

# Nazi Horrors Worse In Poland Bishop Radios. Fellow-Bishops

LONDON (NC) — Revelations of continued and further persecutions of Poles by the occupying Nazis were made in a notable address by the Most Rev. Charles Radonski, Bishop of Wloclawek, Poland, broadcast by the British Broadcasting Company to the Catholic Bishops of the world.

Bishop Radonski, who is a member of the Polish National Council of the Polish Government-in-exile here, described conditions in his native land, pointing out that the German persecution of his countrymen has been progressive and unrelenting. Saying that the oppression staggers the imagination, the Bishop declared the Nazis first set about eliminating the educated classes and the nation's spiritual leaders and then followed these acts with liquidation of the Jews. "Now our peasants' turn has come," he said. "Between Nov. 25 and Christmas, the Germans expelled the entire population of 54 villages, depriving over 10,000 farm-holders of their entire property in order to make room for German colonists imported from Rumania and Russia. The victims of this expropriation have been massed in special camps behind barbed wire, where special selection takes place. The healthy are

sent for slave labor in Germany and the weak and ill are taken to an 'unknown destination'."

### Mothers Mourn

Bishop Radonski described how children from two to six are sent to Germany to be brought up without God, as enemies of their motherland. "Mothers," he added, "who refuse to give up their children are being killed. Thus innocent blood flows again through Poland."

"Venerable prelates, I beg you to let your flocks learn about what is happening to Catholics in Poland," Bishop Radonski said.

KAT. Polish Catholic press agency here, reports that five Polish priests were shot by Germans at Gleskita and two more at Ponnary. Shortly before that Canon Antoni Zawiatowski, of the Lublin University faculty, was executed at Dachau for hearing the confessions of fellow prisoners.

News from Rome states that

Dean Palantowicz, of Konstantynow, Monsignor Rybus and Bonczek, of Lodz, and Father Konecki have died in Orstecim concentration camp. The same fate is reported to have befallen the Rev. Roman Witko, Rector of the Theological Seminary in Tarnow.

### Priests Dying

In the concentration camp at Orstecim alone, there are about 200 priests. About 20 die monthly from torture and starvation. The majority of guards at this camp are German criminals, sentenced for various serious crimes. It is said, blasphemous parodies of the Mass are also arranged by these guards, during which the Cross and Christianity are ridiculed.

Interventions by the Papal Nuncio in Berlin in the matter of 90 nuns arrested recently in Kalisz and 15 Nazareth Sisters arrested in Grodno as hostages had no effect. The 15 Nazareth Sisters were shot.

## THE HOLY FATHER BROADCASTS



The worries and cares of a world at war are evidenced in the countenance of the Holy Father, pictured here in his recent broadcast to Portugal, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady of Fatima. Pictured with the Pontiff are the Most Rev. Giovanni Battista Montini, Papal Undersecretary of State, and Dr. Antonio Faria Carneiro Pacheco, Portuguese Ambassador to the Holy See. (N.C.W.C.)

# Russia's Stand On Religion An Enigma Says Swiss Daily

FRANCOUR, (NC) — La Liberté, Swiss Catholic daily, in a consideration of the status of religion in Soviet Russia, reduces the essential problem to the question of whether "the situation of the Christian churches and other confessions has improved since the outbreak of hostilities," or "have freedom of conscience and the free exercise of worship ceased to exist except on paper?"

The propaganda of the two groups of belligerents give diametrically opposed answers to this delicate question. La Liberté says "Passion rather than realistic considerations causes the Kremlin and its adversaries to paint the religious situation either as rosy or as black as possible." The Swiss paper admits that it is difficult to obtain authentic reports on the internal affairs of the Soviet Union, and "this applies particularly to religious facts."

### Viewpoint of Neutrals

The Swiss daily analyzes the matter from the viewpoint of a neutral nation and, in doing so, presents eight points:

1. Soviet leaders have so far furnished no proof of a definite and sincere change in their attitude towards religion.
2. Their desire to appear no longer as persecutors of Christianity is nevertheless manifest.
3. Some of the Orthodox clergy are disposed to credit the Soviets and to support them in the conduct of the war; and this applies not merely to the Russian Orthodox Church but also to the schismatic Churches of the Balkans.
4. Responsible heads of the Church of England and other Anglo-Saxon Protestant communities have put faith in the assertions of the Kremlin.
5. Moscow has tried on several

occasions to establish contact with the Holy See.

6. The Vatican, as well as Catholic circles in both England and America, remains somewhat sceptical about the inferred revision of the Soviet's anti-religious policy.

7. The Vatican, despite everything, has abstained from an express and absolute condemnation of Russia at war, and the Sovereign Pontiff has refused to sanction recognition of the "anti-bolshevik crusade."

