

## CITY WELCOMES NATION'S CATHOLICS

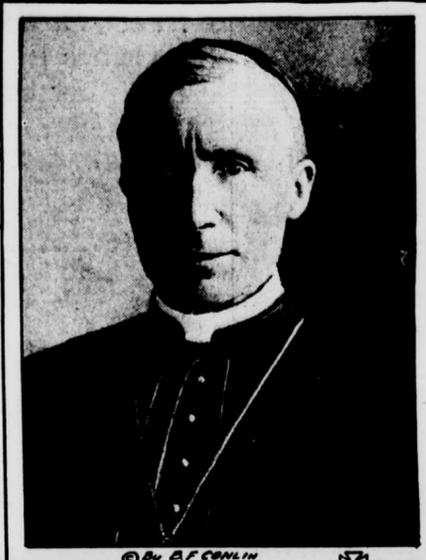


OLD ST PETER'S  
1785

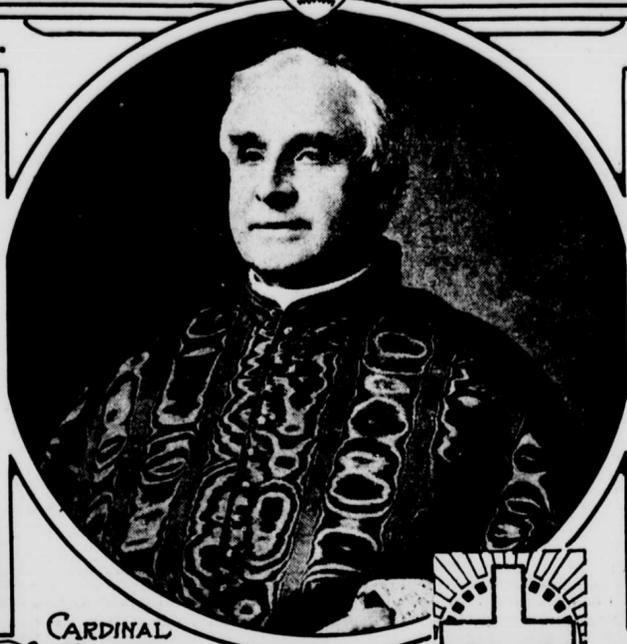
By JOHN WALKER HARRINGTON

**T**WENTY thousand communitarians of the See of Rome, the majority of whom are of the laity, 20,000 devoted men and women who are consecrating their efforts to the solution of vexed problems of the age, are gathering here for what will probably prove to be the greatest religious convocation ever held in the United States.

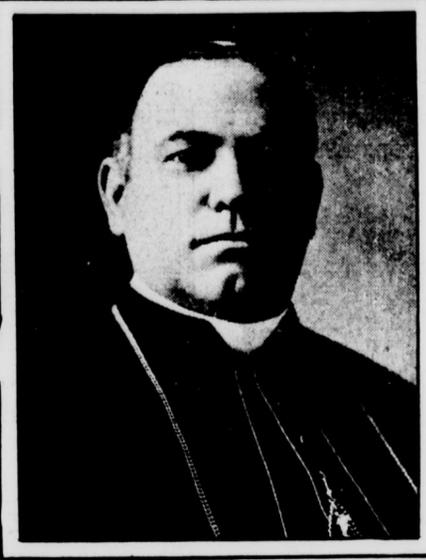
The principal body is the American Federation of Catholic Societies, which, with its combined membership of more than 2,000,000, exerts a wide influence not only within the borders of its own church but comes in touch at many points with the non-Catholic world. Its meetings, especially where they will deal with present day civic and moral problems, will be fraught with unusual public interest. Its fifteenth



CARDINAL  
GIBBONS.



CARDINAL  
FARLEY  
in Full  
Robes.



CARDINAL  
O'CONNELL.



BISHOP  
McFAUL.

### Cardinal Farley's Pastoral Letter

The meaning of the Federation is evident from its name. It seeks to bind all Catholic organizations, parishes, clergy and people in easy ties of acquaintance, affection and cooperation, based upon the single principle, which, humanly speaking, causes the perpetuity of the church and the glory of the nation—in union there is strength.

