Expelled Prelate Exhorts Dispersed Flock to Bear Misery as 'A Penance'

Basel — (NC) — A remarkable testimony of forbearance in the face of persecution is presented in a pastoral issued by Monsignor Woestijn, former Vicar General of the Diocese of Katowice Upper Silesia, which is now part of Polish territory.

The letter is addressed to some 100,000 Catholics who were formerly under his spiritual care and like him, have been expelled. They are now dispersed in the four zones of occupation in Germany.

The letter says in part

"Misery we now suffer as refugees in atonement for the sins of others who have done such wrong to the Polish people and have failed in observing the sacred claims of humanity and of God. Let us bear this misery also as a penance for our own sins which we committed through cowardly silence, a sinful life, a thoughtless fellow-travelling and all other sins which made us co-responsible and share the guilt for the horrible crimes of the Nazi chieftains.

"In spite of all the privations we now undergo, let us not succumb to any hatred in our hearts against other peoples, not even against the Poles, even though we must consider the new sins now being committed in the world as injustices. The greatest task of the Christians at this hour is to overcome hate . . .

"Let us take on our crosses bravely and enduringly in the spiritual imitation of Christ, and let us offer up the suffering of the innocent to our Father in Heaven, jointly with the blood of Christ, as a vicarious penance which stems from the injustice we suffer and leave our cause in the hands of a righteous God who is Lord over all peoples and will ask them all to appear before His judgement."

Monsignor Woestijn himself was expelled from his home in Katowice by the Polish police and had to leave all his personal belongings behind. He received only ten minutes notice to evacuate, which was considerably less than the time granted to other expellees.

Manchurian Missionaries On Job Amid Cold, Fighting

Changchun, Manchuria — (NC) — This city, the former Hsinking, capital city of Japan's "Manchukuo," is half-old, half-new. The new section, with its wide, tree-planted street and foreign-style buildings, looks like the capital of one of our Western States.

Here is located the advance section of "executive headquarters," the three-sided truce administration set up through General Marshall's efforts, for North China. Out of Changchun, eight teams, each with American, Chinese government and communist members, have been working in Manchurian key towns. Within the past week the Americans have been called in from three teams, on the suggestion of the Reds who say they cannot guarantee their safety further.

This city of a probable but uncountable half-million has changed hands four times since the war's end. It passed from the Japanese to the Russians, then to the nationalists, then to the communists, then back to the nationalists. Bullet-pocked buildings tell of the fighting. Concrete pillboxes, sandbags and barbed wire barricades hint at possible coming emergencies, while rows of gaping, pillaged houses commemorate the looting done by the Russians.

Sub-Zero Weather

It's cold up here—clear, sunny, snowless so far, but with sub-zero temperatures. "It's Minnesota weather," says Colonel Andrew W. Tyschen who for years trained St. Thomas College cadets in St. Paul and is now in command of this section.

Despite their terrific shortage of fuel, utterly inadequate food and lack of warm clothing, the priests and Sisters of Changchun stay with their work and their people. Two pitched battles this year failed to dislodge them. Uncertainties ahead suggest no thought of quitting.

Bishop Augustin Gaspais, a hardy Breton, now 39 years in Manchuria, resides here in Changchun, chief town of his diocese of Kirin. The Assumptionist Fathers, who conduct Assumption College, Worcester, Mass., staff the seminary. The white-robed Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, whom I meet everywhere I halt in China, cheerfully conduct a half-a-dozen works on a shoestring. But it's a Sister's shoestring.

A fine Catholic church stands in the old Chinese city. Then there are two smaller public chapels. The diocese is entrusted to the Paris Foreign Missions, who have developed the native clergy to the point where the Chinese priests here now outnumber the French.

New Christmas Eve Bells

Camden, N. J. — (NC) — Three beautiful bronze bells will ring for the first time at Our Lady of Mt Carmel Church here on Christmas eve to summon the parishioners to Midnight Mass. The bells were blessed by Bishop Bartholomew J. Eustace of Camden in a recent ceremony.

