

## Apostolic Delegate to Mexico Tells of Expulsion

His Excellency the Most Rev. Ernesto Filippi, Titular Archbishop of Sardica and Apostolic Delegate to Mexico, has arrived here *en route* to Rome, where he will report personally to Pope Pius regarding the incidents which caused the Mexican Government to issue a decree that he leave that country in 72 hours (says a N.C.W.C. *News Service* report, under date Washington, D.C., January 29, in an American exchange).

There was neither intended nor actual violation of the Mexican law involved in the ceremony at the Mountain of Cubilete, which was seized upon by enemies of the Church to demand his expulsion (declared Archbishop Filippi in an interview given to the N.C.W.C. *News Service*). Governor Madraso, of the State in which the ceremonies were held, approved the programme before it was carried out, Monsignor Filippi explained. He further pointed out that he had previously participated in a similar ceremony in the capital itself without a single protest.

Archbishop Filippi did not participate in the religious procession held in connection with the ceremonies at Cubilete. This procession took place on the day previous to his participation in the ceremony of the blessing of the cornerstone of the provisional church.

### Archbishop Filippi's Statement.

"President Obregon was always kind and gentle to me, and it is very hard for me to understand the reason for this drastic measure," declared Archbishop Filippi. "There was no violation of the law involved. The Mountain of Cubilete, where the ceremony of blessing the cornerstone took place, is private property. It is not therefore a public place. Distinguished lawyers corroborated this opinion. Governor Madraso approved all the ceremonies and communicated with the Bishop of Leon, in whose diocese the site of the provisional church is located, assuring him that there would be no question of a violation of law. Afterwards, when pressure was exerted from another quarter, the Governor changed his views, and it was contended that the law was violated because the participating prelates took part in a public procession. I took no part in the procession, which occurred on the day previous to the day on which I blessed the cornerstone.

"The site on which the ceremony of blessing the cornerstone took place was a provisional or temporary church, since a complete church could not be expected to exist where the first stone was being laid. According to the contentions now held it always would be impossible to solemnise the religious laying of a cornerstone. I participated in a similar ceremony in the capital itself, in the colony 'del Velle,' without any protest being made.

"Legal opinion was strongly in favor of my right to participate in the ceremony. One distinguished lawyer pointed out that according to Article 24 of the Constitution, public acts of worship can be celebrated in the churches and in private houses, and declared that the property of an individual should beyond doubt be considered part of his residence. Such was the case at the Mountain of Cubilete.

"Besides, it was pointed out by this lawyer, we must take into consideration the reasons alleged by the very authors of these reform laws for forbidding public acts of worship. These reasons were that persons of different religions might be hurt by processions and other religious acts in the public thoroughfares, and, moreover, that they wished to avoid any disagreement or friction whatever. None of these circumstances existed in the case under consideration. There, on private property, a multitude of persons of the same religious belief gathered for a popular and religious ceremony. The blessing of the cornerstone of the monument took place in a space enclosed on all sides. This place was, therefore, our provisional or temporary church."

### Comment of Catholic Organ.

Archbishop Filippi called attention to the comment made by *La Dama Catolica*, the national organ of the Union of the Catholic Ladies of Mexico, regarding the attitude adopted by the Freemasons of Mexico City with respect to the religious observance at Cubilete.

"The Masons of this city," says *La Dama Catolica*, "thought proper to make themselves ridiculous by a pro-

testation published in the press of the 14th instant against the flagrant violation made of the Reform laws by the traitorous party called clerical in arrogating to themselves the faculty of raising a monument to Christ the King on the Mountain of Cubilete—an act penalised by our laws."

"First: What does not exist cannot be violated, and nothing exists actually that can be called 'Reform Laws.' These laws were incorporated in the Constitution of 1857, and it is evident that they were abolished when said Constitution was abolished. The precepts or articles which it was desired should remain in vigor were incorporated in the Constitution of 1917. To this, then, we must refer and nothing else.

"Second: All the Mexican people belong, therefore, to the 'traitorous clerical party' that wishes to erect a monument to Christ the King, since from every part of the Republic offerings have been sent for the monument; because it is Catholic Mexico that is raising it, and the Catholics in Mexico are such an overwhelming majority that they will be classed as the total.

"Third: The Cubilete is the private property of Dr. Macias. By the erection of the monument on it with the owner's permission no one arrogates himself any faculty whatever. Where, then, is 'the act penalised by our laws'?"

"Fourth: The contemptuous question mark placed after the expression 'Christ, the King,' as well as the spirit of the entire protestation shows forth in the clearest manner the unmasked rage of the lodges. Nevertheless, we are wearied by hearing Masonry proclaiming itself neutral, a philanthropic society, a mutual aid, etc. Let this open the eyes of any candid fool who may yet need to be enlightened.

"His Excellency the Apostolic Delegate has given to his offenders a lesson of delicacy and dignity. Without a word of reproach or defence, refusing courteously every offer of diplomatic or legal steps in his favor, he retires silently from the country he loves so well, and where, in return, he is loved so sincerely, so heartily venerated."

## Another "Escaped" Nun

### MAY VISIT AUSTRALIA.

A Miss Helen Conroy, who is at present touring Canada under the auspices of an anti-Catholic society, and posing as an "escaped nun," may possibly visit Australia for the same purpose (says the *Melbourne Tribune*). For that reason we give the following facts for the benefit of those of our readers who may find themselves questioned as to the value of her testimony with regard to conventual life.

If we may judge from the account of the case given by the *Catholic Home*, of Oklahoma, the alleged experiences of Miss Conroy are remarkably similar to those of Maria Monk, Edith O'Gorman, and others, who have been exposed and discredited by honest non-Catholics, and whose adventures are fully dealt with in pamphlets issued by the C.T.S. It appears that, so far from Miss Conroy having "escaped" from a convent, she was formally dismissed.

Sister Mary Ethel, to give her name in religion, spent some time in a novitiate of the Little Sisters of the Poor in this country, and after being there found unsuitable went to India, where she entered the Convent at Mandalay of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Apparition. She remained there for seven years, and was dismissed in 1917 "for insubordination." She was provided with secular dress and a sufficient amount of money for travelling expenses, the Bishop paying her passage to Canada.

The *Catholic Home* states that it possesses letters in her own handwriting acknowledging her fault, and thanking Bishop Foulquier for undeserved kindness in the past.

There the matter may rest. For our part we cannot see how the organisers of her campaign can substantiate the statement that Miss Conroy is an "escaped nun," in view of the fact that she was so well provided for by the authorities, who, not content with giving her secular dress and pocket money, went so far as to pay for a journey half-way round the world.

Nothing but sin can separate us from God. You do not wish to sin, therefore preserve your heart in peace, and have it constantly turned toward Heaven.