The conventions are held every year in different cities to discuss and to promote the most important interests of the church and the great questions of the day in their relations to the church, public and private morals, patriotism, social reform, domestic and foreign propagation of the faith, the theatre, Catholic press, Catholic literature, Catholic education, &c.

The Federation has accomplished a great deal of good in every portion of the country. Our own United Catholic Works, our Teachers Association for the Spread of Christian Doctrine, our Catholic Theatre Movement, are outgrowths of it. The Holy Father, all the American Cardinals, the Apostolic Delegate, and, generally speaking, the entire hierarchy and clergy of the country appreciate its advantages and have expressed publicly and privately their approbation.

We must welcome the convention to New York with all the cordiality called for by the importance of the organization and the dignity of our country's metropolis. I shall be pleased, therefore, that all our societies, parishes, educational institutions, &c., become affiliated with the Federation and send delegates to the convention. Details of how to secure affiliation and to arrange for delegates will be given frequently and prominently in the public press. I invite the clergy and people at large to attend the public exercises of the convention in as large numbers as possible. The programme of the convention will also be extensively published.

Furthermore, I suggest that during the time of the convention our churches, schools, institutions and the homes of our people be decorated with flags and bunting in token of appreciation for the Federation, and of welcome to our distinguished visitors and coreligionists from every portion of the country.

There will be the largest of the assemblages that evening at the Madison Square Garden, where addresses will be made by the Apostolic Delegate, the three cardinals, W. Bourke Cockran, Dr. James J. Walsh, John Whalen and other speakers of international reputation. The arena has been altered to suit it to the needs of the convocation, as an immense sounding board has been installed at the eastern end of it. Even with the changes, however, which reduce seating capacity, there will be room for 12,000 persons.

It was intended at first to have the mass meeting in the Hippodrome, but it was soon seen by the committee on arrangements that there would not be room for half of those who would probably wish to attend. The committee was mindful of the fact that when the meeting to protest against the taking of the property of the church by the French Government several years ago 20,000 persons sought to enter the Hippodrome, in which there was room only for 7,000. No such meeting as the one proposed for the evening of August 20 has been held on this continent since the Eucharistic convention which was called in 1910 at Montreal.

The delegates of the federation will meet at Cathedral College, Madison avenue and Fifty-first street. On Wednesday evening of next week there will be a reception at the Hotel Astor, at which Cardinal Farley and other prelates will receive.

The American Federation of Catholic Societies, which has attained so phenomenal a growth, resembles somewhat the Catholic congresses which in the time of Bismarck were convened in Germany. The faithful of the Teutonic States felt that they were not getting their full rights, and hence they formed groups made up of all political parties and succeeded in obtaining the desired recognition. Catholic congresses were held in other European countries, with a result that the laity were able to promote the solidarity of those of the same fold. The Deutscher Roman Katholischer Central Verein founded in this country is a heir of the German movement. The American Federation of Catholic

annual convention will bring together many leaders of the church, both clerical and lay, and its reflex will be felt throughout the civilized nations.

Coincident with the principal convention there will also be held the sixty-first annual meeting of the German Catholic Central Verein, and there will also assemble the Catholic Young Men's National Union, the Gonzaga Union, the Frauenbund of the Catholic Verein, the New York State League of the Virgin and the New York Federation of the Catholic Societies. The Catholic Press Association will hold its convention on August 17 to 19 inclusive.

