

Spanish Order in Spain
 Newark, N. J. — (C) — The Rev. Anthony Sanna, T. O. F., assistant at St. Joseph's Spanish-Portuguese Church here, has been elected provincial of the Spanish province of the Third Order Regular of St. Francis. The two American foundations of the community in Newark and in Waco, Tex., will come under his jurisdiction.

Religionless State Goal of Communists In China Says General

By THE REV. PATRICK QUINN, S.S.C. Special Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service
 Nanking—The Chinese Reds are Marxist communists in the true sense. Their objective is the classless society. They are committed to dialectic materialism.

Thus General Chou En-lai, one of the five top Communists in China, official head of the General Marshall's peace negotiations, explained their position to me in an hour-long interview here.

"We follow the ideology of Marx," he told me. "Our present policy is not our ultimate goal, which is the classless society for China and for the world. We must first go through the initial stages. For these stages our policy is like that of the democratic revolutionary parties in the West."

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Asked to specify what he meant by a coalition government, Chou En-lai said that there would be a state council of 40, in which the communists would ask for ten seats, that is, one-fourth of the membership.

"If you want a coalition government, you must permit freedom of speech and association to other parties," I asked.

"Freedom of religion," he answered. "In the classless society there will be no parties," Chou En-lai answered. "But it may take us 10 or 20 years to reach that goal. We must approach it step by step."

General Chou maintained that there is freedom for education under religious auspices and "freedom of religion as well as freedom of atheism" in communist-occupied China. He knew of no case "of a clergyman being persecuted because of his religion."

I quoted for the General recent reports of Catholic Bishops and priests seized by communists and sentenced to various severe penalties. He promised to investigate these cases and to report on them.

'Twas the Night Before Christmas



A few of the homeless children cared for at the Mission of the Immaculate Virgin at St. Lovett, Staten Island, N. Y., gather at the Club on Christmas Eve. With them are two Sisters of St. Francis. (Photo by courtesy of The News, New York.)

What Makes Christmas?

By R. BERNARD, N.J.

Fox and turkey don't make Christmas. Put all the shiny tinsel you can buy on a tree and fill up all the big red stockings by the fireplace — and you still don't have Christmas.

It's a jolly time if the whole family has a get-together at home and everyone crowds into the parlor on Christmas morning and around the dinner table later in the day. But this reunion alone will not furnish a real Christmas.

You could stage this reunion in the summertime and be just as happy and content then. Decorated mantels and fir-trees would be even more attractive and beautiful in the spring. Presents would be welcome any day.

Then why is December 25 different? Weather? Troops found warm Christmas homes far away from home — and liked them. Snow isn't essential to this day. Nor

is the feast just another holiday, like Thanksgiving and the Fourth of July.

Look back at the world of Julius Caesar or the ancient Greeks if you want to see why Christmas is different. Imagine whole nations without a ray of strong belief in God. For there had been little revelation made to anyone except the Israelites. Slavery, cruelty, robbery, famine, impurity, insecurity — all these plagued the world. Men were greedy and lustful.

Yet a tiny handful of Jews always expectantly prayed for a Redeemer to come. God had promised their forefathers this. They hoped and waited patiently, keeping apart from the evils and

vice of the world. Years drifted by. And then after centuries the Redeemer came. It was the first Christmas. There was no tinsel, no festivity, no ceremony. Instead the Child "dressed" in swaddling clothes on a cold night in a dark cave. Jesus, Mary and Joseph were away from home just because of a king's whim. Yet Mary was happy, for she was so close to Jesus. And Joseph the foster father was happy in the knowledge that the long-promised Redeemer was at hand. The universal thought in the darkness of the night and the cold meant little to this Holy Family. Riches and soft beds and fine clothing must mean a lot to us, however, for so often we forget God when we possess too many good things. If we remember God, remembering apart from the evils and

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