

Moscow Decree Brings French Orthodox Crisis

Paris — (NC) — A grave crisis involving the basic structure of the schismatic Russian Orthodox Church and the extent of the control exercised by the Soviet-sponsored Patriarch of Moscow rapidly developing among Orthodox circles in France.

The crisis was brought on in connection with the designation of a successor for Metropolitan Eulogius, Exarch of Western Europe, who died in Paris on August 8. He had under his jurisdiction about 90 churches, 50 of them in France.

Metropolitan Eulogius had left a will designating his Auxiliary, Archbishop Vladimir of Nice, as his successor. However, on the day after his death, the Moscow Patriarch Alexis issued a decree which appointed as head of the Orthodox Church in Western Europe Metropolitan Seraphim Lukianov, who up to now headed the so-called Synod of the churches in exile which formerly had its headquarters at Sremski Karlovci in Belgrade, Yugoslavia. Members of this synod are now scattered throughout Germany and Switzerland.

Archbishop Vladimir has sent a letter to all churches under his jurisdiction in which he declares himself as reserving judgment on the appointment decreed by the Moscow Patriarch and refusing to accept its execution.

The conflict goes, however, far deeper than merely the appointment of a new Exarch of the Orthodox Church in Western Europe. It involves the question whether these churches shall be reunited to the Patriarchate of Moscow or remain under the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch at Istanbul.

In 1945, when Moscow endeavored to bring about the reunion of the Orthodox churches throughout the world, Metropolitan Nicholas was sent to Paris to bring about a reconciliation. He told Eulogius that the Ecumenical Patriarch had consented to the reunion of the Western Church with Moscow. Consequently, Eulogius made an act of submission to the Moscow Patriarch, however "without consulting his clergy."

Soon afterwards, Eulogius learned that the Ecumenical Patriarch still considered him his representative in Western Europe. Under Orthodox church law, an Exarch may not represent two Patriarchs at the same time, and consequently, a confused situation arose in which Eulogius' position was highly ambiguous.

The death of Eulogius has far from brought a clarification of the situation. Together with the announcement of Metropolitan Seraphim as successor to Eulogius, Patriarch Alexis of Moscow issued a decree abolishing the jurisdiction of the Ecumenical Patriarch over the Orthodox Church in Western Europe, and re-attaching it to the Moscow Patriarchate.

Twice Winner



Miss Gerahine Thorpe of Chicago won two first places in the annual writing contest conducted by the Catholic School Press Association. One honor was for a poem and the other for an article, both of which appeared in the Review of Mundelein College, Chicago. (NC Photo)

ARMS RACE SEEN LEADING TO WAR

New York — (NC) — Speaking of the "crushing cost of war and the immediate need of international disarmament," Thomas H. Mahony of Boston, president of the Catholic Association for International Peace, said in an address Sunday on the Catholic Hour radio program that "unless the supplies and hatred now existing and increasing among the Great Powers is soon terminated and unless the competition in armaments soon ceases, the world is headed for a third world war."

"The first step in disarmament and in the elimination of these crushing costs," Mr. Mahony said, "is to educate the public conscience and the public mind to the fact that world peace is not only possible but is a moral duty."

"The second step, therefore," he continued, "is to make armaments and major weapons of war and means of mass destruction unnecessary for national security. This can and must be done by the substitution of a system of law and justice for the practice of violence and power in the settlement of international disputes and by the establishment of an effective security guaranteeing the continued existence of every nation."

As early as May, 1933, Mr. Mahony recalled, Pope Benedict XV suggested an organic society of nations as a means of preventing wars. His Holiness Pope Pius XII in his celebrated Christmas message to the world, Mr. Mahony said, since 1933 has urged an international new order founded on moral principles as a means of preserving peace and reducing armaments.

Citing the dangers of a race for armaments, Mr. Mahony said, a nation which aims for defensive purposes may be tempted to use its amassed power offensively. He declared that in an armament race, a terrific economic burden is laid upon the shoulders of the people in an armistice nation.

70,000 Former Captives Join Lourdes Rites

Paris — (NC) — Languishing in German captivity as prisoners of war or forced laborers, tens of thousands of Frenchmen had pledged themselves to make a pilgrimage to Lourdes to give thanks for their safe return and to honor the memory of those of their countrymen who died far from home.

