

## Polyansky Sees Prospect Dim For Priests To Enter Russia

Their Faithful Careers Ended



Rev. Walter J. Lee



Rev. John H. O'Brien

## Tribute to 2 Pastors At Pontifical Rites

Death came to the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Walter J. Lee, V.F., pastor of St. Francis de Sales Church, Geneva, and dean of the Geneva deanery, Tuesday, Jan. 9, 1945 in Clifton Springs. Pontifical Mass of Requiem will be offered in the church over which he presided as pastor since 1927 on Friday morning, Jan. 12 at 10:30 A.M.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. James M. McCarthy, Bishop of Rochester will officiate at the funeral Mass. The Office of the Dead was to be chanted at 8 P.M. today in the Geneva Church. Mass will be offered at 8 A.M. and will be attended by students of St. Francis de Sales Grammar School and Geneva High School.

Assisting Bishop McCarthy in the Mass will be Assistant Priest, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William M. Hart, V.G.; Deacons of Honor, the Rt. Rev. Msgr. William F. Bergan, Chancellor of the diocese and the Rt. Rev. Msgr. John J. Lee, V.F.; Deacon, the Rev. William McPaden; Subdeacon, the Rev. James M. O'Brien; Master of Ceremonies, the Rev. Lawrence R. O'Conor; Assistant Master, the Rev. Raymond Nolan.

Homily will be delivered by the Rev. Richard Bean of the Pontifical College Josephinum, Washington, Ohio.

Msgr. Lee was born Feb. 10, 1871, at Niagara Falls, Ontario and was educated at St. Joseph's College, Buffalo, and the Seminary of Our Lady of the Angels at Niagara Falls. He was ordained June 4, 1896, and appointed immediately as assistant pastor of St. Mary's Church, Corning. On Aug. 10, 1902 he became founder and pastor of St. Patrick's Church in Corning. Msgr. Lee was named pastor of Immaculate Conception Church in Ithaca on Oct. 21, 1921, and on July 1, 1927, he went to St. Francis de Sales Church. He was named Dean in 1929 and in December, 1937, was raised to monsignor.

Surviving are three brothers, John J., Thomas W., and Donald R., all of Geneva.

### MYRON TAYLOR DISTRIBUTES GIFTS TO ITALIAN CHILDREN

ROME (By Wireless-RBN) — Myron C. Taylor, President Roosevelt's personal representative at the Vatican, played the role of a skilled but protective "diplomatic chess master" in saving the lives of Italian children who were all alone during the Nazi occupation.

According to Mrs. Taylor, the American diplomat, his primary purpose of visiting and staying in Rome for two months, after which he made briefly to the United States, was to help Italy to keep its independence. The difficulties largely

(Copyright, 1945, by Religion News Service)

MOSCOW (By Wireless)—No immediate prospect of entry of Roman Catholic priests from abroad into Russia is seen here by Ivan V. Polyansky, chairman of the Soviet Council on Affairs of Religious Cults.

Mr. Polyansky, in an exclusive interview, said:

"I see no urgent need to ask Catholic priests to come from abroad to participate in religious affairs here. I am confident that Russia's own talented and hard-working clergy is capable of serving the needs of the faithful, especially as the training of new priests is already proceeding."

Questioned as to where this training is taking place, Polyansky stated that theological seminaries for Roman Catholics are functioning "for example, in Vilna and Kaunas where the Russian government is now in control."

The Roman Catholic Archbishop of Latvia, the Most Rev. Anthony Springovich, he revealed, has discussed the question of opening another Catholic seminary in Riga, and it is expected that permission will be given. Polyansky added that there are already 200 students in the seminary of the Italoslovak diocese of Lwow, Poland, recently liberated by the Red Army.

Polyansky said that a delegation from the Lwow diocese, sent by Metropolitan Joseph Biegel, had recently visited him in Moscow to discuss, among other matters, the question of communication with the Pope.

"I told the delegation," he said, "that there is no objection to Catholic writing to the Pope if they so wish. I understood that the delegation later conveyed my views to the Pope in a registered letter."

The Soviet official said Catholics have "no specific representation" on his committee because "the council is a governmental body specializing in the affairs of religious cults in the U.S.S.R., and does not have provision for special representation as any religious group."

To a series of questions regarding the fate of Catholic bishops and priests exiled to Siberia some years ago, the nature of the charges against them, and whether or not they had been allowed to communicate with the Pope, Polyansky, without giving any specific reply, declared:

"Nobody is punished for religious belief, only for concrete crimes; and nobody guilty of crime is permitted to escape punishment merely by calling himself a believer or disbeliever. Those deprived of their personal liberty for crimes we never meant not only disbelieved but also believed who explained their crimes and returned to assume the normal lives of Soviet citizens."

