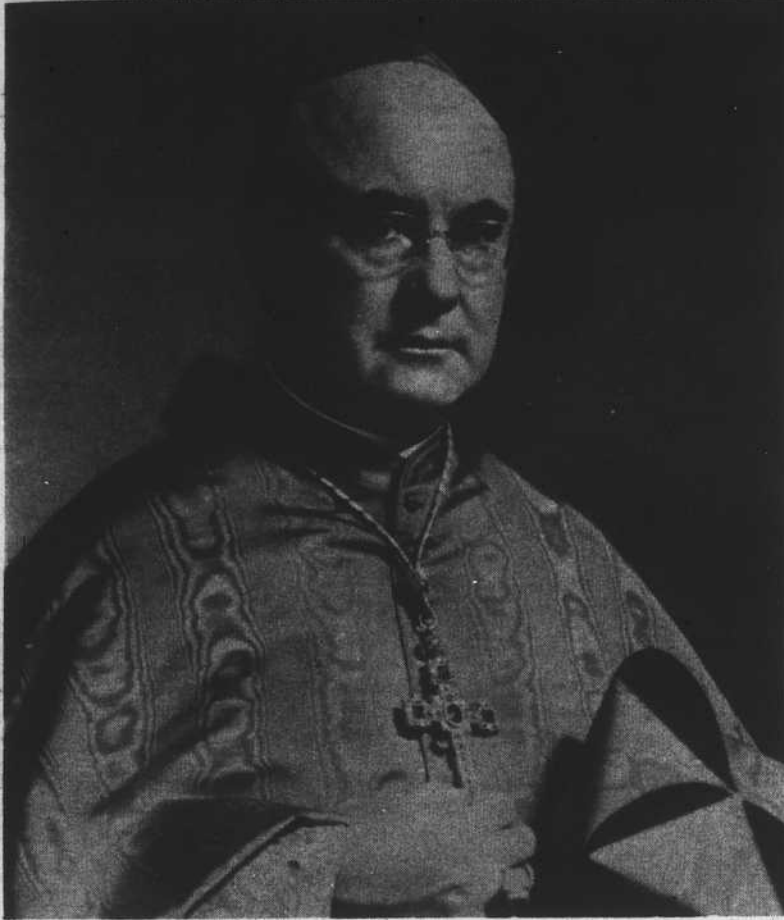


# Cardinal Spellman Called Symbol of Church in U.S.



New York — (NC) — Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York died (Dec. 2) at St. Vincent Hospital and Medical Center at 11:45 a.m. as the result of a massive cerebral accident.

He had been taken to the hospital at 10 a.m., immediately after members of his household discovered his condition.

On Nov. 14 the cardinal, who had been attending the annual fall meeting of the U.S. bishops in Washington, was admitted to the Cleveland Clinic for "diagnostic studies." Upon his release on Nov. 22 it was said that the prelate was in good health.

At the time of his death, Cardinal Spellman was spiritual head of two of the world's most populous Sees — the New York archdiocese with 1.8 million Catholics and the U.S. military ordinariate with some two mil-

lion Catholics. He was 78 years of age and had been a priest for 51 years, a bishop for 35 years, and a cardinal for 21 years.

FOR MANY Americans, Cardinal Spellman was a symbol of the Catholic Church. He had been a dominant figure on the American scene for more than a quarter of a century. A friend and confidant of popes and presidents, his statements on communism and education won headlines throughout the world.

He travelled hundreds of thousands of miles, many of them as military vicar of the U.S. armed forces. His annual Christmas visits to U.S. servicemen at farflung posts around the world became an institution. His 16th consecutive Christmas trip and last such visit was made to South Vietnam in 1966 when he stirred worldwide controversy with his de-

fense of United States policy in Southeast Asia.

On Christmas Eve in Tan Son Nhut, the cardinal said that "anything less than victory is inconceivable." The statement caused worldwide reaction.

ON HIS RETURN to New York Cardinal Spellman amplified the statement, saying of the U.S. troops he was backing: "Victory in their eyes does not mean wholesale slaughter or crushing of their enemies. Nor does it mean the conquest of North Vietnam. It means rather convincing the enemy to come to the conference table ready to work out a just and honorable solution."

As recently as September, Cardinal Spellman defended his Vietnam views saying that he realized he was being labelled a "hawk" because of his statements and his visits to the troops but that such reaction did not worry him. "I really don't care what I am called," he said, "because I believe in ministering to the spiritual needs of these men and women."

Becoming embroiled in political debates and ministering to servicemen were only two of the many roles he played. He also became noted as journalist, diplomat, translator and pilot during the busy life which began in the small town of Whitman, Mass. He was born there on May 4, 1889, the son of Ellen (Conway) and William Spellman, a grocer.

HE SPENT his youth in his home town where he attended the public grammar school and Whitman High School. He was a good student and athlete. To earn pocket money he helped his father in the family grocery store and delivered newspapers.

In September, 1907, he entered Fordham University and distinguished himself there for his academic record, work on college publications and in debating, and as second baseman for the college team. Shortly before his graduation he left to enter the priesthood and was sent to Rome for his theological studies by William Cardinal O'Connell of Boston.

Father Spellman was ordained in Rome on May 14, 1916, and a month later was awarded a doctorate in theology from the Urban College, run by the Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

HIS FIRST assignment was as an assistant at All Saints church in Boston. He served in the Boston archdiocese until 1925 holding posts including assistant chancellor and editor of The Pilot, archdiocesan newspaper.

