

Prayers: (ill) little son  
of Holly A. Grinager '23;  
aunt of Leo Cormier;.....

University of Notre Dame  
Religious Bulletin  
April 8, 1937.

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Era Of German Martyrs?

...sister of Joe O'Brien  
(Badin); friend of Louis  
Alaman. Mass, Friday  
main church 6:25 Jerry  
Kane's mother.

Thanks to an Episcopalian weekly, The Living Church, there has appeared in America a notable German pastoral letter which for heroic faith and vigor might have been written by bishops under persecution in the early Church. It is said that an American Episcopalian heard the letter read in a German Catholic Church in "a tense emotional atmosphere and that sobbing could be heard in many parts of the church." Later, through the kindness of a high Church official in Germany, this Episcopalian obtained the letter and brought it back for publication in this country.

The pastoral is issued over the signature of Karl Joseph Cardinal Schulte on behalf of the Bishops of the Ecclesiastical provinces of Cologne and Paderborn. It sets forth that "From every corner of our dioceses there come to us bitter complaints regarding unheard of and very sore oppression of conscience to which not a few Catholics are subjected. With heart-rending words do deeply religious parents describe how--albeit not everywhere but yet in many places--in schools and in powerful organizations to which their children belong teachers and other persons in authority seek by word and printed page to make contemptible to the children the faith of their parents, thus to alienate these children inwardly from Jesus Christ and His Church and from their parents as well. Adults of many different vocations in life lodge complaints with us, that their vocational and economic dependence is being taken advantage of in order to force them to violate their Christian conscience, to disregard divine precepts, and to fall away from Christ and His Church.

"The facts which give rise to these complaints are so numerous and notorious that the justice of the complaints cannot be doubted....The hour has now come when we bishops, as the proper spokesmen and divinely constituted shepherds of the Catholic people, must address ourselves to the public..we..wish to make it perfectly clear here and now: We will

continue to preach the whole Catholic truth and to admonish our faithful to govern themselves according to the dictates of our holy faith. As firmly as we ourselves are resolved to let nothing in the world come between us and the fulfillment of our sacred duty, we are just as firmly convinced that many--yes, very many--Catholic Christians will, with the help of God's grace, remain true to their baptismal vows even under the worst pressure, and that they will be ready and willing to make for Christ's sake and for the sake of conscience even the last supreme sacrifice....

"In this solemn hour we turn to our co-workers in the sacred ministry. Beloved brethren! We know you are no mercenaries, but, rather, good and faithful shepherds, and that you stand ready in all earnestness to give your all, to surrender life itself, for the flock of Christ...

"..We turn in deepest pastoral love to the faithful of the laity. We know, dear brethren, what you suffer, and we suffer with you...Pray and sacrifice for your children! Use every lawful means to keep and deliver them from influences hostile to religion!

"...You adults yourselves...remember the words of the Saviour: 'Whosoever denieth Me before men, him will I also deny before My Father in heaven!'

"But let us all, priests and faithful, remain in this evil day of visitation more intimately joined together than ever before in the Heart of Our Saviour... Pray and cease not to pray for our beloved German nation.."

The courage of German Catholics must have impressed Hitler anew, for, according to most recent dispatches, he has made peace with von Ludendorff, open and relentless enemy of the Catholic Church. Both Hitler and Ludendorff will die and the ageless Church will shoot new roots into the very heart of their persecution. But, meanwhile, let us pray that, like the early Christians, German Catholics may stand strong in their hour of trial.

PRAYERS: (deceased) mother of Jerry Kane (Mor.); uncle of Leo Cormier (Walsh); Bob Heywood's friend; Jim Burke's (Walsh) friend; Bill O'Toole's friend. One spec. int.