# I Chose Freedom

(Continued from page 10)

Personnel Department on the floor below."

I filled out a series of forms. In a few days I was instructed to report to Utkin's superior, the chairman of the Sovnarkom of the R.S.F.S.R. and one of the most powerful figures around Stalin: Constantine Pamfilov. His tremendous office, his throne of authority, his oil painting of Stalin were all a few degrees larger than Utkin's. The furniture and fittings were a few degrees more luxurious.

Again I answered questions. My questionnaires and special reports about me were on his desk.

"Comrade Kravchenko," the chairman of the Sovnarkom finally said, "you have held responsible posts. But working in the government is quite another matter. We are the servants of the Party, and work in the government is, above all, Party work. It is the Party that rules the country."

I assured him meekly that I understood this.

Pamfilov lifted one of the receivers in the forest of telephones on a little table behind him and dialed a number.

"Pamfilov speaking. How about the Kravchenko matter?"

He waited two or three minutes.

"Yes. . . . yes. . . ." Pamfilov finally said. "There are no objections. Very good."

He dropped the receiver. I had no doubt that he had called the Seventh Department of the N.K.V.D., without whose specific consent no important government positions are assigned. Subsequently I saw the proof that I had guessed right.

**A Magic Booklet!**

"All right, Comrade Kravchenko," Pamfilov announced. "Now you can go. As soon as everything is ready you'll be notified."

Soon I was confirmed in my new position by the Central Committee of the Party. In a few days I was installed in an office next to Utkin's, after I had given the Special Department of the Sovnarkom a written pledge never under any circumstances to disclose anything about the work of the organization. The Stalin looking down on me behind my desk was, of course, smaller than in the adjoining office. A special N.K.V.D. officer guarded the portals to my newly consecrated presence in the hushed corridor and two obsequious secretaries presided in my reception room. I was a member of the government in the technical sense of the word. I carried the special red card with gold lettering — a magic booklet, symbol of power.

This was at the end of May, 1942, just as the new German offensive was beginning to roll forward. It would swallow what remained of my native Ukraine, push deep into the Caucasus and reach the Volga River at a place called Stalingrad.

**Next Week:** The Kremlin in Wartime — The inner workings of the Soviet hierarchy.

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**Requiem for Crash Victims**

New York — (NC) — A Memorial Mass for the eleven members of the staff of War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference who were killed on July 28, 1945, when an Army bomber crashed into the organization's offices in the Empire State Building, was offered on Monday in St. Malachy's Church here.

**JOE AND JUDY** By Wahl

## Information Desk
## Does Free Will Exist?

Q. Our psychiatry professor denies any such thing as free will. He says what we think are choices are actually predetermined by our personalities and the way they are elaborated. Any human act is a psychological necessity.

A. Sometimes psychiatrists say (1) things they have no business to say because they are outside the field of psychiatry; or (2) things which are within their field, but for which they have no proof or reasonable evidence. The statement about free will belongs in the first class; the existence of free will is a matter for philosophy, and not applied psychology and psychiatry.

Psychiatrists study only the soul's material instrument, the brain and nervous system, and they are qualified to speak authoritatively only about the brain and its functions. If they say, then, that the brain can operate better in such and such conditions, and offer scientific reasons to support their statement, we can accept and respect their conclusions. But when a psychiatrist starts to talk about man's liberty of choice, he is out of his field and over his depth. He has studied the brain, the instrument of the soul, and then presumes to speak as if he knew all about the soul itself. He is like a manufacturer of baseball bats who thinks that he is qualified to pronounce on the inmost character and qualities of ball-players.

Sound philosophy maintains that free will does exist, that man does have the ability to choose to act or not. No thinking man can deny the freedom of the will; he has against him the overwhelming evidence of experience, history, and our own inner consciousness. Men throughout the ages have recognized that they and others are free to act or not, to do wrong or to do right. The whole structure of society is built on this truth. If the will is not free, why have laws, rewards, punishments, why give promises, counsel, exhortations? Why should a psychiatry professor try to convince his students that they are not free? If they are predetermined by their personalities to disagree, no amount of argument will change them. They would not be free to admit that they are not free!

