

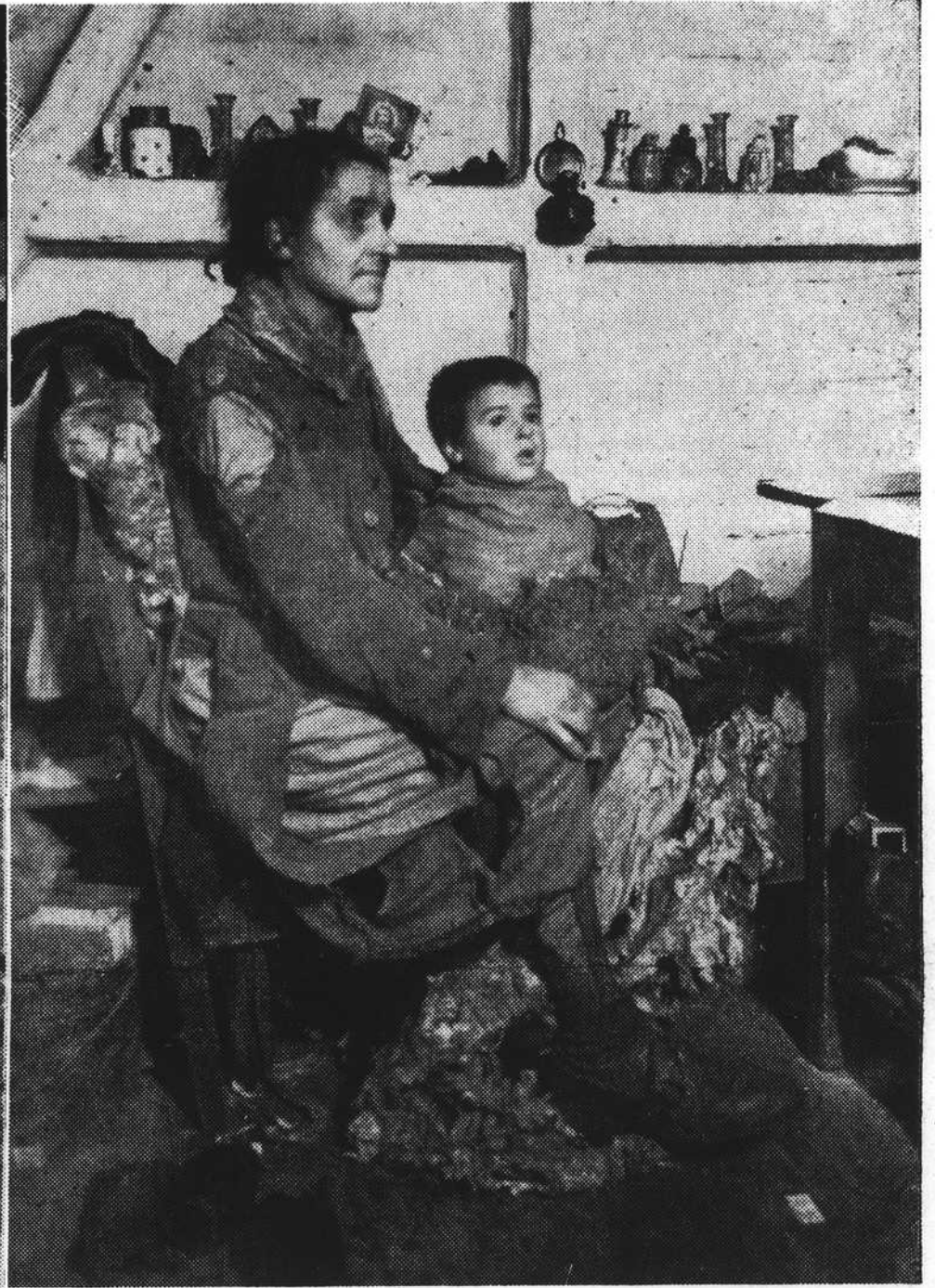
North Carolina Catholic

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GIVE THAT THEY MAY LIVE



"Then the King will say to those on his right hand, 'Come, Blessed of my Father, take possession of the kingdom prepared for you from the foundation of the world; for I was hungry and you gave me to drink; I was a stranger and you took me in; I was naked and you covered me; sick and you visited me; I was in prison and you came to me.' Then the just will answer him, saying, 'Lord, when did we see thee hungry, and feed thee; or thirsty, and give thee drink? And when did we see thee a stranger, and take thee in; or naked, and clothe thee? Or when did we see thee sick, or in prison, and come to thee? And answering the king will say to them, 'Amen I say to you, as long as you did it for one of these, the least of my brethren, you did it for me.' "

A LETTER FROM THE BISHOP OF RALEIGH

March 4, 1947

This year for the first time on Laetare Sunday, the Catholics in the United States are joining in a National Campaign to raise funds for starving Europe. Heretofore, these monies came from the National War Fund to which Catholics were only one of the contributors. This year we are on our own. That means that our efforts will be watched very closely by our fellow Americans, to see whether or not we really mean what we say when we say that we have charity for our Catholic brethren of Europe.

The goal set by our Catholic leaders, \$5,000,000, is high, but not so high when we remember that more than \$30,000,000 came from Europe through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for our infant Church in America during but a few of its early years. Now is the time of Europe's direst need. Now we can repay at least in part their generosity to us in the past.

In order that the quota may be reached we shall have to double our contributions made to any diocesan collection in the past. The largest collection taken up in Diocese of Raleigh is that on Christmas for the orphans, which amounts to about \$4,000; this means that we should contribute \$8,000, if possible, to the starving peoples of Europe. To do this each one will have to double his usual contribution. If you could afford to give \$1.00 or \$5.00 to the Christmas Collection in December, give \$2.00 or \$10.00 now, so the people of Europe may live. The National Drive will open on Sunday,

March 16th, and extend through Sunday, March 23rd. If the second collection on March 16th does not reach double the amount of the Christmas Collection it should be continued, and, as far as possible, completed on the second Sunday. This is a matter of life or death to many of our brethren in Europe; it means life or death to many souls, since food, clothing, warmth, and shelter may be the means of halting the inroads of atheistic communism.

A drive is now under way in the various schools of the diocese, continuing through the entire period of Lent, and the children are vying with one another that their nickels and dimes might be added to the general collection to rescue the children of Europe. Picture a Catholic child of Europe, very much like your own child. A few years ago he was in school, and had a home like yours, with some comfort. Now all is gone, food, clothing, and shelter—bombed out by the war. Today that child is in rags, and is eating out of garbage cans, and the only ray of hope for the future comes from America—Catholic America. If that child were here this morning you would divide your possessions, but that you give a very generous donation, that Europe, and that child, may live.

Sincerely in Christ,

Most Reverend Vincent S. Waters
Bishop of Raleigh