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ENCYCLICAL ON THE MYSTICAL BODY OF CHRIST

(Continued from our last issue.)

CHURCH ENRICHED WITH PARACLETE'S GIFTS

Just as at the first moment of the Incarnation, the Son of the Eternal Father adorned with the fullness of the Holy Spirit the human nature which was substantially united to Him, that it might be a fitting instrument of the Divinity in the sanguinary task of the Redemption, so at the hour of His precious death He wished that His Church should be enriched with the abundant gifts of the Paraclete in order that in dispensing the divine fruits of the Redemption it might be for the Incarnate Word a powerful instrument that would certainly never fail. For the juridical mission of the Church, and the power to teach, govern and administer the Sacraments derive their supernatural efficacy and force for the building up of the Body of Christ from the fact that Jesus Christ hanging on the Cross, opened up to His Church the fountain of divine graces, which protect it from ever teaching men false doctrine, and enable it to rule them for their souls' salvation through supernaturally enlightened Pastors and to bestow on them abundant heavenly graces.

If we closely consider all these mysteries of the Cross, those words of the Apostle are no longer obscure for us, in which he teaches the Ephesians that Christ by His blood made the Jews and the Gentiles one, "breaking down the middle wall of partition...in his flesh" by which the two peoples were divided; and that He had made the Old Law void "that he might make the two in himself into one new man," that is, the Church, and might reconcile both to God by the Cross.

The Church which He founded by His blood, He strengthened on the day

of Pentecost by a special power, given from Heaven. For, having solemnly installed in his exalted office him whom He had already nominated as His Vicar, He had ascended into heaven; and sitting now at the right hand of the Father He wished to make known and proclaim His Spouse through the visible coming of the Holy Spirit with the sound of a mighty wind and tongues of fire. For just as He Himself when He began to preach was made known by His Eternal Father through the Holy Spirit descending and remaining on Him; so likewise, as the Apostles were about to enter upon their office of preaching, Christ Our Lord sent the Holy Spirit down from heaven, to touch them with tongues of fire and to point out as by the finger of God the supernatural mission and supernatural office of the Church.

CHRIST IS HEAD OF THE BODY

That this Mystical Body which is the Church should be called Christ, is proved, in the second place, from the fact that He must be universally acknowledged as its actual Head. "He," as St. Paul says, "is the Head of the Body, the Church." He is the Head from Whom the whole body, perfectly organized, "groweth and maketh increase unto the edifying of itself."

You are aware, Venerable Brothers, of the brilliant language used by the masters of Scholastic Theology, and chiefly by the Angelic and Common Doctor, when treating this question; and you know that the reasons advanced by Aquinas are a faithful reflexion of the mind and writings of the Holy Fathers, who after all merely repeated and commented on the inspired word of Sacred Scripture.

However, for the good of all We wish to touch this point briefly. And

first of all it is clear that the Son of God and of the Blessed Virgin is to be called the Head of the Church for His singular pre-eminence. For the Head is in the highest place. But who is in higher place than Christ, Man, Who as the Word of the Eternal Father must be acknowledged to be the "first born of every creature"? Who has reached more lofty heights than Christ, Man, Who, though born of the Immaculate Virgin, is the true and natural Son of God, and thanks to His miraculous and glorious resurrection, a resurrection triumphant over death, has become the "first born of the dead"? Who finally has been so exalted as He, Who as "the one Mediator of God and men" has in a most marvellous manner linked earth to heaven, Who, raised on the Cross, as on a throne of mercy, has drawn all things to Himself, Who as the Son of Man, chosen from among countless, is the object of God's love beyond all men, all Angels and all creation?

CHRIST GOVERNS, RULES CHURCH

Because Christ is so exalted, He alone by every right rules and governs the Church; and herein is yet another reason why He must be likened to a head. As the head is the "royal citadel" of the body—to use the words of Ambrose—and all the members, over which it is placed for their good, as naturally guided by it as being endowed with superior powers, so the Divine Redeemer holds the helm of the universal State of Christians, and directs its course. And as a government of human society means merely this, to lead men to the end proposed by means that are expedient, just and helpful, it is easy to see how our Saviour, model and ideal of good shepherds, performs all these functions in a most striking way.

For while still on earth, He instructed us by precept, counsel and warning in words that shall never pass away, and will be spirit and life to all men of all times. Moreover He conferred a triple power on His Apostles and their successors, to teach, to govern, to lead men to holiness. This triple power, defined by special ordinances, by rights and obligations, He made the fundamental law of the whole Church.

But Our Divine Saviour governs and guides His community also directly and personally. For it is He Who reigns within the minds and hearts of men and bends and subjects to His purpose their wills even when rebellious. "The heart of the King is the hand of the Lord; whithersoever he will, he shall turn it." By this interior guidance the "Shepherd and Bishop of our souls" not only watches over individuals, but exercises His providence over the universal Church as well, whether by enlightening and giving courage to the Church's rulers for the loyal and effective performance of their respective duties, or by singling out from the Body of the Church—especially when times are grave—men and women of conspicuous holiness, who may point the way for the rest of Christendom to the perfecting of His Mystical Body. Besides from heaven Christ never ceases to look down with extraordinary love on His unspotted Spouse so sorely tried in her earthly exile; and when He sees her in danger, either Himself or through the ministry of His Angels, or through her whom we hail the Help of Christians, and other heavenly advocates, takes her out of the tempestuous sea, and in calm and tranquil waters comforts her with the peace "which surpasseth all understanding."