The crime in the case of those Catholic priests and bishops could be that they preached a sermon or even printed a prayer book, because article 134 of the Soviet constitution allows only the "freedom of anti-religious propaganda."

Asked whether practising believers can be employed in government employment,

Polyansky said:

"The question of one's religious beliefs is a purely private affair and plays no part in the selection of persons for government posts. The Soviet constitution stresses that religious freedom and equality is guaranteed to all citizens, believers and nonbelievers." He said, however, that it is impossible to obtain agnostic as the member of employees holding important government posts who are church members or believers, because "the information of the mind is sought."

Other questions concerned the status of Jews, communists, religious groups, etc., and Polyansky was unable to give definite answers on these.

The question of the return

### Assemblyman Offers Bill to Counteract Dissemination

ALBANY (RBN) — A bill providing that no person shall be denied equal opportunity of employment because of race, color, creed or religion has been introduced in the New York legislature by Assemblyman Harry F. Angerer, Democrat of Ulster County. Angerer, who

## Yanks Repair Church For Chaplain Murphy's Midnight Mass Overseas

Celebration of four Masses behind the Allied battle front in western Europe was the Christmas day schedule of Chaplain Donald J. Murphy of the Diocese of Rochester.

Two of the Masses were High Masses and all of them were celebrated in churches. Father Murphy had no expectation of celebrating a Christmas Midnight Mass but the demands of war determined Yanks surprised him.

Wrote Father Murphy:

"I was with one of the battalions and they asked me about midnight Mass. I dismissed the idea for the people have not had midnight Masses here for four years; they have it the previous day at four in the afternoon. But this battalion insisted that it was possible. I said it couldn't be done, because first the windows of the church were all blown out; there was no light for the church, and if there were light, it couldn't be blocked out. Also there was no heat for the church, and the cold at night would be really something."

"But they put their tongues in their cheeks and decided to see what could be done about it. They went out and got evergreens. They set up a tree in the sanctuary, lit a candle beneath it, the infant Jesus in arms and the Virgin and St. Joseph were sitting — all broken. They trimmed the front of the altar with evergreen boughs, the alter rail, and even put a festoon of evergreen around the picture hanging in the sanctuary. They took care of the decorations. There were still the three problems: the light, the blackout, and the heat."

"To remedy the heat, the soldiers carried in two stoves and started them going — one on each side of the stove — their pipes being put out the window. The heat, the cold, and the blackout were both remedied by putting

canvas shelter halves over the outside of the windows. By light a gasoline lantern was put in the sanctuary lamp, and certain lamps lit on the altar."

Father Murphy previously received the Bronze Star for "distinguished service in combat" during the campaign in France and Italy. The new silver Star which signed by the division commander, explains that Chaplain Murphy's greatest achievement was the life and wounded men at the risk of his own and won no commendations high military tradition."

"To remedy the heat, the soldiers carried in two stoves and started them going — one on each side of the stove — their pipes being put out the window. The heat, the cold, and the blackout were both remedied by putting

## Chaplain Waters' Mother Honored at Final Rites

Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated in St. Patrick's Church, Owego, on Wednesday morning (Jan. 10) for Mrs. Elizabeth Waters, mother of Chaplain (Major) Edward J. Waters, former assistant pastor of St. Augustine's Church, Rochester, now serving with the First Division overseas.

Mrs. Waters died Sunday (Jan. 7) at her home in Owego. She had been ill only two days and her death came unexpectedly. A letter from Major Waters came to his mother the day before she died.

Celebrant of the funeral Mass on Wednesday was the Rev. John J. Malley, assistant pastor, St. Charles Borromeo, Assisting Mass were Rev. Michael L. Byrne, pastor of St. Patrick's and the Rev. Joseph J. O'Connell, Chaplain of Nazareth Academy, Rochester. Burial took place in the family plot at St. Joseph's Cemetery in Owego.

Besides her son Mrs. Waters is survived by three daughters, Mrs. George Gerner of New York City, Mrs. Donald Doty and Miss Mary Waters of Owego; and two sisters, Miss Ruth E. Trooper and Mrs. Margaret Mooney.

### CHURCHES LINE UP AGAINST COMMUNISM

Major religious bodies in New York, including the Association of Catholic University Students and other religious groups have issued statements of protest against the spread of communism.

The statement of the Association of Catholic University Students, signed by its president, Rev. James J. O'Farrell, S.J., reads:

"We deplore the efforts of the Communists to impose their

dictatorship on the world. We deplore the efforts of the Communists to impose their

dictatorship on the world. We deplore the efforts of the Communists to impose their

### THEATRICAL ASSOCIATION NAMES PROFESSOR ABELL

NEW YORK (RBN) — The Theatrical Association of America was elected to the permanent council of the National Committee to Defend Democracy, which was formed to combat the drive against communism.

The election was held at a meeting