

# Moscow Recalls Two Bishops in Bid For Real Grip on U.S. Orthodox Church

(Father Gorbach is chancellor of the Pittsburgh Greek Catholic Church, head of the department of philosophy at Duquesne University and author of the recently published volume "Windows Westward," whose subtitle is "Rome, Russia, Romania.")

**By REV. STEPHEN C. GORBACH**  
*(Written for N.Y. World-Telegram)*  
In a recent cable from Alexei, Patriarch of Moscow, Metropolitan Benjamin Fedchenkov, Patriarchal Exarch of the Aleutian Islands and North America, advised he is being transferred to the Metropolitan See of Riga, Latvia. Likewise, Archbishop Adam Philopoyev of the so-called Carpatho-Rusian Diocese of Philadelphia was notified of his transfer to the Russian Orthodox Diocese of Bukovina, formerly Hungarian territory ceded to Soviet Russia.

Observers who follow the affairs of the long-disrupted Russian Orthodox Church in America consider these changes in the hierarchy a highly significant step leading towards the ultimate submission of the American Church to the Patriarch of Moscow and what is more important, to Soviet influence. In order to fully appreciate the importance of this latest move of Moscow one must necessarily understand the history of the American Russian Orthodox Church since the fall of the Czarist regime.

**THE OUTBREAK** of the Russian Revolution brought to the fore the essential weakness of the Russian Orthodox Church, viz. the lack of any supreme authority. In order to gain control of the church the Bolshevik government used every conceivable means of force, violence and bribery.

It even attempted to set up its own ecclesiastical organization. This turbulent state of affairs created confusion among the clergy and faithful of the Russian Church both at home and abroad. It was only in 1922 the Bolshevik regime was instrumental in disrupting the American Church by its attempt to gain control over it through the activities of Archbishop John Kedrovsky. Archbishop Kedrovsky was a confessed representative of the Soviet-sponsored Living Church and as such incurred the odium and censure of the old line Russian Hierarchy. Kedrovsky's first move was to institute a civil suit for possession of St. Nicholas Cathedral in New York City. The decision of the Supreme Court of the State of New York favored Kedrovsky, thus giving the Soviet representative a strategic base from which to operate.

**OPPOSITION AGAINST** the Soviet-sponsored ecclesiastical movement was centered around the so-called Karlovits Synod with headquarters in Belgrade. The Synod consisted of high-ranking Russian emigre prelates, clerics and laymen scattered throughout Europe. Soon, however, dissension developed in the Russian emigre Church which found its reverberations in the American Church. In addition, the late Metropolitan Alexei, Patriarchal Exarch of Moscow, appointed Archbishop Benjamin Fedchenkov Patriarchal Exarch of the Aleutian Islands and North America. Upon his arrival in the United States in April, 1934, Archbishop Benjamin met not only a hostile but also a divided Russian Church.

Nevertheless he attempted to assume jurisdiction over the American Church and to mediate an understanding between the American Russian Orthodox Church and the Patriarchal Exarch of Moscow whom the Russian emigre churchmen considered a Soviet puppet. To counteract the activities of Archbishop Benjamin the American Orthodox Hierarchy decided to organize a resistance movement on the pattern of the Karlovits Synod with which it declared itself to be in sympathy and communion. A Congress was convened at Cleveland in November of 1934 attended by eight U. S. bishops, of the Russian Church and by the bishops of Alaska, Alaska, and Montreal, Canada. The gathering adopted a resolution to set up a province totally independent of Moscow.

**DURING THE EARLY** stages of the war Stalin was quick to realize the hidden power of the down-trodden Russian Church. To the amazement of the whole world the Kremlin consented to the election of a new Patriarch, granted the Russian Church limited recognition and set itself up as a protector of the interests of the Russian Church. Shortly thereafter the Patriarch of Moscow initiated a 750-offer campaign to reunite the disrupted Russian Orthodox Church throughout the world. Up to the present it has succeeded in gaining control over the Russian Church in Manchuria, the Russian dioceses in Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Yugoslavia, France, the Russian zone of Germany and individual parishes in Europe, North and South America and the Near East.

The bulk of the Russian emigre ecclesiastical hierarchy still opposed to Moscow and have rallied around Metropolitan Anastasius Sevast'yanov, Exarch of Germany and Bishop Alexander of Munich. These two prelates, the remnants of the old Karlovits

Church full administrative autonomy. On February 1, 1947, Archbishop Theophylus received a telegram from Patriarch Alexei stating that after careful consideration the Patriarch acceded to the request of the Synod. Following this telegram Metropolitan Theophylus denounced the Synod of Munich and once again the American Church became a split. Of the nine bishops originally opposed to Moscow four refused to abide by the resolution of the Congress at Cleveland. Hence on April 6, 1947, they drew an excommunication from Metropolitan Theophylus. The recalcitrant bishops are: Archbishop Tikhon of San Francisco, and Bishops Josiah of Canada and Leonidas of Detroit. In addition to these Bishop Benjamin of Pittsburgh, who at the request of General MacArthur is now supervising the Russian Orthodox in Japan, drew a denunciation from the Patriarch at the time he complied with the General's request.

**OTHER EVENTS** of grave importance followed in rapid succession proving that the Kremlin was not wasting time in consolidating its gains. On June 6, it was announced that Metropolitan Gregory of Leningrad was to come to this country as the personal representative of the Patriarch to iron out the details of the seven-point program. Following this announcement, Mayor Fulton J. Sheen of the Catholic University of America publicly accused Gregory of being "a pro-seer of atheism at the Atheistic College of the Soviet Union."

The removal of Archbishop Benjamin and Adam, both heartily disliked by the bulk of the Russian emigre is the latest, and

perhaps, the most significant American Russian Church under move designed to bring the influence of Moscow.