(To be Continued)

IMPORTANCE OF RELIGION AS NEWS

Mr. Henry Martin, the Editor-in-Chief of the Press Association, broke some thick ice in February when he urged at a gathering of newspaper editors that religion is news and that it was only the narrowness of our press which prevents it realising the fact.

Mr. Martin was no doubt correct in his assumption that our journalists neglected religion as a news topic because they were generally too ill-educated to understand its importance and because it was without the selling appeal of "sex, sport and sensation." But journalists have a sixth sense, and it may be that somewhere within them there is a hunch that religion is also dangerous—that, in journalistic phrase, it is dynamite.

AVOIDING THE ISSUES

Concerned with the task of selling religion to his influential audience, Mr. Martin did not stress this all-important aspect of religion. Rather he made religion sound more like a moral "pick-me-up," something which, properly understood, would raise the tone of the nation, elevate and enervise the individual and generally make us all finer members of a better society. And certainly Mr. Martin may well plead that in putting forward religion in such terms, he is only echoing the words of the great majority who in one form or another preach religion.

And indeed it is true that religion will

have such effects, but it will only have them at a price. And it is a price which few of us like to mention and fewer of us are prepared to pay.

The price was stated by Our Lord in the tenth chapter of St. Matthew—that alarming chapter in which the apostles are commissioned, warned in verse after verse about the manifold ways in which they will be hated, and told to behave in what seems like an inhuman fashion.

To many this aspect of Christianity seems harsh and unnatural, and it certainly doesn't help to sell it to the business, political and publicity world of 1944; yet in few periods of the world's history could the truth and importance of the price we have to pay for the consolations and fruits of religion be more obvious.

Religion, in fact, proposes God's way of life; and that way cannot be proposed to a society which in almost every respect lives in terms of power, wealth and pleasure (even to the enduring of sacrifices for these ends that religion itself would not demand) without the setting up of a tension whose intensity is in no way exaggerated in the phrases used by Our Lord.

There is at present a strange conspiracy between many religious men and many men of the world to disregard the points of tension, to veil them, and to shake hands on a narrow programme in

(Continued on Page 4.)

NOW WE KNOW THE POSITION

The uncertainties about Russia's foreign policy during and after the war are now dispelled. The picture has been made sufficiently clear to the world through the new constitutional changes whereby the constituent members of the Soviet Union are granted what appear on paper to be considerable autonomous rights, including the right of separate foreign representation and of secession. The list of autonomous republics include Estonia, Latvia, Lithuania, the Ukraine, Byelo-Russia, Karelo-Finland and Bessarabia-Moldavia. This constitutional trick is clearly designed to ease the incorporation of non-Soviet countries against the will of their pre-war leaders and people, and it opens the way to new incorporations if and where circumstances seem favourable.

The possibilities of this scheme have already been illustrated by the game that was played during the recent session of the Supreme Soviet. M. Korneychuk, husband of Wanda Wasilewska, President of the pro-Soviet Poles in Moscow, had been appointed Ukrainian Commissar for Foreign Affairs and it was not surprising that the Ukrainians opposed the Curzon Line as the future frontier between Poland and Russia, demanding instead the cession of Polish territories west of that line. The position now enables Stalin to pose before the world as a moderating influence against the intemperance of the Polish-Ukrainian people who would like the

Soviet's protection to extend as far as possible. Evidently the diplomatic and political possibilities of the position are infinite, and none of the trick of European diplomacy in the old days can hold a candle to the diplomatic ingenuity of the new Russia. Not for that matter was any European monarchy able to exert a State power as decisive as the one now enjoyed by the Communist Party with its central O.G.P.U. administration. To the strange fiction that the totalitarian Soviet is somehow democratic at heart is now added the diplomatic fiction that the absolute power of Stalin is to be reconciled with national freedoms reminiscent of the Statute of Westminster.

But it is the price of such extreme ingenuity that its very elaborations can defeat their own purpose. Nobody except Communists or semi-Communists has been deceived. It is realised across the globe that all this simply means the Soviet intention to annex a number of independent States to-day and to annex to-morrow such independent States as may suit its needs.

THE DANGER TO EUROPE

These sinister developments must make us even more anxious about what is happening nearer home. After all, we have to face the fact that no one is in a position to oppose Russia's intentions in Eastern Europe. It is even

(Continued on Page 4.)

ENGAGEMENT

The engagement is announced of Mr. L. P. Brito-Mutunayagam son of Rao Bahadur A. M. Brito-Mutunayagam of "Silveroaks", Trivandram and of the late Mrs. Mutunayagam and Lillian Mary Therese youngest daughter of the late Mr. S. Anthony Pillai and Mrs. Anthony Pillai of "Airy-Dale", 3rd Cross Street, Jaffna.

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Church Calendar

APRIL 1944

FRI. ...21 S. Anselm.
SAT. ...22 S. Caius.
SUN. ...23 2 Sun. after Easter. S. George.
MON. ...24 S. Fidelis.
TUES. ...25 S. Mark.
WED. ...26 Sol. St. Joseph.
THURS. ...27 S. Peter Canis.
FRI. ...28 S. Paul of C.

