*Catholic Civilization*, August 17, 1935

The Religious Persecution in Germany

p.426 The ordinary conditions of the Church, living and progressing in the midst of opposition and persecutions, has become worse in our times in many countries. Above all this is because modern persecutors, more than former ones, have come up with various political justifications . . . Among these in the past century, for example . .. were the famous ones in Germany under Bismarck, in the longlasting persecution against Catholics . . . which was called "war of civilization or culture" or "culture war."

Today ... vexations by the German government are multiplying and becoming worse every day towards Catholics . . . extreme of a paganism. ... defense of the government and the Nazi Party against its opponents and enemies.

Such is the sense, in spite of ... of the article in Osservatore Romano on August 4, 1935, which reported . . . the recent episodes of persecution.

p.427

"The 7th of July His Eminence Dr. Frick, Reich Interior Minister, made an official declaration which our journal covered in the article 'Concordat Questions in Germany,' showing that it was irreconcilable with the Concordat concluded on July 20, 1933 between the Holy See and the German Reich.

"Ten days later, the Prussian Press Office and the "German News Bureau" published a circular decree of His Excellency Mr. Goering, President of the Prussian Ministry and head of the Secret State Policy, to the higher local authorities, which spoke of a supposed "political Catholicism" and called them "to proceed with all legal means against those ecclesiastics who abuse their spiritual ministry for political ends."

". . .

The decree gave the impression that it concerned a considerable number of members of the Catholic clergy who, under the Concordat, were guilty of abusing their spiritual character for political ends.