Leningrad Church Aide Arrested, Ousted by Reds

Paris (NC)—Madame Bovard, [illegible] of the Church of Notre Dame in Leningrad, Russian capital, has been returned to France after being arrested by the Soviet authorities, and subjected to questioning and prolonged imprisonment in prison in a vain attempt to force from her admission of espionage.

It appears evident that the arrest and expulsion of Madame Bovard from Russia is in reprisal for the expulsion by France of Russian officers charged with having had a part in the agitation of workers during the recent strikes in France.

Madame Bovard had lived in Leningrad since 1931. During the war she was decorated with the Order of the Defense of Leningrad and the Order of Valiant Work for her conduct during the siege of Leningrad.

She was arrested December [illegible] on the ground that, as guardian of the French church, she had been engaged in espionage. Her apartment was searched and she was taken to Moscow to confess to the charge, which she denied, to prison, where she underwent a lengthy trial behind closed doors and was sentenced to 25 years in a labor camp.

Her release was secured only after her health had been shattered by the rigors of her imprisonment. Her arrival in Paris was described by her as a "miracle" which she attributed to prayers.

Her release was secured only after her health had been shattered by the rigors of her imprisonment. Her arrival in Paris was described by her as a "miracle" which she attributed to prayers.

Upon her release she was interrogated for several days by an attaché who awakened her each time she appeared to doze. All the questions asked Madame Bovard concerned her activities as guardian of the Church of Notre Dame. Her interlocutors reproached her for having acted like a French woman, although the Church of Notre Dame had been nationalized and was now the Church of Kovensky in consequence of which, it was alleged, she should have conducted herself entirely as a Russian citizen.

Madame Bovard was also asked, she reports, to state that the French priests who had at one time served this church had lived corrupt lives. She was threatened with deportation to Siberia if she did not admit that she had engaged in espionage. Finally she was conducted to the Moscow aerodrome, where, in the company of several other French deportees, she was placed on a plane and taken to Berlin.

Elmira Catholic Highlights

By ANN BERRY

Yearbook Progress

A meeting of the staff for the 1948 edition of the Echocolan was held last Tuesday after school. During the past week the students have been going to Goldman Studios for their class pictures which will appear in the yearbook. Thursday, pictures of the various clubs were taken at school.

Friday Quizzes Day

Friday was rather a noisy day as quizzes offered taking informal pictures of various groups of students. With each time no exception the yearbook is progressing and promises to be bigger and better.

French Club News

The French III class in keeping with the old French Tradition for celebrating the Epiphany, held a party last Tuesday afternoon. In France each family bakes a cake in which there is a bean, a nickel and a thimble. The one who gets the bean is chosen queen; the one who gets the nickel will be rich, while the thimble means that the recipient is destined to be an old maid. Ann Marley was crowned Queen while the rest of the class drank her health with colas. It was generally conceded by all that French students are nice.

Cornell Lecture Of Fr. Masse In Barnes Hall

Ithaca — Rev. Benjamin L. Masse, S.J., writer and labor-management relations expert, will lecture in Barnes Hall Auditorium, Cornell University, Monday, Jan. 12 at 4:30 p. m. His topic will be "The Prospect for Labor in 1948 and Some Moral Aspects of the Taft-Hartley Act." The lecture is open to the public.

Acting editor of *America*, national Catholic weekly, Father Masse is executive editor of The Catholic Mind and professor of industrial ethics, Xavier Labor School, New York City.

Father Masse is personally acquainted with a good cross-section of leaders of labor and management as well as with government officials concerned with industrial relations.

On a number of occasions his advice has been sought by senators and representatives who are interested in labor legislation. His original proposal to place the guaranteed annual wage on a practical basis has attracted attention in Washington and generally throughout the country.

The noted Jesuit has been lauded in various parts of the country. Writing in the Detroit Free Press, Malcolm W. Bingay on Oct. 20, 1946, stated: "My favorite economist these days is not a politician or a business man. He is Father Benjamin L. Masse, the brilliant Jesuit who writes so soundly for the weekly review *America*."

Father Masse will be a principal speaker and conduct forums at the New York State Conference of International Printing Pressmen and Assistants Union of North America in Rochester Saturday and Sunday, July 17 and 18.

Sodality Meet Lists Father Lord Talk

St. Louis—(NC)—"The Director's Approach to the Sodalists," a discussion led by the Rev. Daniel A. Lord, S.J., of the central office of the Sodality of Our Lady, will open the tenth annual meeting of the sodality's diocesan directors at the Queen's Work here, Jan. 20.

Other members of the sodality central office staff who will speak at the three-day meeting are the Revs. J. Roger Lyons, S.J., Fred L. Kimmerman, S.J., Thomas S. Bowdern, S.J., and Miss Dorothy J. Willmann.

Expert

FATHER MASSE

Montani Dies Famed Musician Well Known Here

Nicola Montani, choirmaster and composer, a respected authority on liturgical music, died at his Philadelphia home, Jan 11, at the age of 66.