The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 21ST 1944

FOOD PRODUCTION

On Monday this week the Commander-in-Chief discussing at a press conference the future course of events consequent on the transfer of the headquarters of the Supreme Allied Commander from New Delhi to Ceylon referred to the local food situation. He stated that it had never been so serious as at present and might grow very much worse when full scale offensive against the Japanese gets under way. Such warnings have been uttered more than once by the Civil Defence and Food Commissioner and the Minister of Agriculture but how far they have helped increased production one is not in a position to assert confidently for lack of statistics. Production will be stimulated if it is made widely known what people in the different parts of the country are doing to increase the supply of food. Along with warnings as to the famine conditions confronting the people there must be example and encouragement from Government. Large-scale production, and that is what the present situation demands, can be undertaken only by Government with whatever agricultural machinery that can be employed to off-set the shortage of labour which is the greatest difficulty in solving the problem of food production. Cultivators

also need encouragement in the way of greater benefit to themselves. Mere exhortations on patriotic grounds are not enough to bring tangible results. And our fear is that the revised regulations relating to the internal purchasing scheme, while they may help to bring in more paddy to Government to continue the present scale of rationing, will not prove an incentive to the farmer to produce more paddy. In the North where successful crops depend so much on rainfall and the cost of production is high the revised regulations may work hardship on the cultivators. When Government orders compulsory sales in its favour and at the same time fixes its own price one would expect it to be generous. Considering the rising cost of living and the diminishing value of the rupee we think the price offered for a bushel of paddy is not so attractive as to tempt the cultivator to greater exertion to produce more nor to prevent him from selling what he has produced to the black market. It must not be forgotten that the farmer is not in the fortunate position of receiving monthly war allowance. His only means of subsistence is the price he gets for what he produces. At the present time every one who works for the Government receives war allowance. But if the Government is really democratic as it proclaims itself to be, those who toil for the people, such as the farmers, are equally entitled to war allowance in the shape of agricultural subsidies or better prices for their produce. Encouragement on the lines suggested will not fail to have the desired result. This year about twelve million rupees have been voted for food production and if this is spent in a well-planned manner we should have results adequate to the expenditure of this huge sum.

St. Aloysius Confraternity, Jaffna

Diamond Jubilee Celebrations

In October 1883 a band of twelve boys met in the sacristy of St. Mary's Cathedral, Jaffna to learn how to serve at Mass. A young priest Revd. Fr. Michael Blachot was in charge of this group. The privilege of assisting the priest at the altar was so far reserved for students of the Seminary. Fr. Blachot had no idea at that time of founding a sodality. The members increased in number and it was not possible to have the meetings in the sacristy. The Principal of St. Patrick's, Fr. Lytton gave room in the College for the weekly meetings. The servers trained by Fr. Blachot has their first debut when they served the Pontifical High Mass on Christmas Eve celebrated by His Lordship Dr. Melizan. After Benediction on Christmas Day Fr. Blachot entertained the boys to a social and then outlined his ideas for a sodality. Five years after its foundation the Confraternity was affiliated with the archconfraternity in Rome.

This is in brief the beginnings of St. Aloysius Confraternity that celebrated its Diamond Jubilee last week. On Maundy Thursday the Honorary and Active Members had a special Holy Hour at the Cathedral. Very Revd. Fr. J. Emilianus Pillai, Vicar-General and an old member of the Confraternity was the preacher. On Holy Saturday the Honorary Members went in a body

to see His Lordship the Bishop to invite him to celebrate Holy Mass on the Jubilee Day, Easter Monday. The occasion was also availed of to give His Lordship the Bishop the first instalment of the Father Blachot Memorial Fund which the old members and friends of Father Blachot were collecting in honour of the Jubilee to perpetuate the good work he had started. Chev. P. Moses was the chief speaker. His Lordship said that he would gladly be present and celebrate Holy Mass. He appealed to the old members to be shining lights in the world. Wherever they were, in whatever walk of life, it was their bounden duty, to be leaders of Catholic Action.

The Cathedral bells rang out a merry peal on Easter Monday morning. The grounds and precincts of the Cathedral were gaily decorated. The Honorary and Active Members and the students of St. Martin's Seminary went to Bishop's House and brought His Lordship in procession to the Cathedral. Revd. Frs. J. F. Xavier and Soosathasar Nalliah, Honorary Members and past Directors of the Confraternity assisted His Lordship, while Mr. P. Xavierpillai, the only survivor of the first batch of members, and Mr. G. S. Puvirajasinghe another Honorary Member acted as servers. Revd. Fr. Nalliah preached on the life of St. Aloysius and its message to members of the Confraternity. After Mass a group photograph was taken. Mr. James Joseph, District Judge, Jaffna, an Honorary Member addressing His Lordship thanked him for honouring the Confraternity on that occasion. Mr. Joseph referred at length to the training that Fr. Blachot had given to the boys who came under him. The ideals of piety they had imbibed as Altar Boys laid the foundations for sound Christian character. The short pithy admonitions which Fr. Blachot gave from his sick bed served as an inspiration, and a solace in time of despondency. The passage of time had not effaced these grand lessons. The Confraternity was fortunate to have Revd. Fr. Augustine at the helm of affairs. Fr. Augustine had sung his way into their hearts. But as Director, he had talked his way into the hearts of the Honorary Members. Mr. Joseph expressed the hope that the Confraternity would foster more vocations to the priesthood.

His Lordship in reply said that he was always glad to see the Confraternity prospering. When he was teaching at St. Patrick's Fr. Blachot had asked him to help him in translating the circular letters which he used to send to the Honorary Members from time to time. He had thus a grand opportunity to get an insight into the ideals and traditions of the Confraternity. His Lordship further said that vocations to the priesthood would only be fostered to a great extent by parents. In his own case, he owed his vocation to his mother. It was therefore the duty of the Honorary Members to see that their children, while they served at the Altar acquired a love for the priesthood.

The members then assembled in the College Hall for tea. Chev. Arulanadam thanked Fr. Director for the great interest he took in the Confraternity. Fr. Augustine briefly replied and said that it was his idea to organise a similar celebration in Colombo to give the Honorary Members there a chance to gather together and renew old memories.

