

On Guard!

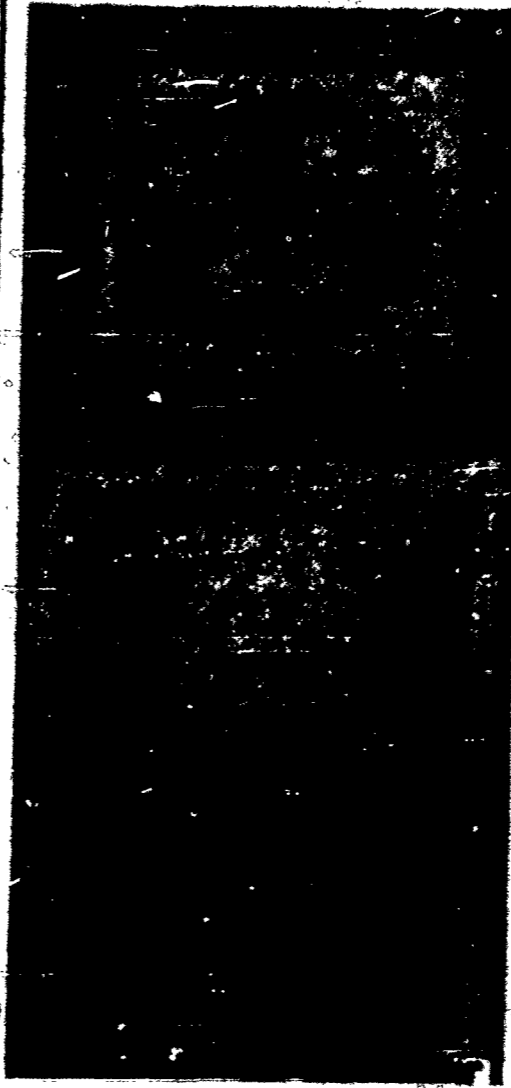
By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

(Continued from Page 1)

group of correspondents were Father Shanahan and Harrison Forman, correspondent of the New York Herald Tribune. Forman, as time showed, was ambitious to get first-hand information for a book on the little-known story of Red China. Father Shanahan had another ambition and that was to contact

the thousands of Chinese Catholics who were known to have lived in Yenan area before the Communist armies had occupied that section in 1936. Although Father Shanahan stayed in Yenan for almost one month and a half, Communist official guides saw to it that he did not meet very many Catholics. Before the arrival of the Reds, there had been nearly 18,000 Catholics in the Vicariates of Yenan. A staff of over thirty Spanish and Chinese priests with more than a score of Spanish and Chinese nuns had fled eight years before at the approach of the Red Army because of the constant experience of Catholic missionaries with this Army under its Communist Party dictation. In Yenan the American priest found the Bishop's mission, the Cathedral church and other mission properties, all occupied by the Communist Yenan University. This story of Red occupation was common throughout the whole Yenan area, the missionary states. But Father Shanahan did force one favor from the Red officials of Yenan. This was permission to say Mass for the Catholics. At his own insistence he even was allowed to say this rare Mass in the Cathedral which the Communists had converted into an assembly hall for their university. It was on July 2, 1944 — the Feast of Our Lady's Visitation — that Father Shanahan brought the Blood of Christ for the first time in eight years to the heart of Red China. The American missionary made himself available the day before the Mass so that the Catholics of Yenan could have an opportunity of going to confession. But he soon discovered, after a few hours of waiting, that the Catholics were afraid to be seen going to Confession for fear of reprisal. Red spies, numerous and ever-present, would immediately report anything so suspicious as a local Chinese talking secretly to a foreign, non-Communist visitor, the priest was told. Father Shanahan found the fears of the Yenan Catholics to be well-founded and the next morning before the Mass he gave public and general absolution. As a test of the freedom of the press in Red China, Father Shanahan obtained a promise from The Liberation Daily, newspaper of Yenan, that it would print an account of his Mass and also his sermon. He even provided the newspa-

A Vatican Post



New philatelic issues from Vatican City have reached America. A set of six postage-due stamps of 1945 brings to a close the series of overprints and surcharges ("Segnaime") issued since 1931. They show the papal coat of arms, the triple tiara and the crossed keys of St. Peter (upper photo). A release of three values of the stamp issued in 1942 to publicize the work of the Papal War Prisoners' Relief Institution, has been released with the date of 1944 but of different denominations than the earlier issue—the 1 lire, 2 lire and 3 lire. It shows a group of war refugees, with the head of our Saviour radiating from the sky in the background, and overhead the inscription, "Though War Is Raging, I Have Mercy on All Peoples." (NC Photos)

Divorce, Birth Control Scored

London — (NC) — The gravity of the divorce evil was emphasized by the Anglican Archbishop of York in a discussion at a diocesan conference of the vast increase of divorces in Britain.

The Anglican churchman pointed out that in 1858 there were only 24 divorces in England and Wales. In 1914, he said, there were about 600, while today more than 4,000 divorce cases are pending in London alone.

Marriage is no longer regarded "as a sacrament or as a holy state but as a contract which can be broken fairly easily," he said. Commenting on Britain's declining birth rate, he asserted that the population may decrease 5,000,000 by 1980, and remarked that the male population of Russia would likely increase in the same period by 13,000,000. The Archbishop condemned the practice of contraception and bad housing conditions, which, he said, were causing the decline in births and, along with divorce, undermining family life.

Sign of Cross Aids Chaplain

(Continued from page 1)

who said the people were glad the war had ended. He insisted upon presenting Father Reddington with a gift as concrete evidence of his own feelings towards the Marines.

Many Marines attended Mass in the Japanese church on their first Sunday here, since not all the occupation units had been able to arrange their own chapels. Father Reddington joined the Navy last April. He is a graduate of St. Bernard's Seminary, Rochester, and formerly was assistant pastor of St. Alphonsus Church in Auburn, N. Y.



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per with a copy of his sermon in which he explained how Democracy was dependent upon religious truth and spiritual values.

But this was not "the right kind of copy" for the Communist newspaper. "Nearly two weeks later," states the missionary, "the day before I left Yenan, a brief notice appeared that I had held a Catholic Service."

Father Shanahan also gave an account of his Mass and sermon to Harrison Forman who filed a dispatch for the New York Herald Tribune. Even though the visiting Free Party had been told that there was no censorship in Communist China, Mr. Forman had to submit his dispatch to a "non-censor" examiner.

After "examining" Mr. Forman's copy, the Red official asked him to cut out a sentence saying, "It was the first time in eight years that Catholic Mass had been said here."

"It will look," explained the Communist "examiner," "as if we did not favor freedom of religion."

Now here is the second which Father Shanahan, in the version of other news, will find in his current article in the magazine. Early this year a book written by Mr. Harrison Forman and entitled "Secret Yenan" had been published in the United States.

To the surprise of many, Mr. Forman's book, according to the Red censor, was "not a very good book." The censor said that the book was "not very interesting" and that it was "not very good." The censor also said that the book was "not very good" and that it was "not very interesting." The censor also said that the book was "not very good" and that it was "not very interesting."

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