

CATHOLIC COMMENT

from around the globe

Cardinal Gibbons' Love Of Liberty Recalled

BALTIMORE —(NC)— A biographer of James Cardinal Gibbons recalled here the contributions made by the great prelate to the advancement of individual freedom. Cardinal Gibbons served as Vicar Apostolic in the Carolinas shortly after the Civil War. Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, professor of Church history at the Catholic University of America, whose two-volume biography of Cardinal Gibbons was published in 1952, said the prelate's love of freedom sprang from two sources—his respect for each individual made to the image and likeness of God and his acceptance of the principles enshrined in the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution.

The Monsignor spoke at the dedication of Gibbons Hall, the reconstructed preparatory school of the College of Notre Dame of Maryland, which the Cardinal helped to found. Archbishop Lawrence J. Shehan of Baltimore, officiated at the blessing of the school. Cardinal Gibbons served as Archbishop of Baltimore from 1877 until his death in 1921.

Msgr. Ellis said the Constitution was a favorite subject of the Cardinal. In an article written five weeks before his death, Msgr. Ellis said, Cardinal Gibbons stated: "If I had the privilege of modifying the Constitution of the United States, I would not expunge or alter a single paragraph, a single line or a single word of that important instrument. The Constitution is admittedly adapted to the

growth and expansion of the Catholic religion, and the Catholic religion is admirably adapted to the genius of the Constitution. They fit together like two links of the same chain."

Msgr. Ellis described Cardinal Gibbons as a man unafraid of difference of opinion in all that pertained to the realm of undefined truths. Before the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore over which Cardinal Gibbons presided in 1884, the prelate had a private audience with Pope Leo XIII.

Msgr. Ellis related that the Pope counseled that the Cardinal and his fellow bishops should be positive in their attitude toward the legislation they would enact. He said the Pope told the Cardinal: "I dislike severe and harsh measures. I dislike anathemas." He said the Pope then elated the Cardinal when he said: "I love to appeal to the good sense and intelligence and heart of the world." The Monsignor said that under the Cardinal's direction the ecclesiastical laws enacted at the council became a model to which the Holy See directed the attention of the hierarchies of other countries.

Msgr. Ellis recalled that three years later Cardinal Gibbons championed the rights and freedom of workingmen when the Knights of Labor was being formed in this country at a time when the Holy See already had condemned the knights as a forbidden society in Canada.

Encyclical Goes To MP's

LONDON — (NC) — A translation of His Holiness Pope John XXIII's social encyclical Mater et Magistra has been sent to every Member of Parliament and trade union leader in Britain.

They received a Catholic Truth Society translation by Father Harold Winstone, prepared at the request of William Cardinal Godfrey, Archbishop of Westminster. It includes an introductory analysis.

The British Liberal party's monthly journal "New Outlook" in a special article this week praised the encyclical for its emphasis on co-ownership and the responsibility it places on the shoulders of workers.

"A generation ago it would have been unthinkable that Liberals should seek inspiration and support in papal documents," it said.

"But times have changed. In his encyclical letter Pope John not only demands co-management and co-ownership of industry but states bluntly that the initiative is unlikely to come from employers. The impetus must come from the artisans."

Italian In Mass Seen As Omen

CLEVELAND — (NC) — A layman prominent in the U.S. liturgical movement said here there is an "excellent chance" that use of the vernacular in the Mass — at least in part — will become universal.

The "guess" was made by John B. Mannion, executive secretary of the National Liturgical Conference, Washington, D.C., a 4,000-

member group organized to make the Church's official public worship better known.

"I favor the vernacular in the Mass for two reasons," Mannion said during an interview. He was here to address a student assembly at St. John's College.

"First, it will help people to understand what the Church is teaching and doing in the Mass.

"Second, it enables us to pray in the language in which we think. There is an excellent chance that the use of the vernacular will be made universal in the coming ecumenical council. There is a substantial movement for this, and it seems to be growing," he said.

Mannion predicts that use of the language which the worshippers speak will be only partial at first, with the Canon of the Mass preserved in Latin.

Among signs of change he has noted are use of the vernacular in the dialogue Mass responses recently approved for the Diocese of Rome in the synod convoked by Pope John.

Italian Americans Praised By EMK

NEW YORK — (NC) — The tremendous contribution made to this country and to Italy by the American Committee on Italian Migration during the last 10 years was saluted here by Edward M. Kennedy.

The President's brother was the principal speaker at the tenth annual dinner dance (Dec. 9) of the agency which works with the National Catholic Resettlement Council. Some 700 persons including dignitaries of Church and State, attended the event.

"The contributions of Italians to the culture, the arts, the sciences, the industry and agriculture of every country in the world are immeasurable," Kennedy declared.

He said the United States needs "the skills and creative talents of the Italian immigrant." He said that during the years from 1900 to 1930 more than 3,500,000 Italian immigrants found new homes in this country and contributed to the nation's welfare.

Kennedy said that Italian migration was cut drastically during the 1930s and was shut off entirely during the World War II years. He recalled that in the postwar years the principal effort was finding new homes here for displaced persons and Italians did not qualify in that category.

African Refugees Promised Help

MBARARA, Uganda—(NC)—A special envoy of His Holiness Pope John XXIII has visited 11,000 refugees from Rwanda at Rikinga Valley Camp near here.

Archbishop-elect Guido Del Mestri, Apostolic Delegate in East Africa, told the refugees he would report their needs fully to Pope John. He said he would emphasize their difficulties in educating their children.

A beating drum summoned the refugees to hear the Apostolic Delegate. He spoke in French and his words were translated into Kinyarwanda by the president of the Catholic teachers who accompanied the refugees into Uganda.

The refugees fled fierce inter-tribal warfare that broke out in Rwanda about two months before September's UN-supervised elections in the twin trust territory of Rwanda-Burundi. The elections are designed to pave the way for the independence of Rwanda and Burundi, which have been under Belgian administration.

Applause broke from the crowd when the Apostolic Delegate declared the Pope did not believe rumors that they were tainted with communism. He said the Pope knows they are staunch Catholics.

Peaceful Growth Pope Wishes Volta

VATICAN CITY — (NC) — A strong family life and peaceful development of the nation were the Pope's wishes for the Republic of Upper Volta on the first anniversary of that African country's independence.

His Holiness Pope John XXIII made his wishes known in a December 10 letter to Archbishop Paul Zoungrana, W.F., of Ouagadougou.

Pope John said he felt close ties had been created between himself and Upper Volta by his consecration of Archbishop Zoungrana on May 8, 1960 in St. Peter's basilica, and by the special delegation Upper Volta sent to Rome for the recent festivities commemorating the third anniversary of his coronation.

He spoke also of his pride in Upper Volta's "very fine and blossoming Catholic community."

The Pope concluded with the wish that "real and lasting happiness may reign in your families and in your nation . . . that all social classes may strive constantly toward promoting the well-being of the nation and that the divine gift of peace may assist your people."

Brazil Cardinal Mediates Rail Strike

BUENOS AIRES, Argentina — (NC) — The Archbishop of Buenos Aires was praised by acting President Jose Maria Guido of Argentina for his mediation efforts in the recent national 42-day strike of railroad workers.

Antonio Cardinal Caggiano, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, had been asked by Mr. Guido to mediate the strike, which ended on December 11.

Some 200,000 railroad workers had protested the threatened abolition of about 80,000 jobs by plans to modernize the government-owned railroad system. On November 30 the Argentine Bishops issued a statement urging government and labor leaders to end the strike.



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