medical supplies harnessed to a special type of parachute. The total relief cargo weighed approximately one ton, and was divided into three lots, one for each of the marooned missions at Repulse Bay, Pelly Bay, and Igloo lik. The dropping ground at Repulse Bay was marked off with furs and anything else that showed up against the Arctic ground. After the run in Eskimos and others could be seen gathering the supplies and moving them into the mission.

Pope Receives Chief Rabbi.—On March 10th, Dr. Isaac Herzog Chief Rabbi of Palestine, was received in private audience by the Pope. According to a statement issued by the Rabbi's Office their conversation dealt with general religious problems of humanity, the question of racial and religious goodwill, and the fate of thousands of Jewish children, placed by their parents in monasteries and Catholic homes throughout Europe to escape Nazi extermination.

It is understood that the Rabbi expressed thanks for Catholic aid to persecuted Jews and discussed the possibility of organising large orphanages for the reception of children still dispersed.

Ordination at Dachau.—The story is now told of how Fr. Leisner, a German, was ordained priest and said his first and last Mass in Dachau horror camp. He was ordained priest in Advent, 1944, by the French Bishop of Clermont-Ferrand, a fellow-prisoner. Priests in the camp made a wooden crozier for the Bishop and fashioned his vestments from crude materials. Fr. Leisner said his first Mass in the prison chapel. Before he could offer the Holy Sacrifice again he died from exhaustion and ill-treatment. A specially composed "Ecce Sacerdos Magnus" was sung at the ordination, composed by Dom Gregor Schwake, O.S.B., a German authority on liturgical music, who was also in Dachau.

WEDDING

SYLVESTER—SOOSAIPILLAI

Mater Dolorosa Church, Thandavanveli, Batticaloa, was the scene of a pretty wedding on Saturday the 4th

May, 1946, when Mr. Alexander Arasaretnam Sylvester of the General Post Office, son of the late Mr. Gabrielpillai Sylvester and Mrs. Victoria Sylvester, Batticaloa led to the altar Miss Victoria Selvamany, daughter of the late Mr. Soosaipillai and Mrs. Cecilia Soosaipillai and sister of Mr. K. T. Selvadurai, C.G.R., Wellikande.

The service which was fully choral was conducted by the Very Revd. Fr. E. Crowther, S.J., Rector, St. Michael's College, assisted by Revd. Frs. Jerome Desa and F. O. Thambymuttu.

After the ceremony the couple retired to the vestry to sign the Register, attesting witnesses being Dr. N. M. Vannia Singhe, and Mr. S. N. Velupillai, Bar-at-Law, Batticaloa.

The select gathering were entertained to light refreshment. This was followed by "Koorai" ceremony.

Several congratulatory telegrams and valuable presents were received by the couple.

OBITUARY

There passed away to her eternal rest on the 14th ultimo, fortified by the last rites of the Church, Rosalia Olivet Parimalam, second daughter of A. M. Kanagasuntherie, Irrigation Officer, Mannar and grandniece of B. David, retired Post Master. She descended from the illustrious families of Gasparpillai and Kanagasuntherie of Karampan. She was God-loving. She recited the Rosary and other prayers daily and with great fervour. She was very obedient. She was loved by all who came in contact with her for her amiable qualities. At her request the statue of the Blessed Virgin was placed at her bed-side, and she would look at it every now and then and appeal to Our Holy Mother. She was eleven years old.

The funeral took place on the following day. Revd. Fr. Deogupillai a relation of the deceased officiated, assisted by the Revd. Frs. Huctin and Vanderkoen. There was a very large attendance and her relations from Karampan were present in large numbers. The remains were blessed at the Mortuary Chapel. R. I. P.

CORRESPONDENCE

Delay to Correspondence

Dear Sir,—In most, if not all Government Offices the practice of acknowledging letters addressed to them has become a thing of the past, and it takes months to get a reply, if at all. Instances there are when attention is called "no such letters received, send copy." Very strange. Where these letters go?

Having recovered from the emergency period of "war on" excuse, it is essential that every correspondence deserves to be acknowledged on receipt, unless reply necessitates delay: unlimited delay?

Will you, or any of the Members of the State Council give this subject due attention and relieve the public from anxiety not to speak of the extra expense and labour.

Yours faithfully,

Kaitbady,
5th May, 1946.

S. R. S.

Food Production Overseers

Wanted Food Production Overseers, salary Rs. 1.25 per diem plus allowances. Applications close on 10-5-46. For details please see Govt. Gazette of the 3rd instant.

M. SRIKHANTA,
Asst. Govt. Agent (Emergency).
Emergency Kachecheri,
Jaffna, 1st May, 1946.

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M. SRIKHANTA,
A.G.A. (E).
Jaffna, 7th May, 1946.

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