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# German Bishops Charge: 40,000 Men Vanish On Arrest by Reds

Berlin (NC) — Not only more than 2,000 youths but also an estimated 40,000 former German soldiers released by British and American officials have been arrested by the Soviets and have disappeared, the German Bishops declared last night in their protest to the Allied Control Council, it is indicated by the full text which has been released.

Among approximately 2,000 German youths recently arrested by the Soviet secret police in the course of these past few months, there even was a child 11 years old, the Bishops' statement declares.

The statement is signed by His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, in his capacity as chairman of the Fulda Conference. It states that the former German prisoners of war were recreated and subsequently deported by the Soviet when they reached their former homes located in the Russian zone of occupation.

# RED CAPTIVE MISSIONARY SAID DEAD



REV. JAMES L. DEVINE

sume the Blessed Sacrament, then see. But that evening the Communist gang of 23, armed with rifles and pistols, invaded his rectory and took him prisoner.

The Communists took \$200 which the priest had in his possession, then forced him to write a letter to his superior asking for ransom money before taking him prisoner. The letter was entrusted to one of the villagers, who was told to return with the money within five days and if he showed up with Nationalist soldiers, Father Devine would be killed.

But the soldiers already were on the trail of the gang and two Nationalist groups converged on the village from different directions a few days after the capture. Luckily when Father Devine was captured, no attention was paid in the excitement to his little stone church, where the Blessed Sacrament was reserved. A Chinese Catholic from Chungking, acting on instructions from the Klenow mission headquarters, came to the church and consumed the Blessed Sacrament.

The Chinese Government did everything possible to effect Father Devine's release. It posted a reward of \$5,000 in U. S. currency for any soldier or civilian able to bring about the missionary's safe return. Then all news about the kidnapping stopped until the tragic news was received here.

Spain (RNS) — The Diocese of Madrid-Alecia has completed the process for the beatification of Claudio Lopez y Bru, second Marquis of Comillas, who is regarded as the founder of Catholic Action in Spain. The process will now be submitted to the Sacred Congregation of Rites in Rome.

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**Royal Wedding**  
 The Duke of Norfolk, Britain's leading Catholic layman, who as Earl Marshal and Chief Butler of England is the man directly responsible for all the arrangements for the wedding of Princess Elizabeth, the future Queen, and Lord Philip Mountbatten of Westminster Abbey, Nov. 26. The duke, who is the descendant of an English martyr, represented Britain at the coronation of Pope Pius XII. Since 1920, he has arranged and presided at all royal functions and the ceremonies of the House of Lords. (NC Photos)

**Catholic Housewives Hold Prayer Relay**  
 Chicago (RNS) — Three hundred Catholic housewives in a Chicago suburb have banded together to provide "a relay of prayer" for world peace and for the checking of world Communism.

The news came in a cablegram to the Very Rev. T. S. McDermott, O.P., Dominican Provincial here. A Solemn Mass of Requiem was offered for Father Devine in St. Vincent Ferrer's Church, where he once was stationed.

Father Devine was ordained in 1934 and after serving at parishes here in Kansas City, Johnson City, Tenn., and Chicago, was assigned to the China mission.

IT WASN'T LONG after he had returned to his post in Sankon, a village in the Fukien Province, last year that he was tipped off by the sheriff about the Communist band searching for him. Father Devine decided to wait until he had offered the Ascension Day Mass, after which he would confess.

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**Wisconsin Bares Religious Groups**  
 Madison, Wis. (RNS) — Wisconsin public school buildings cannot be used by private organizations for religious purposes, according to an opinion by the attorney general.

The opinion was sent by Attorney General John E. Martin to J. Martin Klotzke, president of the Milwaukee State Teachers' College, who asked about the propriety of a religious organization near the campus using college buildings for classes of religious instruction.

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**Portugal Aids Children**  
 Lisbon (NC) — Approximately 400 more underprivileged children are expected to arrive in Portugal in the near future for a prolonged vacation under the care of the Caritas welfare organization here.

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**Sp. O'Hara Secures Prisoners Release**  
 Washington (RNS) — The Most Rev. Gerald P. O'Hara, American bishop who is serving as regent of the Apostolic Nunciature here, has secured the release of four Rumanian Catholic leaders recently imprisoned for alleged political activities.

Other leaders still under arrest were granted better treatment, in some cases being permitted to exercise in the prison courtyard, through Bishop O'Hara's intervention.

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