

Mother of 24 Donates Blood

Therese, 34 — (NC) — Mrs. Charles M. Curtis of Our Lady of Mt. Carmel Church here, the mother of 24 children, is planning to give her last pint of blood early in February at the Ford Howard Veterans Hospital in conjunction with a personal blood bank campaign that began during the year she gave eleven pints of blood through the Red Cross and the members of the armed forces.

Mrs. Curtis manages a 12-room home and helps her husband in his work as a truck driver. She has been a member of the Red Cross since 1918 and has been a member of the armed forces since 1918.

Trail of Blood and Ashes Marks China Reds' Revenge

(Continued from page 1) The convent and orphanage of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary had changed their plans. They had planned to leave the city for the mountains.

Two months ago, the Reds withdrew from Shantung before the advancing Nationalists. When the Nationalist forces entered the city, the people welcomed them with manifest pleasure. Hearing this, the Reds, never far away, were infuriated. They vowed vengeance and vowed it again when the government troops expelled seven pariahs who had been "hanger men" and oppressors during the Red occupation.

Knowing that the Communists had threatened to come back, the Shantung townspeople appealed to the Nationalist general in Kailan for a garrison. He could spare only some hundreds of soldiers, not first-class troops. He also gave 100 rifles to the people, so that they themselves might defend their town.

News came, however, from Kailan, that the Reds had come, anywhere from 1,000 to 2,000 of them, making a surprise attack at 6 a. m. One of their first shots hit the church. By early afternoon the fight was over and the Communists had Shantung in their power. A few of the garrison and some 20 of the civilian defenders had been killed. Now began the reprisals.

Some of the civilian defenders were still in the seminary building, which the Reds themselves had occupied for a year and which had not served as a seminary since summer, 1943. The little group joined in saying the rosary. Then some made a dash for safety — and succeeded. Others said that since they were sure to be killed, they preferred to meet death in the seminary. The Reds set fire to the building and when the men inside tried to leave, drove them back into the seminary.

Cathedral burned. That night and next day, December 24-25, were lurid and bloody. The Reds burned the cathedral. One of the largest churches in north China, piling up the pews to start the blaze and adding firewood later. They kindled a separate fire to destroy the large library, and another in the seminary chapel. They burned the novitiate at the national school. They prepared to burn

the convent and orphanage of the Franciscan Missionaries of Mary but changed their plans. They pillaged the institution, however, taking even the vestments from the little assembly and the curtains from around the tabernacle. They looted the old men's home and nearly every house, rich and poor.

Men, women and children had fled to the mountainsides overlooking the town. The Reds rounded up some 400 of them, with the three priests. From these they selected their victims. Everybody who had accepted any civil position under the Nationalists was summarily executed. One woman was executed apparently because she was the wife of an official. Some of the Nationalist soldiers who had surrendered, were likewise killed. Victims were snatched out and killed in groups, their bodies being found in a row afterwards. Many soldiers were found, shot in the head. The Reds killed some with heavy stones as the indefensible condition of the bodies showed.

Meanwhile a relief force was on its way from Kailan. As it approached, the Reds departed, taking with them their surviving prisoners and wagons, livestock, grain and clothing seized from the townspeople.

Their occupation of Shantung had lasted 24 hours this time, but the horror of it will long endure. There is a woman who has lost twelve relatives, of whom five are certainly dead and the rest missing. A widow mourns her two sons. Another family has lost three sons. The bodies of 70 Catholics have been identified. Bereaved families now face the bitter mongolian winter without breadwinners. In looted homes from which food and clothing have been taken.

The Chinese Reds have inflicted reprisals before, though usually on a smaller scale. By this large-scale vengeance they have manifested, more openly than before, that there is a policy of coercion and mass intimidation.

The Reds are now anywhere from 30 to 60 miles from here. The Shantung Catholics are not wasting time in lamentation or denunciation. They are busy repairing a damaged school hall to serve as a temporary church.

On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

(Continued from page 1)

"to save sinners." And Christ meant ALL SINNERS! He came to save not only the small sinners but also the great sinners. Not only the run-of-the-mill sinners but also the Magdalens and the Augustines. Even the Al Capones.

Like Christ, the Catholic Church is also in this world to save sinners. Like the Good Shepherd, she pursues the lost sheep relentlessly. She never gives up on a sinner. She follows him to the very brink of eternity and even there she stretches forth her hand in a desperate effort to snatch him back.

If there is anything that illustrates the divine credentials of the Catholic Church it is the fact that in every age she and she alone has the power to send the publicans and harlots and thieves marching into the Eternal Kingdom.

The Church is never more Christlike than she is in those dramatic moments when we find her in some small corner of the world bending over a spiritual outcast.

In a very true sense, therefore, the Catholic Church is THE CHURCH FOR SINNERS because at her feet the most depraved can find new hope and be reconciled to God's love.

There is something divinely great in the fact that the Church was present in the death room of Al Capone. To speak this way is not to glorify the evil life and misdeeds of Chicago's former outlaw. It is to call attention, rather, to the terrible thing that is God's love—that fierce love which seeks out the sinner even at the risk of scandalizing the saints.

But the saints, of course, are not shocked when a sinner is saved. As Christ told us, there is more joy in heaven over one sinner doing penance than over ninety-nine just who need not penance.

And in the case of Al Capone there should also be some joy on earth. Not for Al Capone but for the Church that risks the sneers of a drug society to save the soul of a dying thief.

