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40,000 Nebraskans Petition Truman on Abp. Stepinac

Washington — (NC) — A petition signed by Archbishop James H. Ryan of Omaha and more than 40,000 citizens of the State of Nebraska was presented at the White House Monday, asking President Truman to have the Government of the United States do all within its power to see that justice is done Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac of Zagreb.

The petition says the recent trial of Archbishop Stepinac by a Tito tribunal, which resulted in his being condemned to 16 years at hard labor, was "a joke from a legal point of view"; that his sentence was "not a judicial but a political one."

At the request of Archbishop Ryan, the Rev. Philip J. Kenney, assistant to the general secretary of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, took the petition to the White House and presented it to Matthew J. Connelly, secretary to President Truman.

The petition tells President Truman that the undersigned citizens of Nebraska "desire hereby to lay before you the plight of Archbishop Stepinac of Zagreb, Yugoslavia, who has been sentenced by an admittedly prejudiced court, after no less a prejudiced trial, to 16 years of hard labor in prison."

It is asserted that "as long as such injustices can be perpetrated in any part of the world, democratic liberties are not safe anywhere," and the petition asks "our Government not only to protest by diplomatic means against both the trial and the sentence, but also to do all within its power to have this unjust sentence of a prejudiced court set aside."

"Justice should be done Archbishop Stepinac," the petition says, "and it can only be done if he is released from prison and restored to all his rights, both civil and ecclesiastical."

CARDINAL HITS REICH EVICTIONS

Frankfurt — (NC) — The growing concern — shared by both Catholic and Protestant Army chaplains in the United States zone — over the detrimental effects of indiscriminate requisitioning of dwellings by U. S. occupation authorities found expression in an appeal by His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, to the Allied governments.

Speaking on behalf of the Fulda Conference of German Bishops the Cardinal urged that "German families remain unharmed in their miserable quarters" and that "their homes be not requisitioned until new dwelling space is available." The evictions were ordered by American authorities to make room for the dependents of American servicemen.

The Cardinal's appeal, which was echoed by many German Bishops, also voiced a new plea to Allied governments to release German prisoners of war, thus ending "the suffering of these men and their families."

Once more the Cardinal refuted the notion of a collective guilt of the German people. "Only individuals," he insisted, "can be held responsible for crimes that have been committed, not the whole community of the people."

He repeated his protests against the mass expulsion of Germans from the eastern provinces of the Reich, asking that their old homes be restored to them or new homes provided. Appealing to the victorious powers to make good the injustices committed in their name, he warned that "there can be no peace in Europe unless this is done."

The Cardinal advocated a halt to the exports of coal from Germany until industry, on which depends the livelihood of millions of persons in the Rhine-Ruhr region, gets going again.

In weighing the effects of the requisitioning of dwellings there is widespread agreement with the view expressed by Dr. Hugo Swart, Mayor of Heidelberg, who described such measures as unnecessarily "destroying the hopes and morale of the German people." He reported that about 10,000 rooms have been taken in Heidelberg alone, which is headquarters of the American Third Army.

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Hospitallers of St. John Plan U.S. Expansion

Boston — (NC) — With the birth of many thousands from war-ridden countries, the Church in the United States has also called for Brothers of his community, declared the Most Rev. Ephrem Blandeau, prior general of the Hospitaller Order of the Brothers of St. John of God, in an interview here in which he discussed plans for the expansion of his community in America.

"In order to lend our aid in all parts of the United States we are planning a five year program," Father Blandeau said. "We are considering requests from many dioceses and are including the fulfillment of these requests in our five year plan, in the hope of the extension of our Order in the United States, as I believe the American Province is called to be the most important in our Order."

The Hospitaller Brothers came to the United States at the beginning of World War II, at the invitation of Archbishop John J. Cantwell of Los Angeles. Today the Brothers have a hospice for needy men, irrespective of race, color or creed, which cares for 40 men and a new building is in progress which will care for 120 men. This is the first house of the Order in the United States. Another house, the Rancho San Antonio at Chatsworth, Cal., cares for delinquent boys and Archbishop Cantwell is planning to extend the work of the Order in other fields of charity.

Established in Boston

The Brothers of St. John of God, crossed the country to Boston on the invitation of Archbishop Richard J. Cushing and were installed at Hammond Hall, Gloucester, Mass. This estate, overlooking the ocean, was opened as a haven for priests in need of rest and recuperation, and also for retired priests. Today Hammond Hall is filled to capacity.

In an effort to aid the so-called "Knights of the Road" — homeless men, Archbishop Cushing secured a house in Boston's South End, and the House of Hospitality, a hospice for needy and homeless men is conducted there by the Brothers of St. John of God. Although the Rollins Street Haven is small, hot soup, other foods and warm clothing is distributed daily to between 150 and 200 men.

Today the Hospitallers conduct 189 houses with 32,000 beds in 23 nations. There are 3,000 members of the Order. During the war 29 houses were destroyed and 23 new houses opened. The Order was founded by Portuguese missionaries in Spain.

NEW LEAVENWORTH BISHOP INSTALLED

Leavenworth — (NC) — The largest gathering of clergy in the history of the Leavenworth Diocese were present at the formal installation of Bishop George J. Donnelly as the seventh Bishop of Leavenworth in the Cathedral of Mary here.

Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis, Metropolitan of the Suffragan See of Leavenworth, offered the Solemn Pontifical Mass which followed the installation ceremonies.