A concert was held on Easter Sunday and on Wednesday. The proceeds of the concerts were for the Blachot Memorial Fund.



OBLATE NECROLOGY

- Died ?? aged 34, Lay Brother Michael Probst of the Province of Germany.
Died ?? aged ?, Lay Brother Streb of the Province of Germany.
Died 24th November, aged 80, Revd. Father Ludovicus Rousseau of the Vicariate of Natal.
Died 27th November, aged 65, Revd. Father Charles Haas of the 2nd Province of the United States of America.

Press Statement by the C-in-C., Ceylon

The news has just been released that Admiral Lord Louis Mountbatten, Supreme Allied Commander in South East Asia, has moved his headquarters from Delhi to Ceylon. It is a great pleasure to welcome Admiral Mountbatten and his staff here, and it will give satisfaction to all of us that Ceylon has been chosen as the Headquarters from which operations will be planned to free South East Asia from the enemy. Just over two years ago the Japanese made their attacks on Colombo and Trincomalee. We do not forget this, and it is fitting, as well as most gratifying, that Ceylon, where the tide of Japanese aggression was first checked, has now become the base for the counter-offensive of the United Nations.

The move to Ceylon was planned many months ago. Everyone who knew of the project welcomed it and worked together splendidly in order to complete the necessary preparations in time, no easy task in a country already suffering from severe congestion.

The arrival of the Supreme Allied Commander will cause no alteration to the existing civil and military organisation of Ceylon. Admiral Mountbatten will direct the operations of the United Nations in the South East Asia theatre as a whole, while H.E. the Governor and I remain responsible for Ceylon's War Effort, including the defence of the Island against possible attack. There will be this one difference: an even greater concentration of effort than before will be necessary, and any demands the Supreme Allied Commander makes on Ceylon it will be our duty to carry out. In doing so, I know that the Services, as in the past, will have the full co-operation of the civil authorities.

As stated in the announcement made from the Supreme Commander's Headquarters, Ceylon is the nearest point to the South East Asia front as a whole. The move therefore marks a further stage in the organisation of a full scale offensive against Japan. This fact should be an inspiration and a stimulus to us all, but we must guard against impatience and over-optimism. At the moment, the United Nations are preparing for their maximum effort in Europe and the scale of operations in this theatre will gradually increase as success crowns our efforts there. The War in the East will outlast the War in Europe, and we must be prepared for prolonged exertion in conditions that make the necessary effort difficult—when the danger of invasion is passed and war-weariness is growing. In the end Ceylon's War Effort will amount to an endurance test.

The restrictions and difficulties of the last two years are bound to continue for some time, and I ask the people of Ceylon to accept the fact loyally and cheerfully. The black-out will go on, because, while Ceylon is within range of enemy aircraft, we cannot light up vital targets for their benefit. Roads will be occupied with military traffic and accommodation will remain a problem, because such conditions are inevitable in an operational base with a large and temporary garrison. The ration will remain inadequate, until Burma is re-taken, and other foodstuffs in short supply owing to lack of shipping, because every ton of space will be required for military purposes as the offensive against Japan grows in momentum.

Difficulties that are unavoidable must be borne with a smile, but where we can help ourselves we must do so. There is one aspect of our War Effort where more can and undoubtedly should be done. The food situation has never been so serious as at present, yet the possibilities of food production in Ceylon are almost unlimited, as is proved by the schemes already successfully started. On two occasions recently the Minister of Agriculture has asked me to provide military labour to bring in the harvest. The labour was made available and in one case villagers stood by and watched while the soldiers did the work. Such a request will not be granted again, for it is the duty of every man, woman and child capable of work to help in food production. If the people cannot help themselves when their need

is great and the means to do so lie at hand, the prospect for the future is dark indeed. I trust, however, that steps will be taken radically to improve this deplorable situation and make the lazy realise the necessity to work.

Eventually we can expect that the Supreme Allied Commander will move his Headquarters into reconquered territory. But while he is here, Ceylon will become the object of world attention to a degree not known before, and during this phase, which is just starting, Ceylon's maximum effort will be required. Our resources must be developed to the full—rubber in particular—our defences must be efficient and alert, and we must be ready for any further calls that the development of operations may make on us. The arrival of Admiral Mountbatten's Headquarters in Ceylon is a source of pride and pleasure; it is also a challenge to every one of us to exert himself to the utmost.

OBITUARY

We are sorry to learn that the mother of Revd. Fr. A. R. Brown, O.M.I., at present Military Chaplain has died. The Revd. Father will be thankful for prayers for the repose of the soul of his dear mother. R. I. P.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Free Midday Meal.—The Ministry of Education has decided that beginning from the 1st of May pupils in the schools of the Urban Council area also should be given free midday meal. Government will contribute 6 cts. per pupil and the Urban Council if it wants to take charge of the feeding should contribute 2 cts. If the Councils decline to contribute their share, the Education Department will provide 6 cts. meals to school children. The Jaffna Urban Council had undertaken according to the previous arrangement to contribute one cent per pupil.

Jaffna's Consumption of Tea.—Progress report of the Tea Propaganda writes: During the two-year period 1941-42 the Board conducted an intensive campaign which had for its object the conversion of the conservative "coffee" drinking population of the town of Jaffna to that of tea.

In view of outstanding results in the urban area, the Board decided that the campaign should be extended to suburban and rural areas in the peninsula where the tea habit is believed to be less prevalent than in the town area.