In 1925 Pope Pius XI named the young Father Spellman to a post in the Vatican Secretariat of State. He was the first American priest to hold such a position. He was the first American priest to hold such a position. He was the first American priest to hold such a position. See Cardinal, page 5A

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### Editor's Desk

Within 10 days, Father Paul G. Termer, a priest of the diocese, will observe the 50th year of his ordination to the priesthood.

The 83-year-old priest was ordained in Mary Help of Christians Cathedral at Belmont Abbey on Dec. 21, 1917 by the Rt. Rev. Leo Haid, O.S.B., Vicar Apostolic of North Carolina and Abbot-Ordinary of Belmont Abbey. Father Termer was ordained for the secular priesthood of the Vicariate and served here in parishes throughout the Diocese.

Father Termer's first pastorate was in Hamlet where he built the present combination church and rectory. Later assignments took him to Hendersonville, Henderson, two appointments to Mt. Airy separated by a chaplaincy at St. Joseph's Hospital at Asheville and a final pastorate at Sanford, from which he retired in 1959.

For a period of about two years he was in residence at the rectory at Newton Grove. It was during this period of association with him that we made a friendship and enjoyed his companionship there.

FATHER THEN left for his native city of Buffalo to reside with his family. He has a cousin who is a pastor in that diocese and who affords him the opportunity of offering Holy Mass and assisting in the administration of the Sacraments when he is able to do so.

We wish Father Termer good health and happiness and pray God's blessing and consolation of good spirits on the long years of his priesthood. His friends in the diocese may express their congratulations to him at 540 Eggert St., Buffalo, N.Y. 14215.

A graduate of St. Francis College in Milwaukee, Father Termer became interested in studying for the Vicariate of North Carolina through a friendship of the late Msgr. Michael A. Irwin, who had a brother living in Buffalo.

AS A SEMINARIAN he spent vacation periods with Msgr. Irwin. See Editor's Desk, page 5A.

### St. Mary's College Affirms Autonomy

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — The new board of trustees of St. Mary's College passed a resolution (Dec. 3) which rejected an outright merger with neighboring Notre Dame University.

The resolution, already approved by Notre Dame's trustees and faculty, says that the two schools will remain "autonomous but cooperating institutions."

Despite the action, St. Mary's College president Sister Mary Grace charged that the schools intend an arrangement which is much closer to merger than to autonomy.

She also objected that the board — five nuns, two priests and five laymen — was not constituted according to the college's statutes. She hinted that some alumnae might file suit challenging the board's action.

At the same time, the board elected Mother Olivette, Superior of the Sisters of the Holy Cross, who own the college, president of the board and Sister Gerald, treasurer of the Order, as secretary.

Sister Mary Grace charged that this action maintains control of the college "in the hands of the religious group. This is not in line with modern trends in Catholic higher education."

She noted that Notre Dame and

St. Louis University, both of which recently reorganized, elected laymen to head their trustee boards.

### Vietnam Mourns Cardinal's Death

Saigon — (NC) — Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York is mourned in Vietnam, one of the many countries with firsthand knowledge of his kindness and constancy.

President Nguyen Van Thieu has cabled Pope Paul VI expressing his "great sorrow" on learning of the cardinal's death.

"Cardinal Spellman was a great defender of the Faith and of freedom," President Thieu said. "He won the hearts, the admiration and the affection of the Vietnamese, who had the happiness of either close or distant acquaintance with him. They join me in offering most sincere condolences to Your Holiness on this sad occasion."

President Thieu expressed his "profound regret" also in a message to U.S. Ambassador Ellsworth C. Bunker.

"His Eminence Cardinal Spellman was not only a great spiritual leader but also a staunch champion of freedom," the President said. "He was deeply attached to brotherly love among all men and the ideal of peace on earth. However, he fully realized that such ideals can be achieved only if freedom is unflinchingly defended against the forces of evil."

"He was also a true and great friend of Vietnam. And Vietnamese of all faiths remember with See Vietnam, page 4A

## ADVENT

*Anxiously am I  
awaiting the Lord,  
expecting God,  
my Savior +*

## Catholic Historical Society Picks Officers

New Bern — At the second meeting of the board of directors of the Catholic Historical Society of North Carolina, the Very Rev. Charles J. O'Connor of Raleigh was elected president.

Charles H. Bowman Jr., of the Department of Continuing Education at East Carolina University, Greenville, was named first vice president; Miss Mary Virginia Horne of Wadesboro, second vice president; William H. O'Shea, Wake County librarian, treasurer, and Mrs. W. Bruce Stephens, research associate, U.N.C. of Chapel Hill, treasurer.

The election of officers inaugurates officially the Catholic Historical Society. The meeting was held in the historic home of Mrs. John A. Shields here, on Nov. 30. She is a board member and State Regent of the Catholic Daughters of America.

LOUIS K. NEWTON, attorney of Wilmington, was authorized to file articles of incorporation.

A statement of purpose and by-laws for the organization were presented by Mr. Newton, also a board member in behalf of his committee which included Albert J. Ellis, attorney and

State legislator of Jacksonville, and Mrs. Julian Hoffman of Roanoke Rapids. Both were unanimously adopted by the board.

In its broad aims, the Historical Society seeks "to discover, publicize, preserve and restore contributions made by Roman Catholic persons or groups and the Roman Catholic Church itself to the development of this State, its history and culture."

CONTINUING THE theme, the society offers to "cooperate with existing historical groups and its membership shall not be

limited to residents of North Carolina, nor to Catholics. It will, insofar as its resources permit, publicize its work and its goals in order to develop interest in its activities and in the contributions Catholics have made to the history of this State."

The organizational aims of the society are to "encourage formation of local chapters to further its aims and to aid in the discovery of objects worthy of study, preservation and restoration. It will organize itself sufficiently, and make appropriate See Officers, page 8A