

New Blows at Church Struck by Tito Regime

ROME — (AP) — The following well-authenticated reports of incidents in Yugoslavia received here add further details to the picture of the relentless and many-sided harassment of the Church under the rule of Marshal Tito:

In Zagreb the Government has confiscated the St. George Lang house for unemployed working girls. The house, with all its furnishings and funds, was taken over and the sisters in charge turned out into the street. So many charitable and educational institutions have been confiscated in Yugoslavia that it is impossible to summarize the picture in the few Motherhouses which remain. Many Sisters must return to the homes of their parents.

In the village of Sovaki Dol, a young university graduate named Josephine Nevistic, who had been teaching catechism to the village children, was attacked and beaten to death by two unknown men. A well-known communist by the name of Spovijer had been seen in the village for several days before the murder. The local police investigated all the houses in Sovaki Dol, but did not apprehend the murderers; instead, they told the villagers not to talk about what had happened. Nothing has appeared in the Yugoslav press about the crime.

A Dominican priest of the Za-

greb archdiocese was arrested recently on the charge of participating in a political demonstration and fined the heavy sum of 2,000 dinars. The "demonstration" was a procession in which the statue of the Blessed Virgin Mary was carried.

The Public Prosecutor in the district of Dubrava, gathering all the priests of his district to instruct them on their obligations, they might discuss in their sermons, told them that, among other things, they were forbidden to preach about Job. The Prosecutor said that the people might apply to their present conditions the lesson of Job, who according to the Old Testament recovered his lost prosperity and happiness through a policy of patience and resignation.

At election time the police have been particularly active in their surveillance of priests. People who spoke to priests on the streets were later questioned by the police as to what the priest said, what was his attitude on the elections, etc. Priests in country districts were subjected to great pressure in order to force them to vote.

Press Confiscated

The last publishing house under Catholic auspices in Yugoslavia, the Sacred Heart Printing Press of Zagreb, was confiscated last month under a "law" which provides that the property of a criminal may be confiscated by the Government. The director of the Sacred Heart establishment was sentenced to a two-year prison term because certain pro-Ustasha articles had appeared in a calendar printed by him during the time when the Ustasha censorship forced the insertion of articles in all publications. The fact that the director did not own the press did not matter to the communist confiscators.

Among the acts of vandalism against sacred objects reported recently was the demolition of the widely venerated statue of the Blessed Virgin at Travnik in Bosnia, the destruction of the statue of the Madonna at Zagreb, outrage committed at the Shrine of Our Lady of Bistrica and the defacing of pictures of the Blessed Virgin in a number of confiscated religious houses.

On Guard!

By Rev. Patrick J. Flynn

(Continued from Page 2) rack as which the whole structure (of the Church) rests, and to render tax aid to its Church school is indistinguishable to me from rendering the same aid to the Church itself."

Catholics will be quick to object against Mr. Jackson that their parochial schools train children not only to be good Catholics but also to be good American citizens. The Catholic parochial school trains its pupils for the service of the State as well as the Church.

Mr. Jackson's opinion is ably refuted in the current issue of America by Father John Courtney Murray. He writes:

"The parochial school fulfills an essentially public function — that of preparing an educated citizenry. The State itself acknowledges this fact when it grants these schools tax exemption. Yet one always sees this hidden premise in all arguments against public aid to parochial schools: These schools are private; therefore their purposes are private; and tax money cannot be given them."

"The fallacy is patent. The Church does not run schools simply for its own 'private' purposes. Actually it runs schools. And the function of a school is primarily to cultivate the intellectual virtues, to enable men to live as men in the world — as rational creatures, members of a rational society. Because a school may do more than this — because it may recognize that a man is a religious person as well as a civic person, and therefore may educate him religiously, it does not for this reason cease to be a school, and to fulfill a public function, and to contribute to the general welfare."

Catholics will also want to remind the dissenting justices of the U. S. Supreme Court of the words of the Supreme Court of Mississippi in *Chaney vs. Mississippi*, on free textbooks for non-profit private school pupils:

"Useful citizenship is a product and servant of both the Church and the State, and the citizen's freedom must include the right to acknowledge the rights and benefits of each, and to impart into each the ideals and training of the other. Indeed, the State has made historical acknowledgment and daily legislative admission of a mutual dependence, one upon the other. It is the control of one over the other that our Constitution forbids."



Most Admired Chester W. Niska, U.S.N., presents to the Rev. Dr. Maurice H. Steady, of the Faculty of the Catholic University of America, the Bronze Star Medal for meritorious service as chaplain aboard the USS Barnegat during action against enemy forces in forward areas of the Pacific, from August 25, 1943, to May 5, 1945. (Father Steady) will address the First Communion Banquet of Monroe County C.W.V. at Rochester's Pines Hotel, Feb. 28. (Official Navy Photo. (N.Y. Photo))

Holy Land Franciscans Mark 600th Anniversary

WASHINGTON — (AP) — The year 1247 has achieved a new importance and significance for the Holy Land. They are the 600th anniversary of the coming of the Franciscan Friars to Jerusalem of the holy places of Bethlehem and the 100th anniversary of the reestablishment of the Latin Patriarchate here.

It was in 1247 that the Franciscans who were first sent to the Holy Land by St. Francis of Assisi in 1219, were again given possession of the sacred Shrines of the Nativity after having been forced from the shrines following the taking of the Crusades. The Sultan of Egypt, whose troops had looted an altar in 1200 removing the privilege previously enjoyed by the Friars but it was not until almost 60 years later that the altar was put into effect.

The reestablishment of the Holy Land by the Franciscans is recorded by Peter Munk of Byghovden in an old story called "The Voyage Beyond the Sea." He writes: "I returned in the Church of Bethlehem, which today is in the hands of the Friars Minor of St. Francis, founded by him for Monks, the Sultan of Babylon; and the

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