The result has been that the number of tea-drinkers rose from 17½ per cent. to 87 per cent.

Montessori Training Course.

The Association of Head Mistresses, Ceylon, has been able to arrange for the distinguished educationist, Dr. Maria Montessori, to come to Ceylon and hold a training course from June 13th to Sept. 9th.

This course will consist of three lectures and five lecture-demonstrations weekly. The lectures will include some on child psychology.

Manipay Parish Social Service League.

The mission of the social worker should be to bring home to the wealthy and educated classes their obligation to serve their less favoured brethren than themselves. Upliftment of the masses is the true goal to patriotism," said Mr. C. Thiagarajah, presiding over the fifth annual general meeting of the Manipay Parish Social Service League on Monday the 17th inst. at Manipay. He concluded by appealing to the members to help in hitting the target of Rs. 5,000 fixed for the poor Relief Fund.

Mr. K. Chornalingam, Secretary of the League, read an interesting report of the activities of the League during 1940, and the Treasurer Mr. M. Vallipuram, submitted a statement of accounts for the same period.

Election of office-bearers for the current year resulted as follows: Patrons: Mr. A. Sellamuttu, M.B.E., and Mubandiram S.K.Swaminathan; President: Mr. C. Thiagarajah (re-elected); Vice-Presidents: Mr. R. Dharmalingam, Proctor, Dr. K. Cathiravalu, and Mr. K. Sundrampillai; Secretary: Mr. K. Chornalingam, Asst. Secretary: Mr. J.

P. Nagalingam, Treasurer: Mr. M. Vallipuram; Asst. Treasurer: Mr. C. Nadarajah; Auditor: Mr. N. Sinnatamby. A managing Committee, consisting of the office-bearers and twenty others was also elected.

2,000 000th Rosary.—The two millionth Rosary to be provided since Pearl Harbour to servicemen by the National Catholic Community Service, Washington, member agency of the USO was blessed by His Excellency the Most Revd. Amleto Giovanni, Cognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, at the Apostolic Delegation in Washington.

Finland.—It is officially announced in Helsinki—although not yet from the Vatican—that the Holy See has decided to establish an Apostolic Nunciature to Finland "as soon as circumstances permit." "The departure of the Nuncio for Helsinki depends upon the possibilities of removing the practical difficulties prevailing at present."

The newspaper "Hufvudstadsbladet" comments: "Finland understands and appreciates the honour of being the first Scandinavian country with a permanent Nunciature."

Bishop Elect of Trichur.—Right Revd. Mgr. George Alapatt, Ph.D., D.D., has been appointed Bishop of Trichur in the vacancy caused by the demise of His Lordship the late lamented Dr. Francis Vazhapilly, D.D.

U.S. Bishops Send Funds to India.—An emergency appropriation of a substantial sum of money has been allocated by the Bishops' War Emergency and Relief Committee for the aid of the victims of famine in India, it was announced in Washington by the Most Revd. Edward Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit and Chairman of the Committee.

The allocation was made in December and the money has been despatched to the Most Revd. Ferdinand Perier, S.J., Archbishop of Calcutta.

British Aid for China Missions.

The Catholic Mission at Linwhan, Kiangsi, has been given £1,000 and the Catholic Mission Medical Service in China has been given £1,400 from Lady Cripps' United Aid to China Fund.

Catholic Schools in China.

While many educational institutions of the Chinese Government have been closed and curtailed by the war, a good portion of the school system of the Catholic missions has been able to continue in much the same manner as before the war, reports Bishop Francis X. Ford, of Brooklyn, Superior of the Maryknoll Kaying mission.

Noted Dublin Physician Joins Benedictines at 50.

At the age of 50, Dr. J.C. Flood, one of Dublin's foremost medical experts, has retired from a brilliant professional career to join the Benedictine Fathers at their famous Downside Abbey, England.

Prior to the 1914-18 War, Dr. Flood was studying in a seminary in France, an aspirant to the priesthood. The war interrupted his studies and he became an officer of the French Army. The end of hostilities found him occupying the important position of Secretary to Marshal Petain.

Subsequently returning to Dublin he studied law and was called to the Bar. This he followed up by the study of medicine at University College, Dublin.

For nearly 20 years Dr. Flood has been a familiar figure in one of the principal Dublin hospitals where he became senior consulting physician.

Church in Java Still Functions.

—Bishop Willekens, of Batavia, Java, in the Dutch East Indies, is still allowed to move about the city freely, reports Radio Vatican. Mass is said in the Cathedral on Sundays with a sermon in Dutch.

Two other Bishops in Java and all foreign priests are interned, but the native clergy are still free, though under observation.

Bombing of Rome.—For the second time in the past eight days, the Catholic Archbishop of Sydney, Mgr. N. Gilroy, has issued a Pastoral Letter sharply protesting against the continued bombing of Rome contrary to the Pope's appeal. His latest Pastoral Letter says that large-scale bombing of Rome would

mean that Catholics and their beliefs are not even receiving consideration equal to that given to Mohammedans when Athens and Cairo were in danger and the Holy See wholeheartedly supported the Allied efforts to ensure that these two capitals would not be bombed. —Reuter.

Guests from Poland.—By invitation of the Archbishop of Zagreb, two Paulist Fathers from Czestochowa have arrived in Croatia to take charge of the shrine of Marija Bistrica, one of the foremost places of pilgrimage in Croatia. More are expected to arrive shortly. It will be recalled that Czestochowa was violated by the Germans in Sept. 1939. It is not clear from the present information whether the whole community of Paulists is now to be compelled to leave Poland's national shrine, which has been in their care since 1382, or whether they are only sending few of their number to perform a similar service in Croatia. We believe the latter to be the case; and we hope we are right.