8. In the Axis countries, authorized representatives of the Christian churches nevertheless have associated themselves with this slogan more or less enthusiastically. The anti-Communist wing of the Orthodox Church affording the "maximum of vehemence."

In discussing these points, La Liberté cites "a series of details, many of which have escaped the attention of the great European public."

### Orthodox Reversal

First, the Swiss paper points out that the Metropolitan Serge who, on June 22, 1941, made a stirring appeal to the faithful to "defend the country and follow the directives of the civil and military authority," and who ordered public prayers for the success of the Red Army, is the same one who, formerly, had protested against the Encyclicals of Pope Pius XI which denounced communism. He, with other members of the Orthodox hierarchy, excommunicated the bishops subject to the Karlovai Synod, who had expressed a willingness to collaborate with the invaders in the occupied territories.

The Swiss daily points out that "At Christmas, 1941, and Easter, 1942, the remaining Moscow churches were filled with faithful and the curfew was lifted to permit a numerous crowd to attend nightly services. Officers and soldiers of the Red Army may attend Mass."

"Bezbojnik, organ of the Godless, has ceased to appear... because of the scarcity of paper. More discretion has been suggested to the movement as a whole, but its leader, Jaroslavsky, always occupies an important post somewhere in the administration. Finally, gross blasphemies and base insults to religion are no longer fashionable and have disappeared from the press," continues the Swiss paper.

Discussing the situation in Russia the Swiss daily asks:

"Should Rome abandon her neutrality to the advantage of a belligerent who only yesterday displayed such cold hostility to the word of God? Certainly the Holy See does not desire the death of a sinner, even the worst, and would rejoice at his conversion. Assuredly certain external marks of relaxation, such as the reestablishment of the souls for Poles in Russia, have been noted with satisfaction."

"The Bishop of the Polish Army, Monsignor Gawlina, enjoyed all facilities during his visit to Jukyshev and chaplains have been admitted to the Polish divisions composed of former prisoners captured

by the Soviets. That is something, but not so much.

"If it is true, as they pretend, that Stalin himself has directly addressed a letter to His Holiness Pope Pius XII, would this suffice to efface the memory of thousands of Bishops, priests and faithful who were executed, deported and oppressed?"

"Full and entire liberty for the Catholic Church a liberty which the bolsheviks have not been alone in denying her—certainly has not been reestablished. One must wait until the torment has passed, to be convinced that the relative tolerance of today is not a phenomenon of ephemeral opportunity; to believe that, even under the Soviets, Christianity can be reborn and flower on the 'holy soil of Russia'."

## 'ROUND THE WORLD WITH THE CHAPLAINS

### SOUTHWEST PACIFIC

"We had four midnight Masses scattered over the island," writes the Rev. John P. Mahoney, a chaplain from the Diocese of Burlington, to the Military Ordinate. "I had about 75 natives who sang the Christmas music in their own language and really outshone our own choir."

"The altar, placed amid the tall trees of the jungle and decorated with the bright, red blossoms of the flame tree, seemed more like the crib at Bethlehem, as soldiers guarding the outposts of freedom like shepherds, guarding their flocks, came humbly to receive Him. Catholic and non-Catholic alike said it was the most beautiful service they ever attended."

### AFRICA

He left a parish to serve as a chaplain in his country's armed forces. Now, although with the American Army in North Africa he is back in parish work.

"I suffered the loss of all my equipment, but fortunately indeed I have found an abundance of churches and hearty cooperation on the part of the local clergy," the chaplain writes. "In fact, at the present time, I am the parish priest; the local cure having been called to the colors."

"May I add that the entire countryside where our troops have been quartered is amazed both at the numbers attending Mass, etc., and the fervor with which our boys visit the Most Blessed Sacrament during the day. As one Frenchman put it, 'Pere your Catholic men are by far the best advertisement and inspiration we have had in years.'"

### CAMP TANFORAN, CALIF.

"I stay Mass in a grandstand of a race track. Tanforan was once a big place for races." So reports the Rev. Leonard Cuellar, C.M.F., Army Chaplain.

### NORTH AFRICA

"Said Mass one afternoon in a shelter made of ammunition boxes, with a shelter half over the top"

is another report, from the Rev. William J. Walsh, Army chaplain from the Archdiocese of St. Paul. "Just as Mass started the rain came in sheets, and not a lad left. They were drenched by the time Mass was over. Each had to come into the shelter to receive Communion. During the nights of these days I was lucky to find shelter in a plane, and it was interesting sharing the experiences of the boys who are out there fighting."