Shelter Guarantees Asked Of New Missioners to Japan

Washington — (NC) — Details of the new missionary policy which opens the doors of Japan for priests and religious who have not been there before have been received here from the Rev. Bishop of Tokyo, chairman of the Rehabilitation Committee of the Catholic Church in Japan.

According to the new policy of the occupation authorities, which became effective on Christmas Day, missionaries will be cleared for entry into the former enemy State if assurances, based on actual surveys, can be given that adequate shelter is provided or can be rented in Japan for their use.

Guarantees must also be made that sufficient food and clothing are available from Church resources in Japan to take care of the missionaries entering, or that supplementary shipments of food and clothing will be made to support them.

The Rehabilitation Committee, with headquarters in the Catholic University in Tokyo, has been designated to represent all Catholic missionaries in the matter of shelter, food and clothing assurances. Other religious groups are permitted under the new policy to send a representative to Japan if they have one in the country — who will be temporarily supported from U. S. Army sources on a reimbursement basis while surveying missionary opportunities.

Missionaries with prior service in Japan are preferred, but those who have none will be cleared.

U. S., Britain Urged To Act on Poland

(Continued from page 1) The result of a pre-election campaign of coercion and gross irregularities in the actual voting. These teams, composed of Embassy officials and other American observers, found little or no evidence of even the most elementary requirement of "free and unfettered" elections as prescribed in the Yalta agreement.

Theoretically, there was secret balloting, but observers found voting booths only in isolated instances, with those daring to use them becoming automatically suspect. Open and ostentatious voting of the government bloc last November Three was generally considered as a "strategic" duty. The reports describe a system of mass voting, with people shepherded to the polls, particularly government workers and laborers in government-owned industries.

Fear and Frustration

I accompanied an observer team to Szczecin (the former German port of Stettin) and can confirm reports describing the attitude of the voters as a mixture of apathy, fear and frustration. Many were afraid to talk and those who did either betrayed hopelessness and cynicism or showed their abject submission to the present regime.

Meanwhile Vice Premier Mikolajczyk, as leader of the Polish Peasant Party, has announced that he will ask the United States, Britain and Russia, as co-signers of the Yalta agreement not to recognize the ballot in the Jan. 19 general election as a "free and unfettered election." He said he also will demand that the highest Polish court declare the election invalid, but this is regarded generally as a futile gesture.

Mr. Mikolajczyk insisted that the election's results, top-heavy in favor of the communist-dominated regime, were brought about by the "brutal physical power of a minority determined to overcome a majority."

New Election Necessary

Addressing a large group of foreign correspondents, Mr. Mikolajczyk warned that any government emerging from the Jan. 19 election could not represent the majority of the Polish people in these difficult days of momentous decisions, and emphasized that a new election will be necessary to permit a true expression of the nation's will.

There is evidence galore to support the truth of Mr. Mikolajczyk's assertions and to contradict the claims of the present government spokesman that as a result of the election "Poland is entering upon" a period of "political stabilization," enabling her to progress toward a "socialist society that will make a great contribution to the future of Europe."

Government figures credit the communist-dominated "Democratic Bloc" ticket with about 90 per cent of the vote and 323 of the 372 seats in the Legislative Diet that is scheduled to meet early in February.

It is, however, a remarkable fact, pointed out by Mr. Mikolajczyk, that the Polish Peasant Party obtained a majority in all the precincts where it had poll watchers observing the actual voting and counting. But the Warsaw regime dominated the election machinery and as a result of "corrupt" rulings and bribery prevented the "Peasant" Party from having watchers at only about 300 out of the total 6,000 polling stations. And many of these watchers were prevented from carrying out their duties.

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NIMITZ RECEIVES CATHOLIC AWARD

New York — (RNS) — Fleet Admiral Chester W. Nimitz, chief of Naval Operations, received the 1946 Club of Champions Award of the Catholic Youth Organization of the Archdiocese of New York.

Presentation of the award, which goes annually to the person who has made an outstanding contribution to youth during the year, took place at the annual dinner meeting of the CYO board of directors.

Records 39 White Fathers War Victims

Paris — (RNS) — Thirty-nine of the 400 White Fathers called to military service in North Africa were killed during the war and 60 were taken prisoner, according to a Golden Book published by the French Catholic order. White Fathers is the popular designation of the Society of Missionaries of Africa founded by Cardinal C. M. A. Lavigne at Algiers in 1868.

Pope Cites Program In Religious Crisis

(Continued from page 1) On Him as a Model for imitation and a Leader to be followed by work in His apostolate. This is your chosen rule.

The Holy Father told the leaders that the first necessity in their work was a firmness of integral faith. He said that modern thought and life must be reconducted and rewon to Christ.

The second requisite for strength in Christian life, the Holy Father explained, is the courage to observe seriously the law of God and of the Church. Under present conditions, he said, this requires self control, constant effort and an abnegation of heroism to remain faithful to God's law without reserve or compromise.

The third necessity, the Holy Father said, is an ardent zeal. "Practicing God's law in your own life," the Pontiff declared, "you wish to lead to God the souls you contact, thus participating in Christ's redeeming work."

He noted as completely foreign to Catholic thought and Christianity the attempt to separate religion from the world and life, and declared these efforts become more intense "whenever the powers of darkness increase their pressure." The Holy Father urged the need for a tenacious, persevering reaction to lead the way back to the reign of Christ.

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