

To Reopen Law School Chicago — (NC) — The Loyola University School of Law will reopen next September with John C. Fitzgerald resuming his position as dean.

Moscow Forces Ruthenian Break

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memorizing the 350 anniversary of the Union of Brest, which brought about the return of the Ruthenian Church to Rome, that the Holy Father denounced the efforts of Alexei, the schismatic Patriarch of the Soviet-controlled Orthodox Church, to reduce Ruthenian Catholics into breaking their ties with Rome. Cardinal Tisserant in his statement issued at the time of the recent Consistory, explained that

"for Ruthenians the matter is reduced to this dilemma: either schism or martyrdom."

"Martyrdom means arrest, deportation into Asia, prison, forced labor and death," Cardinal Tisserant said. "And since deportation is used especially against the clergy, one cannot say what will be the lot of the faithful who find themselves forcibly deprived of their pastors."

Over one-fifth of more than 2,000 secular priests of Ruthenian Catholic dioceses have already been deported, Cardinal Tisserant said. Regarding the fate of the Ruthenian bishops the following facts are known at the Vatican:

(1) The Archbishop of Lwow, the Most Rev. Joseph Slipyj, and his Vkar General, who is also a Bishop, have been deported east into Russia. (Some reports say that Archbishop Slipyj has died in a Russian prison at Kiev.)

(2) The Bishop of Stanislavow, the Most Rev. Gregory Chomyszyn, and his Auxiliary, Bishop John Latyevakyl, have also been deported into Russia. (A report from London, recently sent out by N.C.W.C. News Service, declared that the death of these two Prelates had been "confirmed.")

(3) The Bishop of Przemyal, the Most Rev. Joseph Kocyllovakyl, has been deported into Russia, and his Auxiliary, Bishop Gregory Lakota, has been deported to the western limits of the diocese, which are located within Poland. (Some reports say that Bishop Lakota is dead.)

On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

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The American press hailed this move as the return of religious liberty to Russia. The press, however, failed to note that Moscow commissars held a firm grip (and still do!) on the activities of the newly "liberated" Russian Church.

Neither was there any change in the Soviet Constitution's notorious Article 124 — never quoted by the Communists — which prohibits religious teaching.

Only a few people wondered why the sermons of Patriarch Sergius sounded so much like editorials from PRAVDA.

This writer, always profoundly respectful of Mr. Stalin's consistency, promptly called his alleged "liberation" of the Orthodox Church "a hoax." Immediately some of our very good friends took us off to a quiet corner for a serious talk. We were told that we were all wrong. "Stalin is going democratic." "Russia is going capitalistic." "A new day of religious liberty was dawning in the land of the Soviets." So spoke our optimistic friends in the fall of 1943.

But Moscow's plans for the use of the "liberated" Orthodox Church were soon evident. The Kremlin's feelings towards the Vatican were soon echoed on the lips of Patriarch Sergius who made an unwarranted and vicious attack on the authority of Pope Pius XII. Other Moscow-controlled Orthodox leaders dutifully played their part in Russia's carefully planned propaganda campaign against the Church of Rome.

Then came the day when Stalin's Red armies rolled into Eastern Europe. Russia's "freedom-loving" generals quickly annexed new lands to the rule of the Red Flag. Mapmakers promptly erased Latvia, Lithuania, half of Poland, etc., from their charts. Millions of Catholics disappeared behind the Soviet "Iron Curtain."

Remorse of Red persecution of Catholics leaked out from behind the "Iron Curtain," but we had little factual information until last January when Pope Pius XII spoke from his Vatican listening post.

The Pontiff revealed that the Ruthenians, Eastern Rite Catholics dwelling in that part of Poland annexed by Russia, were suffering religious persecution.

Soviet Russia, the Pope charged, was using pressure to force these Eastern Rite Catholics to separate from Rome and join the schismatic Orthodox Church of Russia.

The Pope also told that Patriarch Alexis of Moscow, successor to Sergius, had openly urged the Ruthenians to defect from the Catholic Church.

Early this month, Cardinal Tisserant, head of the Sacred Congregation of Oriental Rites at the Vatican, added more details on what is now happening behind the Soviet "Iron Curtain."

"East of the Curzon Line," he declared, "the policy of the Soviets aims at the destruction of Catholicism."

Deportations into Red Russia of priests, religious and sisters . . . prison, forced labor and death! This is Soviet democracy in action, according to the well-informed Cardinal Tisserant.

Now comes the climax! This week Moscow radio reports that the Ruthenian Catholic Church at a meeting in Lwow (formerly in Poland and now part of Russia) has petitioned for union with the schismatic Orthodox Church of Moscow.

As printed in the American press, this fraudulent petition is very interesting. Strangely enough, it is addressed not to the Patriarch of Moscow but to Stalin! Is this a Communist admission that Stalin, the atheist, is the head of the Orthodox Church?

who signed this petition? Do it represent the true feelings of several million Ruthenian Catholics?

This petition does not bear signature of even one of the Catholic Bishops who directed three Ruthenian dioceses nor forcibly taken over by the Russian Orthodox Church. The six Ruthenian Catholic Bishops were all arrested by the Soviets and four of these brave men reportedly have died in the Russian prisons at Kiev.

Neither does the petition Stalin carry even a fragmentary minority of the more than 2,000 Catholic priests working among the Ruthenians before the arrival of the Red armies of liberation. Why not? Where are the priests?

Well, more than one-fifth of these Catholic priests have already been deported into Russia. Others have had to flee for their lives. Others are probably in hiding. The fact is that these priests had nothing to say about the petition allegedly signed at the Communist staged meeting in Lwow.

The Ruthenian Catholics, now facing either apostasy or martyrdom under the Red Flag, are our fellow Catholics. They are fellow human beings, as well. The story of their suffering under the heel of Red Fascism stands exposed.

Will any American statesman raise his voice in the cause of God and humanity? Or is it too close to election time?


Will American Catholics raise a united voice in behalf of their brothers in bondage? Or will they take the attitude that it does not matter what happens to Ruthenians as long as it does not happen to them?

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