LEPER CHRISTMAS FLEA

If you want to keep smiling like faces of these happy leper children who receive their education and care from Catholic missionary Sisters, then heed the annual appeal for The Lepers' Christmas Fund, issued by Msgr. Thomas J. McDonnell, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. (NC Photo)

REICH RELIGIOUS ORDERS LOSS HIGH

By MAX JORDAN

Cologne — (NC) — The material damage suffered during the war by 14 out of 22 religious congregations established in Germany, amounts to six million dollars figured at the pre-war rate of exchange, according to a survey submitted here to a meeting of the superiors of these congregations.

As far as could be established, 46 buildings belonging to religious communities were totally destroyed by acts of war while 53 were damaged so severely that for some time it will be difficult to rebuild them.

Of a total of 2,360 members of religious Orders who were drafted during the war 570 lost their lives, 52 of them in their homeland. Four hundred and eleven are still missing.

In the northwestern sector of Germany alone, 229 members of religious Orders were thrown into concentration camps, and 32 of them died from ill-treatment. In the same sector the nazi regime expropriated 29 buildings belonging to religious Orders, confiscated another 21 and forced the temporary evacuation of 46. Of all these only 33 have been returned to the owners so far.

Charity is Key to Peace Says Cardinal at Yule Fete

New York — (NC) — "Only God, Who was Himself a Child, can light the road to peace," His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, declared at a mammoth Christmas party which he gave for children of the New York Foundling Asylum in the ballroom of the Waldorf Astoria hotel here.

"Too many of us have forgotten Him Who came on earth to save mankind," the Cardinal said, speaking on "The Meaning of Christmas." "Only in God and through charity can enemies be friends. Only God, Who was Himself a Child, can light the road to peace. Charity alone brings everlasting joy to the hearts of men."

The party was for some three score little foundling children, who were in charge of white-robed Sisters of Charity. They were gathered about a Christmas tree set up in the center of the great ballroom. From the tree, Cardinal Spellman distributed presents to them. Then the children were seated at low tables arranged about the tree and served milk and ice cream in Santa Claus shapes.

Ed Sullivan, newspaper columnist, who acted as master of ceremonies, told the guests that the foundling home would receive $100,000 as a personal gift from Cardinal Spellman. It will come from the sale to a motion picture production company of a story which His Eminence wrote about an infant abandoned in St. Patrick's Cathedral several years ago. The newspaperman said the hospital has already received $200,000 from the Cardinal, being the returns from other writings by the Cardinal Archbishop.

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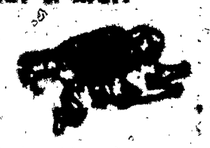

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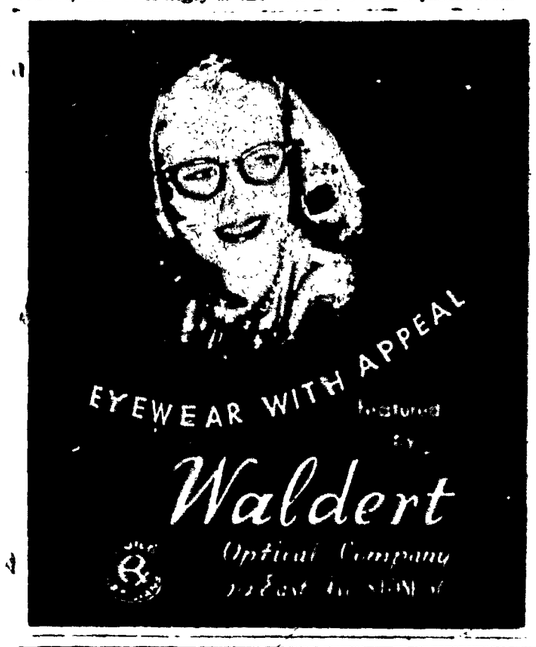