The order concerned is the earliest of those that bear the name of Paulists: an Order of Hermits founded in Hungary in the thirteenth century by Blessed Eusebius of Gran.

Education Bill in Parliament.

The curtain has now risen upon the opening stages of the discussion in committee of the four hundred, odd, amendments put down to the Education Bill. The parts of the Bill of particular and urgent concern to Catholics are at the moment still under active but informal discussion with the Government. Progress on the first day was slow but amicable. Mr. Butler and his Under-Secretary both cooed like sucking-doves, and in the face of so much kindness even the rugged features of such doughty critics as Mr. Lindsay and Mr. Cove relaxed momentarily into the semblance of a smile. Let us hope that the weather will remain as fair throughout the voyage of which this was but the first day.

Vatican Forces Increased.

An increase of 1,500 in the number of the Palatine Guard—bringing the strength up to 2,000—was announced by Vatican Radio.

These 1,500 are the Papal counterpart of the British Home Guard. Like the original Local Defence Volunteers, they have no uniform but wear an armband, in the Papal yellow and white, with their ordinary clothes.

The auxiliaries have been enrolled because the Palatine Guard have had their sentry duties increased in Vatican City and extended to buildings outside belonging to the Holy See or enjoying extra-territorial rights.

All the members of the Guard regulars and auxiliaries, are Roman citizens.

New regular recruits were sworn in on the Feast of the Epiphany. The ceremony began with Mass in the great Banner Hall.

During the Mass the members were re-consecrated to the Sacred Heart, and afterwards, in the Belvedere Court, each recruit took the oath, swearing "to serve with fidelity and honour the Sovereign Pontiff, Pius XII, and his august successors and to discharge the duties assigned voluntarily by me on entering the Palatine Guard of Honour."

FOR SALE

Large size pictures of the Queen of the Missions are available for sale at Rs. 2-50 each. Only a limited stock is available. Apply enclosing remittance at once to avoid disappointment.

A. R. V. FERNANDO,
Negombo.

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs
It is hereby notified that when subsidiary foodstuffs are issued to the public through private traders, all persons whether they hold ration books or ration books covers or token cards are entitled to draw supplies and not only those who purchase rice or flour.

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
G. A. N. P.
Kachcheri (E),
Jaffna, 18-4-44.

WANTED

Immediately a cashier-manager (must be prepared to furnish cash security) and a salesman for the Textile branch of the Jaffna Town Co-operative Stores, Ltd. Apply to the Secretary.

NOTICE

Distribution of Subsidiary Foodstuffs in Jaffna District.

Arrangements have been made to distribute the currysuffs mentioned below at the rates specified against each commodity to each consumer not attached to a co-operative retail store from Monday, the 24th to 30th instant (both days inclusive).

1. Coriander 1 oz. per head.
 2. Tamarind 1 oz. per head.
 3. Mysore Dhall or Peas ½ per head.
2. Consumers are advised to draw their ration of the above articles along with their ration of other commodities.

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
for Deputy Food Controller, N.P.

TENDER NOTICE

The Government Agent, Northern Province, Jaffna will receive tenders up to 12 noon on 14th May, 1944 for the purchase of C Grade empty Gunny bags at the Supply Stations in Jaffna District.

Tenders should be made on forms obtainable on application to the Deputy Food Controller, Jaffna from whom all particulars on the subject can be obtained.

R. M. DAVIES,
Government Agent, N.P.
Kachcheri,
Jaffna, 14th April, 1944.

STAFF OFFICER, INTERNAL PURCHASE SCHEME, JAFFNA KACHCHERI

Applications are invited from retired Govt. Servants of Staff Rank, or others of equivalent status, for the above post. 2. For further particulars, see the Gazette of the 21st inst. in which a detailed advertisement will appear.

R. M. DAVIES,
Government Agent, N.P.
15th April, 1944.

AUCTION SALE

DRIED FISH

A small quantity of dried fish will be sold by public auction at the Subsidiary Foodstuffs Store, 1st Cross Street, Jaffna, on Tuesday the 25th inst. commencing at 10 a.m. subject to the usual conditions governing such sales. The lots must be paid for and taken delivery forthwith, failing which demurrage charges might fall due. No person will be allowed to bid who has not made a deposit of Rs. 25 at the Kachcheri to secure the due fulfillment of his offer.

2. Particulars of the dried fish available are given below. The fish will be on view and be available for inspection on any week day between ordinary office hours up to the day of the sale.

(Sgd.) E.B. TISSEVERASINGHE,
for Asst. Govt. Agent, N.P.
Kachcheri, (E) Jaffna,
15th April, 1944.

Variety.	Quantity.
Anguluwa	7-1-23
Balaya	53-2-21
Thora	4-1-09
Kumbala	40-2-23
Koduwa	4-3-24
Katta	2-2-15
Mora	246-0-07



Importance of Religion as News

(Continued from Page 1)

which the world can give religion prestige and popularity, while religion gives the world a moral tonic and the comfort of an easy conscience.

THE FRICTION

It is perfectly true that the Catholic Church, whose doctrine is based on the natural law and whose end is the supernaturalising of all the natural potentialities of every man, presents to the world an ideal of a harmony and order as attractive and inspiring to the man of commonsense as to the saint, but Catholicity equally insists that the way is bound to be hard and narrow and unpopular; that it is a path across the easy highways of the world and not parallel to them; and that when the ways meet, as they must constantly do, there is friction with suffering for the Christian and a feeling of contempt and mockery in the case of the man of the world.