On Sunday — the Feast of the Nativity of the Blessed Virgin Mary — they fulfilled their vow. More than 70,000 of them, priests and laymen, rich and poor, came to the grotto of Lourdes, from all parts of France, by train, car, bicycle and on foot. They brought along their sick and wounded comrades, many of them on stretchers, and in one of the most inspiring demonstrations of religious devotion offered thanks for their safe return, prayed for their fallen comrades and asked the intercession of the Mother of God for a good peace.

Bishop Gabriel Piquet of Clermont-Ferrand, who himself spent a long time at Dachau concentration camp as a prisoner of the Nazis, offered the Pontifical Mass, which concluded with the Apostolic Blessing bestowed by His Holiness Pope Pius XII upon the pilgrims and Catholic France.

The Holy Father's blessing came to the pilgrims in a letter addressed by His Holiness to Bishop Pierre Theas, Apostolic Administrator of Lourdes. "After the tempter, you are in a tower of safety," the Pontifical letter said. He expressed his profound emotion at his spiritual presence at a great act of thanksgiving, and recalled his personal visit to Lourdes eleven years ago when he consecrated France and the peace of the world to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The Pope told the pilgrims that they represented their compatriots in exile and captivity, the sick and the wounded, the widows, and the orphans, offering in praise and supplications their sufferings which they had borne as Christians. God, through the Blessed Virgin Mary will surely accept these offerings for the resurrection in Christian order, at their homes, their beloved fatherland and for the establishment of a true peace among men, the Pope wrote.

In order to preserve the spirit of brotherhood among the pilgrims it had been arranged that all of them should use the same type of railroad and hotel accommodations and should eat the same kind of meals. In many parishes, former prisoners had pooled their resources to enable those of their comrades who lacked means to join them in the pilgrimages.

Mass was celebrated simultaneously at 18 altars, each representing one of the regions of Germany, where the prisoners and deportees had been held. The pilgrims gathered in groups according to their former camps and the procession of the Blessed Sacrament moved from group to group.

FIRST MOHAWK JESUIT



Widely known throughout the Rochester Diocese is the Rev. Michael R. Jacobs, superior of the St. Regis Mission in St. Regis, Quebec, and the first of North America's 37,000 Iroquois to become a Jesuit. A full-blooded Mohawk, one of the Iroquois tribes, Father Jacobs' parish lies in the provinces of Quebec, Ontario and the State of New York. (Religious News Service Photo)

Religious Beliefs Held By 65 Per Cent of French

Paris — (RNS) — A Gallup poll conducted throughout France showed that 65 percent of those answering believe in religion, while 32 percent were non-believers and three percent had no opinion.

Rural areas showed a higher percentage of believers — 69 percent — compared with urban areas, where the figure dropped to 61 percent. A larger percentage of women are believers in comparison with men. The poll recorded 78 percent among the women and 62 percent among the men.

Those who said they believed attributed their faith to education, philosophical reflection, anguish about the unknown and a desire for perfection and purity. Unbelievers held their atheism, or agnosticism, to education, temperament, philosophical reflection and "deception by the church in certain material aspects."

Believers ranked high among the aged with 80 percent acknowledging their faith against 56 percent among the younger elements of the population. Seventy-seven percent of those with means said they believed in contrast to 57 percent of the poor.

Among political groups, the Communists showed 24 percent believing. Socialists registered 47 percent, while 83 percent of the Popular Republicans voted in the affirmative.

Taylor and Truman Confer at White House
Washington — (NC) — Big game C. Taylor called at the White House today and conferred with President Harry S. Truman, whose personal representative he is at the Vatican. Mr. Taylor said following his talk with the President that the purpose of his presence in the United States at this time is both official and personal. In response to a question as to when he expects to return to his post at the Vatican, Mr. Taylor said that rests with President Truman.

Propagation Of Faith Units To Meet in N.Y.

New York — (NC) — Twenty-one Archbishops and Bishops will be present at a Roman Pontifical Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral on September 23, which will open the sixth national convention of the Decemian Propagation of the Faith, the Church's oldest and largest mission aid organization.

His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will preside at the Mass and Archbishop Joseph F. Rummel of New Orleans will be the celebrant. The sermon will be preached by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston.

In addition to the members of the Hierarchy, 85 Diocesan Directors of the Society and hosts of priests, nuns and Brothers from the various schools and parishes in the Archdiocese will be present at the Mass. A pageant of school children, costumed in the habits of the various missionary communities, will lead the procession to the Cathedral prior to the Mass.

