La Civiltà Cattolica

July and August 1935 thru Oct 1935 – partial translations

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And on the 19th of July a decree of Hitler transferred to Kerrl, the Reich minister without portfolio, all church affairs, including the responsibilities of the Internor ministries of the Reich and of Prussia, and the Prussian Ministry of Culture. It will fall to the new minister to apply Goering's directives concerning the Catholic Church, as well as those already concerning the Lutheran Church, being also reluctantly against Nazi paganism.

August or September 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 ... the article in Osservatore Romano on August 4, 1935, which reported . . . the recent episodes of persecution.

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"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.

September - p.557:

Also the struggle against the Jews is marked by an increase in violent incidents. There was a Swedish film with an antisemitic bent shown in Berlin on July 16. Then, since there was a protest on the part of the Israelites against the showing, the Nazi newspaper Attack invited Nazis to react strongly against "Jewish impudence." The arrest of a soldier who had beaten a Jew occasioned a violent quarrel. Two thousand Nazis demanded and obtained the release of the soldier. Then the demonstrators repaired to the Kurfurstendamm, wrecked the Bristol Cafe, used their fists to beat up the Jewish owner of another cafe, and maltreated other passersby who were considered Israelites. Other antisemitic demonstrations also took place in the provinces, which tried to place the blame on the Jews for provoking them, but it is to be remembered that Goebbels, the Reich Minister of Propaganda, in official speeches given at the Sport Palace and at Tempelhof on June 29th, called for a strengthening of antisemitic action. And Goebbels' delegate for the oversight of Jewish activity in the artistic-intellectual field, on August 7th, meanwhile stated that the Jewish association of Israelite writers, artists, musicians and actors, counts 30,000 members in Berlin alone, and that in Berlin and other cities of the Reich, there are theaters managed by Jews where only Jewish artists act on the stage, and announced that he would make sure that the audience also would be composed exclusively of non-Aryans. In many places signs are being put up that forbid Jews to enter an area; many town mayors are promoting a boycott against those Germans who do business with Jews; and, while the hotels favored by a Jewish clientele are threatened with closure, in some places hotel owners have agreed not to admit Jews.

p.636 - at the conclusion of a multi-page CC article responding to accusations in VB that Catholic youth organizations have communist tendencies and are infiltrated by communists:

"However, these facts point to the magnificent steadfastness of German Catholics, who while exposed defenseless to violence and provocations from one side or another, know how to maintain discipline; and foiling the plots of their adversaries, without being trapped or led astray, remain simply and heroically what they have always been: good Catholics and good Germans."