A frequent visitor to Rochester and well known by priests and religious of the diocese, Mr. Montani was a pioneer in the promotion of Gregorian music and the improvement of music for church use. Especially interested in parochial school music, he lectured and taught in many sections of the country. He spent 14 years gathering material and editing the "St. Gregory Hymnal" which has been an official Catholic choir book in many dioceses.

BORN IN UTICA, and educated in the music schools of Europe, Mr. Montani was organist of St. John the Evangelist in Philadelphia for 17 years, musical instructor at several colleges and for 4 years choir director of Immaculate Conception Seminary, Darlington, N. J.

With the late Rev. John Potter, famed professor of music at St. Bernard's Seminary and the Rev. Leo Manzetti, he organized the St. Gregory Society of America in 1914 which led the campaign to restore Gregorian Chant and improve Catholic music in the United States and Canada. He was the editor of the Catholic Choirmaster from 1915 to 1942. The late Pope Pius XI rewarded Montani for his music work by the title of Knight Commander of St. Sylvester.

Protestants' Criticism of Church Seen Veiled Attack in Priest's Talk to Vets

Current criticism of the Catholic Church was scored as a veiled attack on the loyalty of American Catholics by the Rev. John J. Nacca, assistant pastor, of St. Francis Xavier Church, in an address made Wednesday evening to war-veteran members of the Coniglio-Maiola Post, American Legion.

Father Nacca directed his talk against the newly formed group of "Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State" which is headed by Dr. Edwin McNeill Poteat, president of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School.

Protesting that the recent alarm over the "separation of church and state" is a subtle accusation that Catholics are disloyal and unpatriotic, Father Nacca told the veterans that history proves the loyal allegiance of Catholics to the ideals of American democracy.

"America was discovered by a Catholic," Father Nacca said. "Catholic missionaries built and staffed the first schools on this continent. Catholic France helped us win our independence. Is there anything unpatriotic in these events? Thousands of American Catholic boys fought and bled and died in the war. Is that your idea of disloyalty?

"The self appointed judges of Catholic loyalty," Father Nacca declared, "would do well to know that Catholics by building, staffing and supporting their own schools are saving their fellow-taxpayers untold millions of dollars each year. And they fulfill the requirements of all states, one of which is loyalty."

THE FOLLOWING is a portion of Father Nacca's address:

"Dr. Poteat, the president of the Colgate-Rochester Divinity School is unduly alarmed over the possibility of a fusion of the government and the Catholic Church. He also dreads any state aid to Catholic schools. In all this there is a veiled accusation (and it is an old one) that Catholics are disloyal and unpatriotic to their government. It would be profitable and instructive for Dr. Poteat to consider the following:

"America was discovered by a Catholic, Christopher Columbus—and there was nothing unpatriotic about that.

"The great Catholic missionaries (loved by Catholics and non-Catholics alike) labored zealously for the instruction and civilization of the Indians. What is unpatriotic about that?

"The first school for higher education on the North American continent was built and staffed by Catholic missionaries. Is that unpatriotic?

"IN THE REVOLUTIONARY WAR, Catholic France sent men, money and supplies to help us win our independence. George Washington wrote to the Catholics of his day: 'Your fellow-citizens will not forget the gallant part which you (Catholics) took in the accomplishment of their Revolution and the establishment of their government or the important assistance which they received from a nation (France) in which the Roman Catholic faith is professed.'

"In the Civil War, Abraham Lincoln sent the Catholic Archbishop John Hughes to Europe to do his best to prevent foreign leaders from joining the Confederates. Evidently, Lincoln considered Archbishop Hughes and his Church trustworthy and loyal.

"Thousands and thousands of Catholic boys have fought, bled and died in World War II for our country. Is that your idea of disloyalty, Dr. Poteat?

"As regards our system of Catholic schools, Dr. Poteat and the other SELF-APPOINTED judges of Catholic loyalty or disloyalty would do well to know that Catholics, by building, staffing and supporting those schools are saving their fellow-taxpayers untold millions of dollars each year. If and when any state aid comes, it will be a "drop in the bucket" compared to what we have saved and are still saving the government. Our Catholic schools, moreover, are in full agreement with the requirements of the various states, and one of those requirements is loyalty.

"THE PREFENCE OF AN American representative at the Vatican gives some alarmists reason for fear and worry. Why should an American representative at the Vatican lead to the conclusion that the Pope is trying to run our government? The United States has a representative in Canada. Does that mean that Canada is going to run our government?

"I know of a Catholic soldier who was killed in action, and shortly before he died, he willed all his money to the poor, struggling missionary priests of China and India. For his Church he gave his money. For his country he gave his life. Is that unpatriotic?

"One of the saddest chapters in American history is the one dealing with Native American-hate, Know-Nothingism, and the Ku Kluxers. A similar movement of intolerance and bigotry is now sweeping America. But big - minded Protestants, like Catholics, view with contempt this black spot in our current history.