You and I in our innermost consciousness know that we are at liberty to act or not. You are free to stop reading now. I know that I am free to answer the next question. Nothing forces us to go ahead to continue. I choose to continue writing. Do you choose to continue reading?

Q. Why do Catholics confess their sins to a mere man?

A. They don't. They confess their sins to a man who has from Christ power to absolve them. They do this because they want to obtain forgiveness from Gods representative on earth.

There is absolutely no reason why one should confess his sins to a mere man, for no mere man can grant divine pardon. But the priest is ordained to act as another Christ, bringing God's forgiveness to sinners. Before Christ ascended to Heaven, he transmitted to His Apostles the power to forgive sins. This is crystal clear from the words He said: "Receive the Holy Spirit: whose sins you shall forgive, they are forgiven them." (John, xx, 23) History records the transmission of that power from the Apostles down through nineteen centuries until it reaches the priests who sit in our confessionals.

Q. What indulgences are attached to reciting the Rosary?

A. The Church has attached many indulgences to the recitation of the Rosary. A plenary indulgence may be obtained by one who piously recites a third part of the Rosary (5 decades) in the presence of the Blessed Sacrament publicly exposed or even reserved in the tabernacle on the condition of receiving Confession and Communion. Whenever a third part of the Rosary is recited with devotion an indulgence of 5 years is granted. If a third part of the Rosary is recited in company with others, whether in public or in private, an indulgence of 10 years once a day may be gained. A plenary indulgence on the last Sunday of each month on condition of Confession and Communion and a visit to a church or public oratory is obtainable if a person performs such a recitation at least three times in any of the preceding weeks. If the Rosary is said for nine days in the form of a novena an indulgence of 5 years is granted for each day's recitation and a plenary indulgence at the end of the novena on condition that Confession and Communion is received. Since the Rosary is so enriched with indulgences, it is profitable for every Catholic to recite it at least once a day. Furthermore, it is a devotion very pleasing to the heart of Our Blessed Lady.

What is the meaning of the letters I.H.S.?

I.H.S.: this is a monogram of the name of Jesus Christ. From the beginning of the third Century the name of our Savior was sometimes contracted or shortened, particularly in Christian inscriptions. Thus the Greek name for Jesus, IHSOUS, was abbreviated to I.H.S. Since it is an abbreviation of the Greek, the "I" is really not "I," but "J", and the letter which looks like an "H" is the Greek letter for "E."

Q. May a non-Catholic be a godparent at the Baptism of a Catholic child? May a priest ever be a godparent?

A. A non-Catholic cannot be a godparent for a Catholic child. The reason is obvious. It is the duty of the godparent to care for the Catholic faith and education of the child. A non-Catholic, since he does not profess the faith himself, can hardly be expected to fulfill this obligation.

A priest may not be a godparent unless he has the explicit permission of his Bishop or religious superior. To the priest belongs the general and universal care of souls entrusted to him. The particular and individual care of godparents is ordinarily entrusted to the laity.

**Isabella Daughters Convention**

Milwaukee — (NC) — Archbishop Moses E. Kiley of Milwaukee will be celebrant of Solemn Pontifical Mass in the Cathedral of St. John here on August 13, opening the convention of the National Circle, Daughters of Isabella.

## Dust Removed From Crusaders' Bethlehem Art

Jerusalem — (NC) — Ancient paintings of saints which decorate the pillars of the Basilica of the Nativity in Bethlehem stand now revealed in some of their original brilliance as a result of cleaning operations conducted by the Palestine Department of Antiquities.

These paintings, which are believed to date back to King Amaury I, fourth Crusader King of Jerusalem (1163-1173), had become dimmed almost to the point of invisibility by the candle smoke and dust of centuries. They are regarded as unique both because of the period they represent and their subject matter.

Many paintings giving glimpses of the devotion of the Crusaders can now be seen on the 48 recessed columns, some 20 feet in height, which were installed about 530, by Emperor Justinian during his reconstruction of the Basilica. Some of the paintings are believed to be the work of the crusaders themselves and reveal the style of art in the land from which they came. Among the Saints represented on the native marble columns are St. Canute of Denmark, St. Olaf of Norway, and St. George dear to Englishmen and Orientals alike.