### CAMP SHELBY, MISS.

Solemn Midnight Mass was celebrated here in the Field House with a 28-foot boxing ring as a sanctuary. reports a chaplain there. More than 3,500 persons, mostly soldiers, attended and Communion was distributed to about 1,000. The music of the Mass was sung by a choir of 28 soldiers who had rehearsed for six weeks.

### CAMP CARRABELLE, FLA.

Midnight Mass here was celebrated in the Post Theater, reports the Rev. John J. Kenny, C.S.S.R., chaplain there. A total of 1,350 attended.

### SOLOMON ISLANDS

The Rev. J. J. Fitzgerald, Navy chaplain from the Archdiocese of Chicago, writes that in the Solomon Islands he managed "to build a chapel" with "the little we had." Among the "little" available, it seems, were certain objects left by the Japanese and intended for quite a different purpose than the use to which they were put.

Father Fitzgerald tells how two Japanese shells were used in the chapel for flower vases. "Lovely," he comments.

"The men are closer to God now than ever before," he adds. "I have had about 4,000 Communions since I left the States, and as many more confessions. There are many other devotions I would like to have, but circumstances here—sleeping in foxholes, dugouts, and in the hills—do not permit."

# Pope Sends \$20,000 For Relief of Malta

LONDON—To help to rebuild the ruined churches of Malta the Holy Father has sent \$20,000 to the Bishop of Malta, Archbishop Caruana, says a message received here from the Island.

This is the Holy Father's second recent donation to the people of "unsinkable" Malta—a fortress in the Mediterranean which has endured more bombing than any other spot on the war map. Last July the Pope sent \$40,000, through the Apostolic Delegate here, for the relief of those who had suffered in the raids.

Many of Malta's churches have been destroyed or damaged by the bombs of Axis raiders.

## Pontiff's War Aid Reviewed By FCC

NEW YORK, (NC)—His Holiness Pope Pius XII has sent \$20,000 to finance the reconstruction of the churches of Malta that have been damaged or destroyed by Axis air raids, according to a report broadcast by the Algiers radio and monitored by the Federal Communications Commission.

The broadcast, quoting a Valletta source, said the Archbishop of Malta had been informed of the Holy Father's gift.

"The Holy See," the F. C. C. release stated, "has been providing funds to reduce suffering since the outbreak of the war. Medical supplies, food and money have been sent to Poland since the Nazi occupation in September, 1939. A few months ago it was announced that the Vatican also was sending food to Polish exiles in other lands and to Polish prisoners of war."

"British Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden told the House of Commons last summer that the Holy See is feeding British prisoners of war held by the Japanese in both Hong Kong and Singapore."

"The Vatican radio disclosed last winter that the Pope had given one million francs to help relieve French suffering."

## 'CHINA CALLING VENTURA'; RADIO LINE KEPT OPEN BY CALIFORNIA DENTIST

ST. COLUMBAN, Neb.—Maintenance of a direct line of radio communication between station XGOY in Chungking, China, and Station WGGRL, operated 7,000 miles away by Dr. Charles E. Stuart, dentist of Ventura, Calif., is described in the current issue of "The Far East," monthly publication of St. Columban's Foreign Mission Society, published here.

Dr. Stuart, a radio "bug" since boyhood, has maintained the "ham" station at his dentist office for years and acceded to a request of the Chinese Government to maintain an open line of communication with Chungking during the war period. The Chinese Government made the request, the magazine story related, because it realized with the outbreak of hostilities, other lines of communication would be choked.

At Dr. Stuart's station news concerning activities of missionaries in China as well as news broadcasts and other important message are received daily.

When you are at peace, use the time profitably, making constant acts of meekness and seeking to be calm, even in the most trifling things.

## Note Import In Naming Of Spanish Bishops

VATICAN CITY — The recent nomination of five new Bishops for Spain is regarded here as a most significant event in connection with Vatican-Spain relations, whose functioning was complicated after the June, 1941, agreement regarding the naming of Bishops and the protecting of the rights of the Holy See. This agreement required prolonged preliminaries to practical application.

The latest nominations are seen as a hopeful sign for the early provision for the 15 Spanish dioceses remaining vacant.

The new Episcopal nominations are:

- Bishop Gregorio Modrego Casaus, Apostolic Administrator of Cuena, to be Bishop of Barcelona;
- Bishop Francisco Barbado Vijo, Bishop of Coria, transferred to the Diocese of Salamanca;
- Canon Rafael Garcia y Garcia de Castro, of Granada to be Bishop of Jaen;
- the Rev. Ramon Navarri, Secretary of the Military Vicariate, to be Bishop of Urgal, and the Rev. Emerico Barrera, Vicar General of the Diocese of Pamplona, to be titular Bishop of Daza.