

Religious Bulletin
December 10, 1927.

Monday For Mexico.

There is a beautiful allegory of Mexico and Notre Dame painted on the tabernacle veil of the main altar in our church. The veil consists of two silk panels. The one on the Epistle side shows a lily, beautiful, but broken and bruised. The one on the Gospel side displays another lily, full-blown and erect, holding in its chalice a Host, from the side of which flow a few drops of the Precious Blood. The lilies represent Mexico and Notre Dame: Mexico, with its churches desecrated, its priests hunted like wild animals, its rites profaned, its flock scattered; Notre Dame, the most favored shrine of our Eucharistic God, with more sanctuary lamps burning than anywhere else in the world in a similar area.

This beautiful veil, with its silent perennial prayer for Mexico to Our Lord in the Eucharist, was painted by a Mexican nun, the sister of a student now here; in her place of hiding she is deprived of the Boon she most desires -- and which some of you hold in so little esteem -- the priceless Gift of Daily Communion. (The tabernacle veils in the Sisters' Chapel and in Sorin Hall were embroidered by the same nun.)

Since a year ago last August there has been a relentless persecution of the Catholic Church in Mexico. A report recently made public by Wm F. Montavon (an alumnus of Notre Dame and special investigator in Mexico for the National Catholic Welfare Conference) shows that 147 priests have been murdered by order of Calles during those sixteen months; another name has been added to the list since the time in the execution of a Jesuit priest falsely accused of the plot against the life of Obregon. The real crime of these priests has been that they have administered the forbidden Sacraments. How many laymen have perished for the crime of receiving the Sacraments or of sheltering priests will probably never be known.

Meanwhile the iniquitous President of Mexico conducts in this country a diabolical campaign of slander against these martyrs. His manufactured "news" is printed in our most reputable newspapers. Only last Tuesday the Chicago Tribune ran this head: "Get Mgr. Orozco Dead or Alive, Calles Orders / Ex-priest Here Held Back of Revolt." The story under this disreputable heading is that the Mexican Government has ordered that the Archbishop of Guadalajara (not an ex-priest) be taken dead or alive, because of alleged revolutionary activities in the state of Jalisco.

The real facts are that the government is enraged that it has never been able to drive this prelate from the country, because his people, the most loyal in Mexico have refused to betray him. He has remained within his jurisdiction performing his duties, and not leading revolutions; he even ordained fifteen priests last June in his hiding-place. Time and again the Calles government has accused him of conspiracy and rebellion, and has sent out fantastic stories (which the Tribune has published) that he is a sort of "Bonnie Prince Charles" of the rebels, whom he leads on a magnificent white charger. It is a bit surprising that the news paper which boasts that it can send real news out of Italy and Russia cannot attach a reporter to the "Military exploits" of the peace-loving but courageous Archbishop Orozco y Jimenez.

Monday is the feast of Our Lady of Guadalupe, the commemoration of the day on which the Blessed Virgin appeared to Juan Diego, an Indian, to tell him that she wanted a church built on the spot of the apparition. The church was built, and in it hangs the Indian's blanket on which appeared, as the seal of the reality of the apparition, the image of the Immaculate Conception with the face of an Indian girl. The church has been desecrated by the fiends who rule Mexico -- an unsuccessful attempt was even made to bomb it -- and Monday it will be visited as usual by tens of thousands who will pray God to restore peace to their country and the Blessed Sacrament to their churches. And we at Notre Dame will join them in prayer. The side altar in the Sorin chapel is the altar of Our Lady of Guadalupe. Pray there Monday that the blood of her martyr shall not have been shed in vain.