"The Protestant historian, Dr. Schaff, was certainly right when he said: 'The Roman Catholic Church is bulwark, from day to day with all possible calumnies.'

"ALL OVER AMERICA there are thousands of Catholic mothers dressed in black—mourning their sons who were killed in action, in defense of their country. I suggest that Dr. Poteat, and others who shared his sentiments, walk into any of those homes. The sorrowful, grieving mother will say: 'Why do you insinuate that we Catholic are not loyal? I gave my son for my country. He gladly died for his beloved United States. Why do you labor under the delusion that he and I and the likes of him are disloyal? What else must we do to prove our patriotism? The real danger to America is atheistic Communism. But you don't see that. You are too busy accusing Catholics like me and my boy of disloyalty. You are too busy chasing shadows.'"

350 Join Third Order

Brookline, Mass. — (NC)—A group of 350 men and women, which may be the largest class ever received into the Third Order of St. Francis in this country, has been received by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston at the chapel of St. Francis Friary here.

The Order's new members came from every section of greater Boston and its environs, and included many young people.

One Family Ransoms 7 Orphans

Five little Chinese orphans have been ransomed from starvation and death through the generosity of the DeCocq children of St. John's parish, Clyde, as their Christmas gift to the Christ Child.

Henry, Margaret, John, Joseph and Theresa LeCocq each contributed five dollars for the ransom of a Chinese baby. Henry and Margaret had already ransomed two other orphans, so this brought the family total to seven.

The money has been sent to the Very Rev. Msgr. John E. Randall, diocesan director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

The DeCocqs donate their own savings to China because they believe it is most needed there, and they say that more souls are gained for Christ.

The family has particular devotion to the Blessed Virgin and recite the Rosary every evening. All, with the exception of little Mary Ann, a kindergarten pupil, go to Mass and the Sacraments weekly.

The family has been in St. John's for the past six years. Previously, they were members of St. Peter and Paul's Church, Rochester.

Social Action Units Organized

Washington—(NC)—Formation of an Inter-American Catholic Social Action Confederation has been announced here by the National Catholic Welfare Conference's Inter-American Bureau, whose director, Richard F. Pattee, is secretary of the organizing committee for the new organization.

The new confederation, which will hold its first general meeting in the late summer has the membership of Catholic social action secretariats of 14 American countries. Steps are being taken to bring into the organization groups in the remaining countries of the western hemisphere.

The Rev. R. A. McGowan, director of the N.C.W.C. Social Action Department and secretary of the Catholic Association for International Peace, both of which have become affiliated with the confederation, described its formation as "the most forward-looking step taken in the field of Catholic social action in the American hemisphere."

History Book for Japanese Endorses 'Ape-Man' Theory

By REV. WILLIAM A. KASCHMITTER, M.M.

Tokyo —(NC)— Considerable anxiety is felt among Catholic educators in Japan over an official textbook on the "History of the West," just released by the Ministry of Education here. The book reveals from the first an evolutionary and progressive bias.

The story of the cavemen and their simian ancestors is dealt with in a book that is reminiscent of H. G. Wells' "Outline of History," which was recently recommended by the Ministry as the most fitting handbook for the study of Christianity.

Stress is laid throughout on the allegedly progressing emancipation of the human mind from the unscientific and irrational forces of superstition, so that the story of man from the first "ape-man" down to Voltaire, with a eulogy of whom the book part closes, is one of naturalistic evolution in which, of course, traditional Christianity is merely a thing of the past.

The Gospel account of the life of Christ contains several glaring inaccuracies and is dismissed with the words: "Today none of us can believe in such stories as the Gospel tells about the birth of Jesus, His miracles or His resurrection."

The persecutions of the early Christians in Rome are explained as being caused by their intolerance and their secret meetings which were regarded as a menace to the state. The rise of Christianity is attributed exclusively to the political alliances of the Roman Popes with the emperors, while the Council of Nicea is described as the victory of an "Athanasian sect" over the Arians under political pressure.

Aside from occasional meager words of praise for certain artistic and scholastic attainments of the Middle Ages, the story of this period is told with disconcerting brevity.

A thing that aggravates the situation is that though private schools are free to use their own textbooks, the shortage of paper renders the production of such books practically impossible, and as a result the present volume enjoys a virtual monopoly.

Oust China Reds Asks Msgr. Freking

New Orleans— (NC) —Expulsion of Communism in China is the "major problem facing the Catholic Church and the entire world," Msgr. Edward A. Freking, national secretary of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, declared in an address at the annual meeting of the Catholic school teachers of the Archdiocese of New Orleans.

"Unless Communism is driven out of China in the immediate future," the Monsignor said, "the entire Far East will fall under the influence of the Red doctrine. There is a big war being staged — the Far East today, the fight of education against the power of arms. There will be many deaths and many martyrs in the conflict, but education will win. It must."

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