

VATICAN PAPER HITS NAZI PERSECUTION

Many Polish Bishops as Well
as Hundreds of Priests Said
to Be in Reich Prisons

SEES RELIGION IN FETTERS

'Not Few' of Clergy Have Died
in Concentration Camps,
Says Osservatore Romano

By CAMILLE M. CIANFARRA

By Telephone to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, Dec. 11—Many Polish Bishops and hundreds of priests are being held in concentration camps in Germany, the Osservatore Romano states in a very strong editorial, which paints a gloomy picture of what it asserts to be the plight of the Catholics in German-occupied Poland.

The article is an indirect attack upon Germany's religious policy. It takes the form of a rebuttal of statements appearing in an Italian pamphlet, which, according to the Osservatore Romano, maintains that "the German authorities have taken and are taking no initiative to limit the religious activity of the Poles." The pamphlet says the churches are open and others are being built. This, the newspaper says, "does not correspond to the facts."

That the Vatican Secretariat of State, which has obviously supplied the information, has permitted the editorial to appear causes no surprise, inasmuch as the attack is based on a religious and not a political question.

Says Millions Are Affected

Millions of Catholics, says the Osservatore Romano, are finding it difficult to profess the Catholic religion because the German authorities have closed churches in many parishes and arrested the clergy. Moreover, severe restrictions have drastically curtailed the activities of religious institutions, while the Lublin Catholic University and many other Catholic schools have been forced to close.

"When the pamphlet, which was printed in Ceprano, a town near Rome, speaks of Poland, it means only the Government General, where, in truth, the situation is not so good as it would appear from reading that publication," says the newspaper.

"The Bishop of a diocese is exiled from the territory under his jurisdiction while his auxiliary is held in a concentration camp in Germany. Not a few ecclesiastics are in jail. These limitations hamper the normal functioning of seminaries and of religious institutions. The religious press, which was once flourishing, is submitted to extremely strong restrictions.

"Publication of many religious books is prohibited and suspended. There remain a few diocesan bulletins, which are submitted to censorship. The Lublin Catholic University is closed, as are, in general, many high schools and preparatory schools. The Polish Catholic Action

ship. The Lublin Catholic University is closed, as are, in general, many high schools and preparatory schools. The Polish Catholic Action cannot operate.

"One reads in the pamphlet that 'millions of German Catholics belonging to both the old and the new provinces of the Reich are under full religious freedom.'

Notes Discrimination

"If one must include in the new provinces the regions of Western Poland, that statement does not correspond to reality, not even in regard to the 'German' Catholics, who, in some places, have been forbidden to attend religious functions celebrated by Polish priests. In those regions live several million Catholics who are facing the gravest religious difficulty.

"A certain number of churches, including cathedrals, have been closed. Access to many others are permitted to the faithful only a few hours on feast days and very few on week days. Hundreds upon hundreds of ecclesiastics, both of the lay and regular clergy, have been sent into exile or confined in concentration camps, where not a few have died. Many parishes are deprived of the clergy.

"The priests who have been allowed to remain do not have sufficient means of subsistence because they do not receive the salaries that were paid to them by the former Polish Republic. Almost all seminaries are closed. The diocesan authorities do not enjoy the freedom necessary to govern the faithful. Some bishops have been denied permits to return to their dioceses. Others are interned in concentration camps.

"From this brief review, one may see that the religious life of the Poles is not so normal as it is being claimed. Indeed, the Polish Catholics are in great need of the prayers of all Catholics in the world to withstand the trials to which they are being subjected."

GREENWICH TIME CENTER

Bombed Observatory Rules the World's Navigation

Greenwich, site of the British time observatory recently damaged by German bombers, is symbol of English supremacy on the high seas, for from there Britannia rules the waves with the longitudinal lines spacing the globe.

"Through Greenwich runs the world's north-south 'semi-equator,' the meridian 0° 0' 0" (zero degrees, zero minutes, zero seconds), by general acceptance only since the Washington Meridian Conference of 1884. Previously numerous zero meridians were in use," says a bulletin from the National Geographic Society.

"In the days of Ptolemy the geographer, in the second century A. D., longitude was reckoned from the island center of Mediterranean commerce, Rhodes. France measured from Paris and in the United States Washington was the beginning of measurement.

"It was not until the development of the electric telegraph and the laying of ocean cables that it became possible to adopt the Greenwich meridian as the starting point whence longitude was to be computed; and a world-wide day which should begin at midnight on the initial meridian and whose hours should be counted from zero up to twenty-four."

The twenty-fourth hour represents the 180th meridian of longitude.

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