There is some possibility that what remains of the golden mosaics, once entirely covering the walls of this ancient church, may also be cleaned at this time. Like the saints' pictures on the columns, and the Byzantine mosaic brought to light in the Nativity Grotto a few years ago, these rich mosaics testify to the one-time Catholic ownership of this sacred basilica which has been under Orthodox jurisdiction for 100 years.

## Bevin Can't Square Polish Border Pact With Atlantic Charter

London — (NC) — Making what he called "a solemn confession" before the House of Commons here, Foreign Minister Ernest Bevin said that he "had never yet been able to reconcile with the Atlantic Charter" the agreement of Britain, Russia and the United States which set new frontiers for Poland, giving a large part of eastern Poland to the Soviet Union and compensating for this by turning over former German territory to Poland in the west.

The Foreign Minister made the statement during debate on a resolution that Italian retention of the South Tyrol violated the Atlantic Charter. He said that he was a party to the Charter as a member of the coalition government at that time, and that "almost before the ink was dry" on it he had to face the decision of accepting the new Polish frontiers, which "the very necessities of war at that time compelled me to agree to."

**WAVE, Sailor Get Awards**

Washington — (NC) — Two former members of the United States Navy, Miss Mary Gladys Kyle, of McAlester, Okla., and Raymond J. Fulton, of Willimantic, Conn., will receive grants-in-aid from the William J. Kerby Foundation to assist in their graduate studies in social work this year.

## Nun Tells of Woman Who Came Back to Life

New York — A strange story of a woman who came back to life as a reward for her life-long devotion to the Rosary is revealed by one of the White Sisters in Ushirombo, Tanganyika Territory, who writes:

"Maria was the brave wife of a gallant catechist, who had a special devotion to the Rosary. On her way to Mass on Sundays, in all kinds of weather, she would murmur Aves as she walked the distance of some nine or ten miles to church.

In her youth she had heard in a sermon that those who are faithful to the Rosary are assisted of a happy death, and since that day never missed an opportunity to recite the five decades and meditate on the beautiful mysteries.

"Not long ago a man came to the mission adjacent to Maria's village to tell the missionary that the good woman was dead —her grave already dug, in the custom of the people of that country. Sorrowfully, the priest hurried to the scene of mourning.

The corpse was wrapped and tied up, and bending over it the priest recalled the dead woman's innumerable Aves. He whispered her name. Again he said softly, 'Maria!' The woman's eyes opened and she looked about her. Experiencing a moment of fright, the missionary moved away; the husband could hardly refrain from running out of the room.

"'It is you,' Maria cried. 'Thank you so much for coming.' The two men cut the bands of her shroud; she set up, made her confession, and asked to receive the last Sacraments.

Describing her death to me afterwards, lost in wonder at the miracle he had witnessed, Father said, 'After I administered to her she sank back on her pallet, smiling contentedly, and began an Ave which could only have been finished in heaven; it seemed to me that her lips, closed forever in death, kept repeating their sweet refrain of love over and over again: Ave Maria! Ave Maria.'"

## Freed Hungarian Bishop Rearrested

Budapest — (NC) — Bishop Stephen Zadravecz, O.F.M., released from jail by an order of the Hungarian Supreme Court after more than a year's imprisonment, has been arrested again by the political police here and turned over to the deportation authorities for internment.

Bishop Zadravecz, 62, was consecrated in 1920 and served as Military Vicar for the Hungarian Army from 1920 to 1930. He had been arrested by Hungarian Bolshevists at the time of the Bela Kun uprising in 1919, and after his release was a leader in the movement which eventually put down the uprising. He has visited the United States to preach missions in Hungarian Catholic churches there.

The rearrest of the Franciscan prelate has been the inspiration for a wave of polemics in the secular press. Lucidity, the organ of the Social Democratic party, carries a discussion entitled "Why Did the Political Police Again Arrest Zadravecz?" and the Little Journal of the Small Holders party heads its article "What Happened in the Case of Zadravecz?"