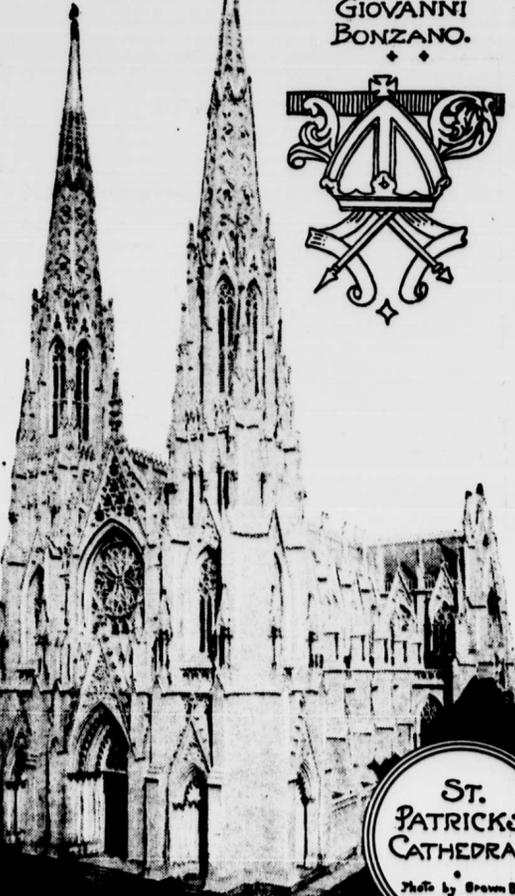
The federation begins its sessions next Sunday and will conclude them on Thursday. The activities of the various organizations, dating seven days from to-day, will be comprehended under "Catholic Week." This notable series of sessions is held under the patronage of Cardinal Farley, who has issued a pastoral letter commending the delegates to the archdiocese. The Pope will be represented by the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop John Bonzano. There will be present, according to the programme, three princes of the church, Cardinals Gibbons of Baltimore, Farley of New York and O'Connell of Boston. The "father of the federation," the Right Rev. James Augustine McFaul, Bishop of



MONSIGNOR  
M. J.  
LAVELLE.



ARCHBISHOP  
GIOVANNI  
BONZANO.



ST.  
PATRICK'S  
CATHEDRAL  
Photo by Brown Bros.



JOHN  
WHALEN.

Societies, however, may be regarded wholly in the light of American institutions.

The need of a working pact of the various Catholic organizations of the United States was first suggested at the annual convention of the Knights of St. John, held in 1899 at Cleveland, when it was proposed to weld the various commanderies of the order into a more perfect union. The first call for a general conference of Catholic societies was issued at the convention of the Knights of St. John at Philadelphia the following year.

The movement from its inception had the cordial support of the Rev. Dr. James Augustine McFaul, who, in 1894, was consecrated Bishop of Trenton. He consulted with various ecclesiastical leaders, especially with Bishop Messmer of Milwaukee. These two prelates became the principal advisers of the new laymen's movement. Bishop McFaul, who had had a long and varied experience as an administrator in his own diocese, is commonly referred to as "The Father of the Federation." The organization grew rapidly though its State branches and soon became an important factor in the affairs of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States. It continued to be under the general guidance of the hierarchy, and bishops are on its advisory board.

It cannot commit itself, however, to any great question of doctrine without the consent of the authorities, and yet it has a much wider latitude than is commonly supposed. It is purposely highly controlled by the clergy, so that it may perform the function of a means of studying lay opinion. Freedom of discussion is encouraged and there have been radical differences of opinion expressed by many delegates. The higher authorities of the church have found the federation a valuable means of following the trend of public sentiment. The objects of the federation are avowedly to protect and advance the religious, civil and social interests of the Catholics. It is expressly forbidden, however, that the federation and its branches mingle in partisan politics. All the societies concerned have autonomy in the management of their internal affairs.

The federation is committed to the encouragement of the Christian education of youth and in many States it has conducted a strong fight for the parish school. Indeed there are some of the societies which hold that an allowance should be made to the Catholics by the State for that part of the education they give which is purely secular. Various solutions have been suggested from time to time as a compromise. The Catholic position is that the youth of the nation should be brought up with religious training, and that the founders of this republic actually held that there should be definite relation between faith and learning.

One of the chief functions of the federation is the correcting of errors, misunderstandings and misapprehensions which arise concerning the Catholic Church. As a lay organization it reaches toward the general public through business and social circles. Through the press, through addresses and by various other means it seeks to place its faith before every community. It is committed to the policy of a broad patriotism, and it means that the "American Federation of Catholic Societies" shall convey the idea of enlightened civic devotion and deal with the non-Catholic, even where there should be a clash of opinion, as a citizen of the same republic.

