

## **EXCERPTS FROM "THE TABLET: THE INTERNATIONAL CATHOLIC NEWS WEEKLY" (UK)**

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**THE NURSES' CONGRESS AT LOURDES** **Nine hundred Catholic nurses held** their first International Congress at Lourdes from **July 18 to 21**, under the auspices of their International Federation, ten countries being represented. Twenty members attended from the English Guilds. **Father Garesche, S.J., of New York, Director-General of the Federation**, and Mlle. d'Airolles, President of the French Catholic Nurses' Guild and Convener of the Congress, **were in charge of the proceedings**. A useful and varied programme of papers and discussions was carried out, and the Bishop of Tarbes and Lourdes, Monsignor Gerlier, honoured the gathering with his presence. The Congress will meet again in 1937,

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Today sees the opening of the **International Catholic Nurses' Congress**, including both' religious and lay nurses. The participants have been arriving during the latter part of the past week, and fortunately for those coming from cold climates the days are comparatively fresh, and the nights promise to continue cool as they have been since the Assumption. Next month will see in Rome about fifteen thousand ex-soldiers from various nations. It is understood that during their visit the Holy Father will celebrate Mass for them in S. Paul's Outside the Walls. His Holiness will come from Castelgandolfo for the occasion, returning there afterwards without re-entering Rome. Most probably, too, the Papal audience will follow the Mass in the basilica.

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## **THE SOVEREIGN PONTIFF ON ITALY AND ABYSSINIA**

At Castelgandolfo, last Wednesday, H.H. Pope Pius XI addressed nearly two thousand Catholic nurses belonging to twenty-seven nations. After reminding his hearers that many of them knew the horrors of battlefields from personal experience, and that nothing is more dear to Christ than Peace, the Holy Father said: **The mere**

thought of War makes Us shudder. Yet, outside Italy, there is talk about a war of conquest, a war of aggression. On such a supposition We find it hard to fix Our thought, so greatly does it disconcert Us. A war of sheer conquest and nothing else would certainly be an unjust war. It ought, therefore, to be unimaginable—a thing sad and horrible beyond expression. An unjust war is unthinkable. We cannot admit its possibility, and we deliberately reject it. We neither believe nor are willing to believe it.

In Italy, on the other hand, the talk is about a possible war which would be just, inasmuch as it would be a war of defence, to assure the frontiers against continual and incessant dangers, as well as a war necessitated by the expansion of a population growing larger every day, and therefore a war justified by the defensive and material needs of a country.

Dear daughters, if it be true that the need for expansion and the need for frontier defence do indeed exist, then We cannot forbid Ourselves from hoping that the need will be met by means other than War. If any ask " How? " it is evidently not easy to answer; but none the less We cannot believe that an answer is impossible. The possibility must be studied. One thing, however, seems clear to Us. Allowing that Expansion is a need of which account must be taken, the right of Defence has limits and moderations which cannot be ignored without culpability.

In any event, We implore Almighty God to prosper the efforts of those clear-eyed men who understand the claims of social justice and of the nations' true weal—the men who are doing their utmost for Peace, not by uttering threats, which only make things worse and exacerbate others, thus increasing every day the difficulties of those who are pacifically and sincerely labouring to avert War. For this We shall pray, and We beg you to join your prayers with Ours.