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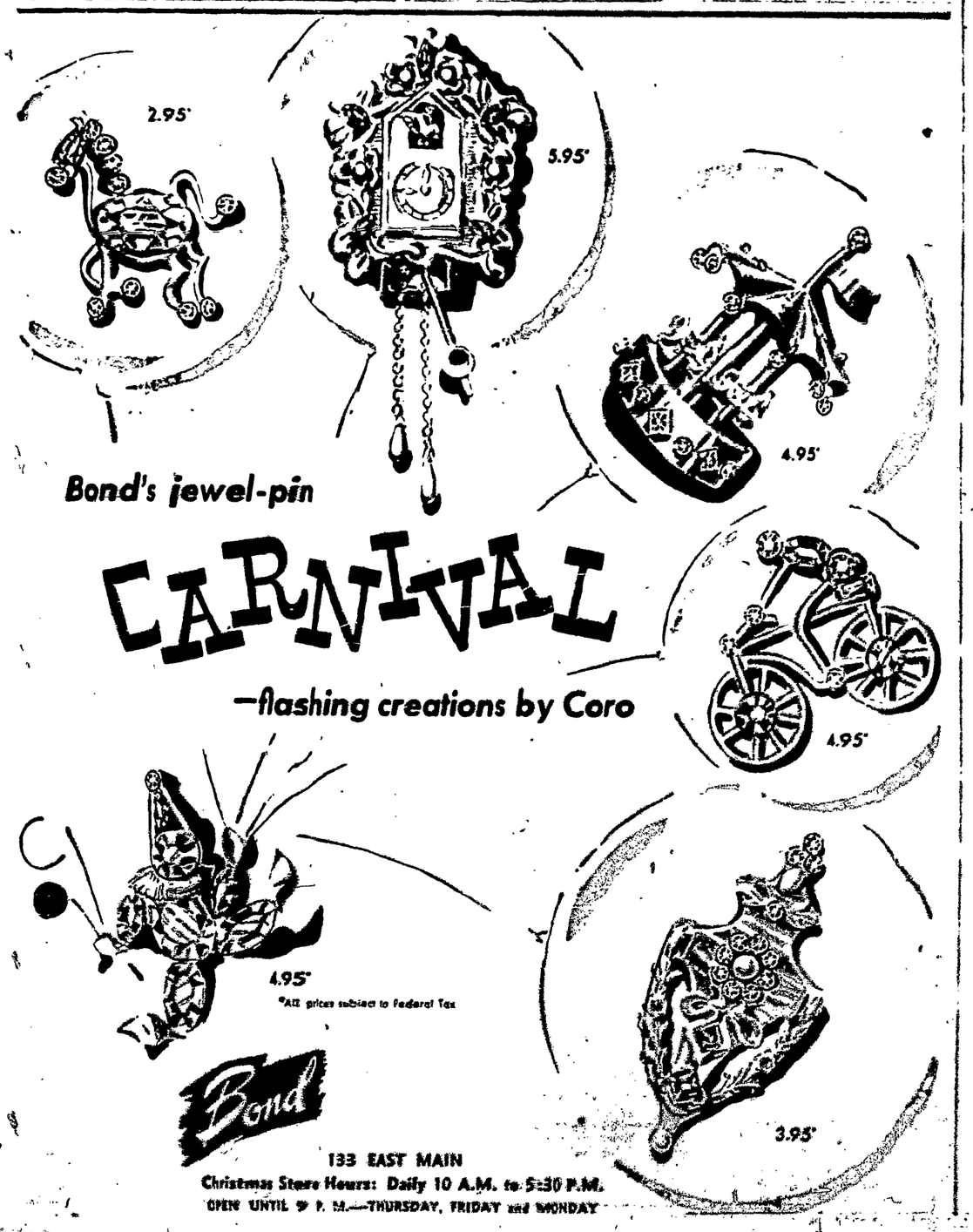

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