Perhaps from the popular point of view the most interesting phase of the work of the federation is along the lines of social reform and economic uplift. It will have a mass meeting at Carnegie Hall on the evening of August 21 which will be especially devoted to social service problems. It will be directed by the Right Rev. P. J. Mullan, Bishop of Rockford, Ill., who has for years been a leader in movements which have enlisted the help of every creed. He has not hesitated to work with non-Catholics in the furthering of various reforms, especially in the fight against the increasing prevalence of divorce.

Bishop McFaul years ago took the position that Catholics and non-Catholics should cooperate in the interests of good morals and for the upbuilding of institutions which would protect American youth. The federation in many communities has joined with the Protestants for the stamping out of the abuses of divorce. The Catholic theatre movement received the support of the clergy of Protestant denominations and some of them actually joined it. There was a feeling among the Catholics that the stage had gone too far, and that it was year by year present-

ing plays calculated to undermine the foundations of morality. The movement, which is affiliated with the federation, did not denounce plays by name, but rather established a "White List," on which appeared those which were considered as normal and wholesome, as well as instructive and entertaining. The members of the movement induced those of the older generation to keep away from questionable performances for the sake of influencing the younger generation to shun degenerate drama. The Catholics, through their various societies, also joined with other organizations in a campaign for promoting decency and purity in moving picture houses. At the forthcoming meetings especial attention will be given to the theatre and reports on the status of stage morals have been prepared by authorities.

The federation is opposed to socialism, to anarchy and to all systems which it considers inimical to the public welfare. It aims at corruption in politics, at false pretence of all kinds and especially at dishonesty in commercial dealings. It is deeply interested in fighting the evils of child labor and has investigated wages and considered all phases of social justice. The social service work of the federation will naturally touch to some extent on charity, for long before the giving of relief to the poor by organized agencies, the Catholic and other societies were scientific almoners. The policy of the Catholic layman, even when he is wealthy and is able to hire others to distribute his aims, has been to give as much of himself in counsel as he could. The Catholics have witnessed in the past the evils which have been severe with those who impose on the compassionate.

It may be, although the set programme does not show it at this stage, that there will be some references to the recent disagreements between the Mayor, a Catholic, and certain of his coreligionists on the subject of the management of charitable institutions. The suggestion of the general economic and sociological features of the meetings will appear in detail in the Carnegie Hall meeting. This meeting may be regarded as an interesting index of the lay mind of the church.

Among the speakers, besides those already mentioned, are to be Prof. James E. Haggerty of the Ohio State University, the Rev. Dr. John A. Ryan of the Catholic University in Washington and the Rev. Edwin V. O'Hara, chairman of the State Commission on the Minimum Wage. That nothing may be omitted to make the approaching sessions of the federation in every way successful and fruitful Cardinal Farley has instructed all within his jurisdiction to join hands in welcoming the delegates. The Stars and Stripes are to be displayed on churches and parish houses and the homes are to be similarly adorned. The 20,000 priests of the American hierarchy have been officially invited to attend and arrangements are being made to welcome them.

The landmarks of Catholicism are everywhere in the city of New York. It is confidently asserted by scholars of the See of Rome that the first Christian prayer ever spoken within the limits of the city was uttered by Catholic lips. Thomas P. Meehan, one of the writers for the "Catholic Encyclopedia," says that it was offered by the Italian explorer, Verrazano, who in 1524 landed here, nearly a century before Henry Hudson.

There is at the Battery a massive monument to Verrazano, erected several years ago by the Italian colony. The first mass ever sung on Manhattan Island, as far as is known, was that celebrated on August 27, 1682, by Father Thomas Hardy, S. J., in an improvised chapel near old Fort Amsterdam. He was the chaplain of Col. Thomas Dongan, a Catholic, who had just been appointed Governor of the Province of New York.

One of the most interesting Catholic landmarks of New York city is in St. Paul's church, the shaft erected to the memory of Dr. William James MacNevin, an Irish exile of 1898, who in the days following the Revolution became a noted physician in this city. Visitors to New York will be much interested in St. Peter's in Barclay street, the first Roman Catholic church erected in 1786. It was torn down, however, in 1836 and the present build-