

1945 Marriage Split-ups Worry Italian Catholics

— (UPI) — Publication of the fact that in 1945 the law courts in the City of Rome received 1,003 requests for legal separation of marriages, about

twice as many as the year before, is considered in Catholic circles as another sign of the moral crisis caused by the war. The number of these requests constitutes a very high percentage, such as was never known before.

On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

(Continued from page 1) It may seem presumptuous for us to suggest that the whole question of Russia is quite clear.

Frankly, we can't see anything mysterious or enigmatic about the policies of the Stalin regime of Soviet Russia. Russia should not be "a riddle" to anybody who understands the true nature of Atheistic Communism, which we should remember, is still the gospel of the present Soviet government.

"What is Russia up to now?" We are tempted to answer this question by asking, "What has Russia been doing for the last five years? What has she been doing for many years?" But this answer might sound a bit flip-pant.

The answer to Senator Vandenberg's "supreme conundrum" is really very simple. Soviet Russia is obviously and clearly striving to establish a Soviet dictatorship over the whole world!

The key to Mr. Churchill's "mystery inside an enigma" and Senator Vandenberg's "supreme conundrum of our time" can be found in a very important document written by the late Pope Pius XI and issued on the Feast of St. Joseph, March 19, 1937.

This is Pius XI's famous encyclical on Atheistic Communism. It was important when it was written nine years ago. It is even more important today.

The Soviet dictatorship was no riddle or conundrum to Pope Pius XI. And it is significant to note that when Pius XI wrote his historic document on Communism, the man who served him as Secretary of State and chief counsellor was Cardinal Eugenio Pacelli, the present Pope Pius XII, who only this week warned Russia that "our alliance cannot be counted upon when the faith or the foundations of Christian civilization are at stake."

In explaining the evil nature of Atheistic Communism Pope Pius XI was thinking particularly and unmistakably of the Russian government. This fact should be kept in mind when one reads the Pope's encyclical.

What then, did Pope Pius XI think of Atheistic Communism. For him, it is a "barbarism worse than that which oppressed the greater part of the world at the coming of the Redeemer." It aims "at upsetting the social order and at undermining the very foundations of Christian civilization." This is the significant

phraseology which Pius XI's successor quoted only this week.

These statements of Pius XI give the solution to Mr. Churchill's Russian enigma. Pius XI has long since given us the answer to Senator Vandenberg's "supreme conundrum."

Despite what the pink-eyed propagandists and commentators have told us, and are still telling us, the Stalin government has never wavered, even during its wartime alliance with the democracies, from the basic tenet of Communism — the denial of God and the deification of the State!

Atheistic Communism, as Pius XI explained, enthrones the godless State. Human life is stripped of any sacred or spiritual character. Freedom of speech, freedom of religion, the right to

own property — all these human rights in the Communist society are subordinated to the service of the Absolute State.

This explains why there is religious persecution in the Soviet controlled Balkans. This explains why freedom of speech and political liberty are suppressed in all those lands over which the Red Flag is now flying.

"For the first time in history," wrote Pius XII, in words prophetic of this hour, "we are witnessing a struggle, cold-blooded in purpose and mapped out to the least detail, between man and 'all that is called God.'"

This understanding of Communism is the answer to Mr. Vandenberg's "supreme conundrum."

If Senator Vandenberg or anyone else is interested in discovering what Russia is up to in Manchuria or the Balkans or Japan or the United States, let them read Pope Pius XI's encyclical on Atheistic Communism — the document which explains the Russian Enigma.

Ireland's UNO Absence Regretted

BY JOHN A. GREAVES
London (NC) — Irish

tholice circles in London — according to reports reach here those in Eire as well — regret that no Irish representatives attended the first meeting of the United Nations General Assembly to plead Eire's case against injustice of the artificial partition of Northern Ireland.

This regret was strengthened by the remarks of Georges Dault, France's Catholic Foreign Minister, to the UNO assembly that 13 European nations, with

150,000,000 inhabitants, are represented in an organization which claims to be democratically re-establishing world order.

Premier Eamon De Valera's recent declaration on the subject has been an assurance that Eire is anxious to take her part in the world's councils, but must do so with deliberation and must understand beforehand what commitments she is undertaking.

A small group of British Labour (government party) Members of Parliament have made tentative approaches for Eire to be invited into the organization while many Catholics feel that the presence of such a Catholic nation as Eire could not but be a world peace.

De Valera League Leader Mr. De Valera, it is remembered, was an outstanding leader during his one-year presidency of the old League of Nations Geneva.

In this connection, Dublin Irish Catholic observes that quite a strong case could be made for Eire if she decided against applying for membership.

"As it stands at present," the paper asserts, "UNO has most of the faults of that rather futile creation, the League of Nations, and lacks a few of its virtues, the least of them being a certain concern with the rights of small nations."

"Our present status as a dismembered nation would tend to make our presence in the assembly of nations ambiguous. Foreigners could not be blamed if they failed to understand why while we have a right to be present as one of the oldest nations in Europe we could only apply for membership as an artificially detached section of a small island."

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K. C. Scholarship Applications Due

Filled out and signed applications for the annual scholarship examination of New York State Knights of Columbus must be in the hands of Chairman John P. McArdle not later than April 6, he announces today.

Eight scholarships annually, five to boys and three to girls in New York State are awarded as the result of competitive examinations. This year's examinations will be held on Saturday, May 4 at places throughout the state convenient for applicants.

Grand knights of the various councils will have application forms and information available.

Applicants must reside in New York State. If applicant is a boy he must be a Knight of Columbus himself, or the son or brother of a living or deceased Knight of Columbus; if a girl, she must be the daughter or sister of a living or deceased Knight of Columbus.

Qualifications Given The applicant must be a candidate for graduation in a recognized high school (day or evening), or its equivalent, during the term ending January, 1946 or June, 1946.

All candidates must submit to a uniform examination in English (Literature and Composition), United States History (from 1783 to date), and Mathematics (Plane Geometry and Intermediate Algebra). Scope of the examination is that set by New York State (Regents) Examination Board. Aim of the examination is to test, not only for information but also for power.

Each scholarship has a value of \$500, payable in installments of \$200 a year for the winner in each of 3 districts.

Applications must be completely filled out, properly signed and mailed to John P. McArdle, chairman, 7620 Sixth Ave., Brooklyn, N. Y., not later than April 6.

Death Strikes At 3rd Decade

Priest Reeking Honors, Killed in Berlin Raid

Berlin (NC) — The heroic death of Father Wilhelm Wagner, former secretary to Cardinal Conrad von Preysing, Bishop of Berlin, is related in a report that will make part of a forthcoming publication dealing with the lives of outstanding priests of the Berlin diocese.

On January 20, 1944, Father Wagner had spent the day, attending to his priestly functions in the bombed-wrecked city. In the evening he returned to St. Joseph's home for the aged in the suburb of Reinholdsdorf which is run by Dominican Sisters. At seven o'clock the sirens announced a new attack. Together with the inmates of the home and the Sisters, Father Wagner went to the underground shelter. After Father Wagner gave general absolution, all joined in reciting the Rosary aloud. When they had reached the third mystery a tremendous detonation was heard. The house had been hit and collapsed. Father Wagner and many of the Sisters and other inmates of the building were buried in the de-