Mr. Martin has done a service in telling his fellow-journalists about the importance of religion as news, but in reality he should have completed his task by warning them that the more they study the implications of religion, the more difficult and dangerous they will find its handling to be. And he could have rounded off his speech by reminding Christians also that what spells danger and distrust for the world spells the Cross for the Christian. If either side is unaware of any of this, we may take it that it is not religion with which they are dealing.—*Catholic Herald, London.*

Now We Know the Position

(Continued from Page 1.)

doubtful how far Soviet Russia will need Western help for post-war reconstruction and pretty certain that financial interests in the West will find means of providing her with what she may in the end need. And it would be impossible to expect a denial to Russia of the help she now obtains through Lease-Lend since the main effect of such an embargo would be to strengthen Germany's resistance and thus to prolong the war. The plain fact is that Russia can do what she likes. But with regard to Western Europe there is still time for Britain and America to promote an understanding calculated to create a moral solidarity in support of the ideals of the Atlantic Charter. The tragedy is that there are signs that instead of doing this we are proceeding in a way that can only be compared to the Nazi bullying of neutrals before and at the beginning of the war.—*Cath. Herald, London.*

Report of the N.D. Agricultural Producer's Co-operative Union, Ltd.

Once again your Board of Management feels happy to present its Annual Report for the year 1943. The Union has done one full year's work and has steered its way through many unforeseen circumstances.

The Membership stands at four and we are even now cherishing hopes of enlisting the Vavuniya Agricultural Produce Co-operative Sales Society into our group and making our Affiliated Societies a Panchyat which will be a happy augury for an agricultural undertaking.

Much as we fought against the abolition and for the re-introduction of the Quota Ordinance, yet at a later stage, we ourselves had to move for the abolition of this Ordinance when we found that it was not in the best interests of the cultivator. This has resulted in our severing connections, at least temporarily, with the Commissioner for the development of Agricultural Marketing. The chief reason for taking this step was due to the fact that the price of onions was fluctuating owing to war conditions and that we could not give any definite undertaking to the farmer

as to the price at which his goods would be bought. We represented matters to the Civil Defence Commissioner, who has been kind enough to authorize us to pay to the farmer Rs. 12-32 per cwt. of onions and Rs. 50 per cwt. of dried chillies and agreed to take over from us the entire crop of this area at Rs. 15 per cwt of onions and Rs. 56 per cwt. of dried chillies. The C. D. C. has also been very sympathetic towards our undertaking and has had a Defence Regulation proclaimed making us the Sole Agents to buy and despatch the entire crop of the country grown onions and chillies in the Jaffna Peninsula. This has placed us in a very enviable position and it is no wonder that our activities are at times adversely criticised by those who have been very badly defeated in their attempts to thrive in the Black Market.

Our attempt to buy and sell dried chillies during the period under review has not been a successful one because of the unprecedented rains and floods we had in March 1943. Two of our Societies did some business in green chillies, but the volume of business transacted by these two Societies on this line is very small compared with the very high expectations we had for the supply of dried chillies when we drew our plans for 1943. We hope that 1944 will not be so bad as its predecessor as far as chillie cultivation is concerned.

As mentioned in our last Report we believe we are still engaged in doing our spade work to lift the farmer from his backward economic status.

Last year's heavy flood and the devastation of the whole crop of chillies in the Peninsula has convinced us all the more of the urgency for the establishment of a Crop Insurance Scheme at least for the benefit of those farmers who are members of our A. P. Sales Societies.

Our assistance to the Credit Societies by helping them to recover their loans from the value of the produce handed over to our Societies was appreciable. Only in one instance which ended in a lawsuit resulting in a greater loss to the defaulter enhancing the reputation of the A.P.C. Sales Societies was there a failure. Our attempts to sell our goods from the producer direct to the consumer through co-operative channels have been successful to a large extent but it is expected that our service to the producer and consumer during the course of 1944 will be still greater as we have been able to note our defects during the past year and provide for adequate remedy.

During this critical period the Union was also successful in getting cart tyres and axles for some of its members at controlled prices and it is expected that very soon the members who are supplied with these materials will also get the necessary satin wood for making their bullock carts.

Our thanks for the success we have achieved are due in no small measure to the following gentlemen:—

The Hon'ble the Minister of Agriculture and Lands,

The Civil Defence Commissioner, The Registrar of Co-operative Societies,

The Senior Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Societies and

The Asst. Registrar of Co-operative Societies, N.D., Jaffna.

The Secretary of this Society has also his duty to perform and he has the pleasant task of thanking the Audit Staff of the Co-op. Dept., the President of this Society and members of the Board of Management for the co-operation they extended to him in carrying on the great responsibility of venturing in a new scheme of this type. You will notice that we have not mentioned anything about figures and the profits we made as we want the public to feel that our happiness in running these Societies does not lie in the large volume of trade we do and the profits we derive from them. We count our success and the happiness of our work from the fact that for the first time in the history of Agricultural Marketing we have been successful in doing away with the "middle-men" and in connecting the producer and the consumer to the best satisfaction of both parties. This, we believe, is the pivot of the Agricultural Marketing

and we hope that this healthy environment will become a permanent feature in the history of co-operation of this Island.

In conclusion we would like to reproduce two sentences appearing in the Co-operative Review (reproduced from the International Review of Co-operation) which run as follows:—

"Of the eleven Agricultural Produce Sales Societies, five in the Northern Province control practically its entire output of onions and chillies. They (referring to the A. P. Co-op. Sales Societies in the Northern Province) also formed themselves into a Union which is functioning excellently."

