

University of Notre Dame
Religious Bulletin
April 21, 1937.

Direct News From Malagá.

A Spaniard, present in Malaga under the Reds and later under the Nationalists, writes to a friend here at the University; the letter is dated March 24:

This revolution which assumed the character of a true civil war has caught me in Malaga. Thanks to Almighty God first, and then to Good Chance, I am safe--as yet. But not so for the poor Brothers in a nearby house. All of them but two were taken on a certain night in August by members of the F.A.I. (Federacion Anarquista Internacional) to the cemetery and there shot on the spot with several civilians. The youngest of the Brothers tried to run away. This made the shooting patrol furious; as a result his corpse showed 41 wounds.

The delivering troops arrived on the 8th of February. They were sent by General Queipo de Llano, Savior of Andalucia, they call him. (He is a great friend of mine. He taught me how to ride horseback years ago when he was only Captain of the Husard Regiment.) With his troops came a column of Italian soldiers, all of them volunteers ((The writer's own underlining)), a good bunch of brave, fine fellows. They were quartered in the house where I am staying and were our guests for three days. I preserve three visiting cards from them as unforgettable and everlasting souvenirs. I don't know how many times I played for them Aida's March and the Overture from The Barber of Seville, with Mascagni's Ave Maria--the only Italian music I had at the moment.

Some of them sang very nicely; one played the violin. One afternoon, the second day, the personnel department organized a dance, and you should have seen them--a fine looking group, inferiors and superiors, taking part in the same dance. Another time, a decorator drew with charcoal a huge portrait of Mussolini on the front of one of the big entrance doors. Then he lettered this sentence: "Noi tireremo diritto" (We shall always walk straightforward).

Their visit and precious help were opportune for Malaga. Before they came we were beginning to starve for lack of bread. The Lord only knows what would have become of us had it not been for the sudden arrival of the national troops. The communists fled by the thousands to Almeria, which refused to take them, so they had to come back again, their wives and children starving on the road. Terrible! Imaginable only for those who have seen it!

For a time after the Brothers were driven out, their house was under a committee, all of whom sympathized with the Reds. Everybody in that house seems to have been treated well. But the Brothers had been taken to the aforesaid cemetery and there pitifully murdered, some of them tortured--shot at their feet first in order to increase their pains. On the 9th of this month some of the Brothers of Granada--all of whom were saved--came to re-possess the Brothers' establishment in Malaga. The Bishop, Most. Rev. Bilbino Santos Olivera, entered this city solemnly on the 15th of this month (March). The ceremony of the reconsecration of the Cathedral was held on the 18th. The Cathedral had been profaned. It looked like a stable, all ravaged, with Reds sleeping and cooking in its interior. The Cathedral's consecration lasted two hours, and since there were few people present--unlike the day of the Bishop's reception--I was all the time very near to his "Ilustrisima." We saw how every altar was being newly blessed. Two days later on I attended the funeral for the victims of the Red Terror. I heard well the Bishop's funeral oration because I sat with the choir. Perosi's Requiem Mass was sung....Please pray for the end of this war which has caused us all so much blood. (My own father, thanks to the Lord, is safe in France.)

PRAYERS: (deceased) anniversary of Barney Curtin's father; Frank Gaughan; brother of Rev. Frank Brown, C.S.C. Ill, sister of Father Brennan; mother of Raymond Hanousek (Alumni); friend of W. McNamara (Howard). Two special intentions.