## Saint Isaac Jogues' Life is Reprinted

New York — Harper & Brothers has reissued "Saint Among Savages" by Rev. Francis X. Talbot, S.J., in a special edition to retail at $2.50. The reprinting of the life of Saint Isaac Jogues coincides with the 300th Anniversary of the Jesuit Missionary's martyrdom, which is being commemorated at the National Shrine in Auriesville.

Among his other noteworthy accomplishments, Jogues was an ambassador of peace from the French nation to the Iroquois, the discovery of Lake George, the first priest to set foot on Manhattan Island, and the first saint to die on American soil.

**Scholarship Awarded**

Marquette, Wis. — (NC) — The 1946 Catholic Digest scholarship for advanced study in journalism at Marquette University has been awarded to Miss Florence Baskfield, graduate of the College of St. Catherine, Minneapolis, Minn., it has been announced by Dr. J. L. Sullivan, dean of the Marquette school of journalism.

## Army Chaplains Mark Anniversary

Washington — (NC) — At United States Army posts throughout the world, chaplains marked the 171st anniversary of the Army Chaplain Corps Monday and many former chaplains, now returned to their civilian duties, gave recognition to the observance.

The War Department, in a statement recalling the proud history of the corps, points out that the office of chaplain was legally established when, on July 29, 1775, the Continental Congress included a rate for chaplains in its schedule of pay for all services.

The honor of being the first U. S. Army Chaplain officially confirmed by Congress, belongs to Father Francois Charlier de Loibiniere, a Franciscan Recollect from Quebec, whose appointment by Gen. Benedict Arnold on January 26, 1776, was confirmed by Congress on August 12 of the same year.

From its small beginnings the Chaplain Corps has developed with the Army, through successive intervals of war and peace, as a branch of its forces. The largest number of chaplains on duty at one time, 8,171, was reached on July 31, 1945, when 5,653 Protestant ministers, 2,270 priests and 248 rabbis wore the uniform of the Army Chaplain corps. During World War I, 2,362 chaplains were commissioned.

According to War Department statistics covering the period up to June 30, 1946, 77 chaplains were killed in action during World War II, including 12 lost in the sinking of a Japanese prison ship and one killed during bombing in Germany, 83 died while in service, and 234 were wounded in action. Thirty-seven Army chaplains have returned from German and Japanese prison camps, and 1,572 have been awarded a total of 2,082 decorations.

Between September 1, 1945, and June 30, 1946, a total of 5,639 chaplains have returned to civilian life, 1,505 of them Catholics, the War Department declares.

**10,000 in AUSTRALIA JOC**

Sydney — (NC) — The Young Christian Workers movement (JOC), first established in Australia about five years ago, now has spread to almost every diocese on the continent and has 10,000 members.

## Canadian City Overrules Protest on Outdoor Mass

Victoria, B.C. — (NC) — Overriding a protest by a Protestant group, the Mayor and City Council here at a special meeting decided to allow Catholics the use of city streets and a park in connection with ceremonies commemorating the centenary of the Diocese of Victoria.

The protest was contained in a letter from the Rev. J. B. Rowell, president of the Canadian Protestant League, Victoria branch. The national president of this organization is the Rev. T. T. Shields of Toronto, widely known for his attacks against the Catholic Church. The protest stirred up a controversy in which two leading western Canada secular dailies and a number of leading non-Catholics lined up in opposition to the protest.

Particularly aimed at use of the city streets for a Eucharistic procession, use of a park for an outdoor Mass, and the serving of a dinner in connection with the celebration as the "centenary civic banquet," the protest was made after the Mayor and the city parks commissioner already had granted a permit for the celebration.

Bishop Harold E. Sexton, Anglican Bishop of British Columbia, stated that he and his clergy believed in freedom of worship and would not question any legitimate concession granted to Catholics by the Mayor and Council.

The Vancouver News-Herald said editorially that "every true Protestant must uphold the right of Catholics to use public streets and parks on the same terms as other religious groups." It added: "Religion is not free unless it also is equal."

The Calgary Herald deprecated the Protestant protest in a lengthy editorial entitled, "Victoria Makes Itself Look Ridiculous."

The Mayor, Percy E. George, pointed out that Parks Superintendent W. H. Warren, in issuing the permit for the Catholic services, said there never had been any previous restrictions on the use of public parks by religious organizations.

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