World At Mercy
The three-day sessions of the convention will be held in the Commodore Hotel. The pressing need for the holding of the convention at this time was stressed in a statement issued by Mgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, national director of the Society, who pointed out that the organization is called upon to play a principal role in fulfilling the expectations of the Holy See in rebuilding the missions of the Church.

"There no longer exists the barrier of distance as regards missionary work," Monsignor McDonnell said, "for the entire world is at our doorstep. What occurred in China, Japan, India, the Near East, Africa and the islands of the Pacific will have appreciable repercussions not only upon the work of events in our own country, but upon our home mission work and our evangelization."

striking in which the charity of Christ must be shown by American Catholics to the peoples of the entire world so long crushed beneath the heel of might, ignorance and hatred.

U. S. Jurist Received
Rome — (Radio-NC) — The Italian Undersecretary of the Interior, Signor Corai, has received Felix Forti, associate Justice of the Superior Court of Massachusetts and president of the Order of Sons of Italy in America, and Eugene V. Alessandrini, judge of the Court of Common Pleas of Pennsylvania.

Full Soviet Control Of Church Is Shown

Washington — (NC) — The Russian Orthodox Church has completed a cycle — from domination by the Communist government to domination by the Soviet Government — and in between was subjected to all the other churches, to the Communist ambition to "stamp out religion." It is made clear in "Communism in Action," a documented study and analysis of Communism in action in Soviet Russia, prepared by the Legislative Reference Service of the Library of Congress here.

Prepared at the instance of Representative Everett M. Dirksen of Illinois, this 140-page booklet is characterized as an explanation in simple language of how Communism works in Russia a quarter-of-a-century after its seizure of power. It ranges over a wide field of subjects, the study reveals:

"That, regarding forced labor, there can be no reasonable doubt that in the Soviet Union several million workers are employed under police discipline and receive only miserable wages for their labor."

"That the 10,000 daily and weekly newspapers in the Soviet Union (as in most of Europe and Asia) are party-controlled (or sponsored) papers receiving their news from Tass by radio or on mats flown by plane."

"That it is apparent that the U. S. S. R. intends to develop war power equal to the present might of the United States, and that by 1970 the Soviet Union's 32,000,000 men of military age will almost equal the combined military-age manpower of the United States, Britain, France, Germany and Italy."

"That in Russia education is an instrument through which the Communist Party aims to achieve its purpose."

"That living standards in Soviet Russia remain far below those of the United States."

The study makes clear from documents that religious freedom is not intended to exist in Russia. Many passages have employed the language of these documents at various times to create the impression that it does exist.

"One of the fundamental doctrines of the Communist Party is atheism," the study reports. "Karl Marx's characterization of religion as an 'opiate for the people' was readily accepted by the Communist leaders who set about to destroy the church and stamp out religion. On January 23, 1918, the famous decree which separated the church from the state and the school from the church was published. This provision was also embodied in the constitution adopted by the Russian Socialist Federated Soviet Republic (U. S. S. R.) in 1924."

"In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the observance of the U. S. S. R. separated from the state and the school from the church — freedom of religion, worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens."

"It applied to Americans in this provision would eliminate (from 1924) the same."

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6 Children Die Mother Receives Habit as a Nun

London — (NC) — An unusual event took place in the chapel of the Vatican, Rome, when Mrs. Florence Williams of that city was invested with the habit of the Vatican Community, in the presence of her elderly father and of her six children, three of them illegitimate.

Mrs. Williams, who has been a widow for the past ten years, entered the convent on January 6.

The following are the three children of Mrs. Williams in the chapel of the Vatican: Mrs. Williams, Mrs. Florence Williams, Mrs. Florence Williams, Mrs. Florence Williams, Mrs. Florence Williams, Mrs. Florence Williams.

July, 1918, and its revised edition of 1925. It stated: Anti-Religious Propaganda

"For the purpose of securing real freedom of conscience for the workers, the Church is declared separate from the government and the schools from the church. But freedom for religious and anti-religious propaganda is recognized for every citizen."

"In 1929 another revision of the U. S. S. R. Constitution embodied a significant modification of the article on religion. The provision 'freedom for religious and anti-religious propaganda' was replaced with 'freedom in the exercise of religious worship and freedom for anti-religious propaganda for all citizens.' In the 1936 Stalin Constitution of the U. S. S. R., which is still in force, article 124 reads virtually the same:

"In order to ensure to citizens freedom of conscience, the observance of the U. S. S. R. separated from the state and the school from the church — freedom of religion, worship and freedom of anti-religious propaganda is recognized for all citizens."

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