Just before leaving St. Louis to come here for the installation, Bishop Donnelly was tendered a farewell dinner by the priests of the St. Louis Archdiocese. As a parting gift he was presented with a new car, the first the prelate has ever owned.

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Mass Celebrated in Twelve Languages, Priest Explains

New York — (NC) — Despite most liturgy in early Eastern calendar. In the Celebration of Divine Liturgy, the Oriental rituals to participate were active in that phase of the Latin Rite and "so the Latin Rite subjects are offering the sacrifice in Latin, Aramaic, Slavonic, Armenian. In some lands, we can hear Mass in Greek and Old Ethiopian."

There are 22 Rites in the Church, Father Beaton declared, "all of them united in faith and loyalty with the Pope of Rome, the Vicar on earth of the Eternal Christ in Heaven. Just as you can trace your ancestry and culture, so also only can trace the history of the different Rites to Christ in the Supper Room at Jerusalem."

Father Beaton also emphasized that "the Holy Mass, called the Divine Liturgy in the Eastern Rite, is celebrated today not only in the one language, (Latin), but in twelve different ones."

Retailing the factors that made the difference of culture between East and West more evident, Father Beaton said the Church in the West had to fight for her existence and painfully "hammer out a new order from the ruins of the Western Empire," which brought about its development along legal lines with standard external discipline.

The East, on the other hand, he added, had harmony between the Church and civil authorities to such an extent that even up to 378 the Emperor called himself the Bishop of External Affairs. The East, because of this harmony, had a better opportunity to concentrate on the teachings of her philosophers and monks, he said, and developed a tremendous sense of the majesty of God.

Two outstanding features of Oriental worship, the Majestic sense of the Presence of God and the importance of external ceremony, Father Beaton said, are "stamps impressed on the Oriental Rite."

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Wedding Gift

A free active family membership in the Holy Childhood Association to commemorate the holy wedding of Mary and Joseph will be celebrated on January 23. Your offering helps Holy Childhood missionaries in lands beloved to the Holy Family.

A DYING REQUEST

Word comes that one of our most worthy Near East missionary bishops, Bishop Barsha of Mardin, Assyria, passed away. Surely his first labors for his poor and his thousands of converts have made him welcome in Heaven.

Only recently we received an appeal from the Bishop. It was to be his last request. We do hope we can fulfill it. The Bishop asked for many things. Here are a few of his needs, which must be fulfilled by his successor:

The new chapels, one at Hizlik, the other at Sivasliar, each costing a thousand dollars. Can you give one in memory to a dying request?

Chapel and altar furnishings for these, each costing $150. Perhaps you will want to share in this memorial chapels.

Special chalices for four other chapels, each costing $50. Every Mass will be really yours.

So we shall, only with your help, settle our part of the last will of Bishop Barsha. Won't you help us?

SIX YEARS

Six years ago, this month, the Seminary of St. Francis at Ghazir, Egypt, ordained its first priest. Can you give six hundred dollars to educate Brother Bonaventure Tieto or Brother Bernardine Mesa for the Altar? You can make either of these future Franciscan priests your adopted son in Christ.

GOTHIC SPIRES

Read what the Gothic spires of Angers can do in Monsignor Sloan's pamphlet, "EAST MEETS WEST." We send it to all who give the smallest donation for the altar Chapel of Our Lady of Fatima which we intend to build in the Holy Land, for the conversion of Russia. Write us.

ARCHBISHOP ROBERTS

The valiant Jesuit missionary Bishop of Rochaty, India, now visiting the United States, pleads for Indian Christians. Send a check or money order to care anyone of the thousands poor people you deposit in "SAINT'S BANK" for our Eastern will go to those faithful American Sisters, whose hospital at Mary Girls, India, is the mission to India's crying needs. Please do help them.

THIS MONTH

During January we shall send news of the launching of the "ORPHANS' RELIEF" to the Fathers of Mt. Carmel. Without funds for their starving little ones they cannot carry on. Even a dollar will be treasure in heaven.

BLACK AND WHITE

In Sacred Liturgy, white and (sometimes) white or gold, mean Your gift to the DARKEST CHILD FUND will be at once in Black Children of God's kingdom among Christ, remember, to Christ's love we bring a little white or gold.

DOLLAR DAYS

When appeals are sent forward, we try to make part of the amount needed up from the dollar-a-month Christ-like CHRISTOPHERS, for the education of orphan the MONICA GUILD, to which Protestant and Mary Our BABELLANE, to support four schools. Want you help out at home?

NEED ASKING

Received Bishop Walter would have an urgent appeal for Sisters for the chapel around Galilee and Nazareth; we must ask again. Can you give one of Our Lord, Our Lady or a favorite Saint for training Sisters?

HAVE YOU?

Have you ever heard of the Gregory's book on the catechism "The Pastoral Psalm of Saint Paul" or the Dominican Sisters' pamphlet "The Holy Feast With the Holy Spirit"?

DON'T FORGET!

The Church Unity Octave of prayer begins on January 18 and Feast of St. Peter's Chair, and ends on January 25, the Conversion of St. Paul. Do your part for the Holy Father under the Our Shepherd.

DON'T FAIL

At right, on the Epiphany, on January 6, the Holy Father in the Vatican will say Mass for the Holy Childhood. Remember [illegible] and [illegible] Holy Father.

Send all [illegible]

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