**EASY TO-INSTALL**  
**EASY TO OPERATE**  
**THE WATERSOFTENER SUPREME** — —  
**\$99.50 UP**  
FOR THE AVERAGE SIZE FAMILY

**THESE ARE MAGIC WORDS FOR HOME MAKERS**

**WATERQUEEN**  
WATER SOFTENER

**180 NORTH ST.**  
NO DOWN PAYMENT  
FREE WATER TEST

**HANSS ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
You Take No Chance—When You Buy From Hanss

**Your Credit is Easy to Check**  
When you pay your bills by check—on time—you establish the best possible credit wherever you deal. And that's an asset to anyone. It's so easy to pay bills by check and maintain your balance, with the added advantage of our check-by-mail service. Drop in at any one of our convenient offices today—open an account—and be a credit to yourself!

**Central Trust Co.**  
MAIN OFFICE 15 E. MAIN ST.  
Brighton Off. 1806 East Ave.—Williamson Off. Williamson N. Y.  
Member Federal Reserve System and F.D.I.C.

**++ HOLY CROSS ++**  
481 LAKE AVE.  
REVEREND LAWRENCE B. CASEY, Pastor  
MASSES SUNDAY—7:30, 9:00, 10:30 A. M. 12 Noon

**AGOSTINELLI BROS. MARKET**  
8 LATTI RD. CHAR. 348

**BUD IVES MEAT & GROCERY**  
Open Evenings and Sunday  
REAL ESTATE SALES  
LISTINGS 2832 Lake Avenue Char. 2563

**FERGUSON HARDWARE & ELECTRIC, Inc.**  
1311 LAKE AVENUE  
Electric Wiring — Fixtures  
Westinghouse Appliances  
CHAR. 85

**WELLER MOTORS, INC.**  
BODY AND PLYMOUTH CARS  
Dodge JOB RATED TRUCKS  
New 1947 Cars and Trucks Now on Order  
Fine Selection of Used Cars  
2525 N. W. of Thomas Ave. Charlotte 586

**MackENZIE BROS. DAIRY**  
Pasteurized Milk & Cream  
29 Station St. Char. 258

**MASTERS BROS. MARKET**  
FINE MEATS  
613 LAKE AVE. CHAR. 83

**O'Brien's Food Market**  
8 River Street  
Char. 504

**SLATE BLACKBOARDS**  
• SAVE YOUR CHILDREN'S EYESIGHT  
• RESURFACE YOUR SLATE BLACKBOARDS

**W. J. CONNOLLY SANDING CO.**  
384 DELAWARE AVE., BUFFALO, N. Y.  
Lincoln 4443 Box 22, Angola, N. Y.

**OLD RANGER BEER AND ALE**  
QUALITY IS OUR BEST ADVERTISEMENT

The Finest and Most Carefully Selected Malt and Hops That Nature Can Produce  
Try A Bottle Today!  
HORNELL BEER

Delicious Beyond Words  
A Malt Beverage  
Brewed in The Sparkling Soft Water of Old Ranger Spring  
KDK CREAM ALE

**HORNELL BREWING CO., INC.**  
HORNELL, N. Y. — Tel. 25

**SAINT CHARLES BORROMEO**  
— MASSES SUNDAY —  
630, 8, 9, 10:30 A.M. — 12:15 P.M.

**REICHENBERGER'S MEATS GROCERIES**  
Clemens 2160  
DIAMONDS  
BULOVA - GRUIN  
HAMILTON - ELGINS

**J. F. JONES CREDIT JEWELER**  
DEWEY AT RIDGE

**Father Higgins YARDSTICK**  
See "Must" with Harg Retarders  
PAGE 1

**WATCH REPAIRING 5 DAY SERVICE \$5**  
Cleaned, Adjusted, New Triple-Seal Crystals, Case and Straps Replanned. 1 Year Guarantee.  
If Charlie Moran can't repair your watch, he'll give you a liberal allowance on a new one.  
**MORGAN'S**  
18 WEST MAIN STREET  
Small Orders Returned Promptly

**Events Have for YOUR Wedding—**  
A PERSONAL BOOKLET  
**"THE MASS on the DAY OF MARRIAGE"**  
The complete Nuptial Ceremony and Mass for your priest to present to your guests at the Church. Six lines of imprinting, including names, dates, Church and address, will appear on cover of this booklet.  
**100 Copies for \$4.00**  
The added touch of this booklet will make your wedding ceremony most complete.

**Religious Gifts for the Bride and her Attendants**  
Prayer Books - Stationery  
Rosaries - Statuettes  
Bible Personal Book  
**"MY WEDDING"**

**WOLPERT'S Landscape Service**  
LAWNS  
• Graded and seeded.  
• Sodded for Full Plant.  
• Irrigation.  
• Fertilizer, Mow, & Weeds.  
Mon. 1:00P.  
47 CAROLINE ST.

**GEO. B. ELKINS & SONS**  
Decorating & Painting  
(General Contractor)  
Expert on Marble, Oil Painting, Stucco, Wall-paper, Sanitary, Imported Wall Paper & Fabrics.  
1410 CLEVELAND RD. ROCHESTER, N. Y.

**FRANT'S INC.**  
ONE HUNDRED SUPPLY STORES  
150 GLENN AVE. N. IN FRANKLIN ST.

**Sibley's**  
HERE'S THE LATEST ADDITION TO  
**SIBLEY'S EXCLUSIVE ARTTONE FAMILY**  
**Artone Radio-Phonograph**  
at \$129  
AND AVAILABLE ON OUR CONVENIENT PAYMENT PLAN

**SIBLEY, LINDSAY & CURR CO.**

...the most significant American Russian Church under move designed to bring the influence of Moscow.