C.D.C. Explains Internal Purchase Scheme

At a Press Conference the Civil Defence Commissioner explained the new paddy purchase proposals approved by the Minister for Agriculture and Lands and his Executive Committee.

"Unless much greater quantities of paddy are bought under the Internal Purchase Scheme," he said, "we may find ourselves unable to continue the rice ration at its present level. The Minister and his Executive Committee have therefore decided that the existing scheme must be altered and the following changes brought into immediate effect:—

(a) A levy of 2 bushels per acre to be imposed on all fields in the island for the main cultivation season. A similar levy at the rate of 1 bushel per acre for the smaller cultivation season, if any. The levy to be a first charge on the crop.

(b) The allowances to cultivators and owner cultivators to be reduced from 8 measures to 6 measures per head per week. Allowance to non-cultivator owners to be reduced from 8, 6 and 4 measures per week for adult males, adult females and children between the ages of 3 and 14 respectively to a flat rate of 4 measures per head per week. Substitutes namely flour or wheat to be given to all the above classes at the Food Control rates.

(c) Coupons to be deducted from the books of partial producers at the rate of:—

1 rice coupon for every 6 measures of paddy received by cultivators.

1 rice coupon for every 4 measures of paddy received by non-cultivating owners.

Substitute Coupons not to be removed.

(d) No producer to be allowed to retain more than 50 bushels of paddy from any cultivation season, excluding allowance for seed and other cultivation allowances under the Internal Purchase Scheme. The above arrangements to be brought into force from the Maha Harvest 1943-44."

The Civil Defence Commissioner continued "in actual practice 5 weeks rice coupons will be deducted from the ration books of cultivators and owner cultivators for every bushel of paddy they retain. I want to draw special attention to the fact that the decision to give all producers the full substitute ration will mean an increase in the total cereal ration allowed to all such persons. The position of the small cultivator has especially improved since, whereas previously both weeks coupons were deducted for every 4 measures he received, now only one rice coupon is deducted for 6 measures and in addition he has his full substitute ration. The Executive Committee has also directed that every effort should be made to ensure that tools and textiles will become available to producers at controlled prices.

"If Ceylon is to become independent of imported rice, she will require nearly 8½ million bushels of paddy a year to be bought internally and transferred to the rationing scheme. During 1942 we were able to purchase only 300,000 bushels. Our total purchases of paddy for 1943 were considerably higher namely 1,800,000 bushels. You will see that there is a large gap to be bridged."

Telegraphic Summary of War News

SAVING ROME

The German news agency stated on Wednesday: "The Government of Eire transmitted on March 20 a message from the Irish Prime Minister, Mr. de Valera, to the Reich Government regarding the question of saving Rome from destruction. The message runs as follows:—"As the Head of the Government of a State, the citizens of which belong in their vast majority to the Holy Catholic, Apostolic and Roman Church, I consider it to be my duty to express in their name the deep concern which they are feeling and in which 300,000,000 Catholics throughout the world are partaking in view of the danger which now threatens the City of Rome and in view of the lack of any measures on the part of the Belligerent Powers to assure its security. It is evident that should the city be militarily defended by the one side and militarily attacked by the other, its destruction would be inevitable. I beg that the voice of millions of human beings in every country should be heard. These millions implore the Belligerent Powers to find a way through appropriate intermediaries by which Rome will be saved."

The Reich Government has replied thus to the Eire Government. If the message from Mr. de Valera is based on the assertion that no measures whatsoever have been taken by the Belligerent Powers for the safety of the City of Rome, this in no way corresponds to the facts as far as Germany is concerned. The Government of the Reich has for a long time past given practical expression to its urgent desire to retain the priceless monuments and works of art of the Open City of Rome by measures which led to the complete demilitarisation of the City of Rome. Thereby, it deprived the British and American High Command of every pretext to destroy indiscriminately dwelling houses, churches, monuments and hospitals, or to kill hundreds of women, children and old people. Then follows a list of the measures taken. These German measures, it says, were publicly made known in Italy several weeks ago by the German High Command and the Vatican had been informed of them through diplomatic channels. It then proceeds: "The following is therefore, a fact: The City of Rome is not being defended militarily and military objectives of any kind do not exist within its area. If British and American bombers do attack the City of Rome, there does not exist any military reason for it since only civilian objectives can be hit in Rome. The anxieties of the Prime Minister of Eire are, therefore, lacking, as far as Germany is concerned of any basis."

GERMANY STILL HAS FORMIDABLE STRIKING FORCE

After nearly five years of war, Germany still has 5,500,000 front-line troops and has increased her total strength from 5,000,000 men at the beginning of the war to 7,334,000, according to the latest Allied Intelligence reports. Germany's front-line striking force is now nearly 2,000,000 more than was estimated in last Oct., but more than half of them are engaged on the Russian front. Less than ten per cent, of the German front-line troops is spread thinly over the 1,800-mile "invasion coastline" from the tip of Denmark to the Bay of Biscay.

In the 30-mile-wide defence strip along the western coasts of France, Belgium, Holland and Denmark, the Germans have placed between 530,000 and 795,000 men and have mobilised 129 Home Guard battalions consisting, chiefly of Frenchmen, Belgians, Dutch and Danes. In Norway, they have 15 Army divisions, in Poland 5, in Germany Proper 5, in the Balkans 16, and in Italy 22, while they have in reserve between 670,000 and 1,011,000 men. Intelligence reports indicate that the Germans still consider the Russian army a greater threat than the possibility of an invasion from the West.—*Reuter.*