

Prague Archbishop's Card, Griffin Sees Challenge In Czech Coup

Vienna — (NC) — When the political crisis in Czechoslovakia was in its most acute stage, Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague directed an appeal to the people to maintain law and order, to remember their own responsibility and to preserve their own country's heritage.

Czech Seizures Of Church-Owned Lands Increase

Vienna — (NC) — Further expropriations of church-owned land were decreed by the so-called revision commission of the Ministry of Agriculture, according to reports from Prague received here.

The property of the Bishop of Hradec-Kralove, measuring 5,577 acres, was cut down to 123 acres of farmland and a park area comprising about 52 acres. This decision was taken although a representative of the Czech People's party pointed out that the diocese maintains a seminary and a number of charitable institutions from which all the people benefit.

The Czech religious order of Knights of the Cross with the Red Star, whose members suffered severe persecution under the nazis, were left with only 123 acres of their 10,133-acre estate. In addition, they were permitted to retain a castle and a chapel at Dobruška. The property is encumbered with debts totaling about \$360,000. Also seized were 494 acres owned by the 494 acre-owned by the Knights of Malta.

THE PREMONSTRATENSIAN monastery at Zely, in southeastern Bohemia, lost agricultural land totaling 5,357 acres. This decision was taken just a week after the consecration of the Rev. Vilus Tajovsky as the new Abbot of the monastery.

The expropriation decisions are based on the declared principle of the government that only those who actually till the land may remain its owners.

Mongolian Reds Slay Missioners

Rome — (RNS) — Reports of increasing persecution of Catholics by Communists have reached the Vatican from Mongolia where priests of the Immaculate Heart Missioners, a Belgian congregation, assisted by 230 native priests, work among 290,000 Catholics in six dioceses.

The reports state that four priests were killed in the Swantze diocese between October 1946 and December, 1947, and that 18 foreign and Chinese priests are now in prison.

In the Chenfang diocese, four priests have been murdered, according to reports. Many other deaths at the hands of Communists have also been reported, but so far no accurate estimate of the number killed in the Swantze and Chenfang dioceses has been made available.

The full text of the Archbishop's appeal was published by the Prague daily "Lidova Demokracie," copies of which have arrived here. The newspaper was the official organ of the pro-Catholic Czech People's party. Subsequent reports from Prague state that the management of the paper has been taken over by two dissident leaders of the People's party who are willing to continue collaboration with the leftists.

The text of the Archbishop's appeal is as follows: "It is only natural that in times of excitement more anonymous letters reach me than is usual. People write to me saying what to do and what not to do, what I ought to do and what not. An anonymous letter writer usually expresses himself very confidentially. Thus, one anonymous writer urges me: 'Don't be silent, Archbishop, you must not be silent!'"

"I AM NOT silent. The good Czech people know me. I did not betray my nation; I shall never betray it and I know how to suffer for my nation. Therefore, I speak: 'All I charge you all — for the dear blood of our brothers and sisters shed in concentration camps and prisons, for the tears and sorrows of Czech women and mothers — pull yourselves together. I know that you do not desire to arouse fratricidal struggles, but in this course they are unavoidable. Remember your own responsibility.'

"(2) Maintain law and order. You have all agreed in principle to the program of socialization. You have all worked for it. By legal means you will attain reforms — even the most radical one — of a durable nature. Read history. Consult your history books.

"(3) Do not destroy the heritage of the 'Liberator President' (Thomas G. Masaryk) and of the 'Builder President' (Edvard Benes). You yourselves have given them these names. Their work is recognized by the whole nation. They have worked and suffered for you and for your descendants. You have always trusted them. Ingratitude is painful and usually followed by curses.

"I should like everyone to see what is going on inside my heart. I sincerely sympathize with all, with all the people, with the whole nation. 'Will my words be also sincerely understood?' 'I do hope they will.'

New Tokyo Rector Tokyo — (NC) — The Very Rev. Dr. Theodore Geppart, S.J., noted sociologist and professor at Catholic University here, has been named rector of the university. He succeeds the Very Rev. Bruno Bitter, S.J.

1492 Found Ireland Snakeless ST. PATRICK AT NUREMBERG



Looking at the first printed reference to the time-honored tradition that there are no snakes in Ireland, is this interested group at St. Bonaventure College Library, St. Bonaventure, N. Y. Fr. Ignace Hercher, O.F.M., librarian, points out the reference to Thomas J. Wrenn of the Bronx, N. Y., and Patricia Kelley, Allegany, N. Y. It is found in a rare volume, "The Properties of Things," by an English Franciscan, named Bartholomew, who wrote the work in 1240, a sort of Biblical Encyclopedia and compendium of medieval science, natural history and geography. The library has a copy of the first printed edition of the work, published in 1492, at Nuremberg, Germany, city famed for its war-crime trials. (NC Photos).

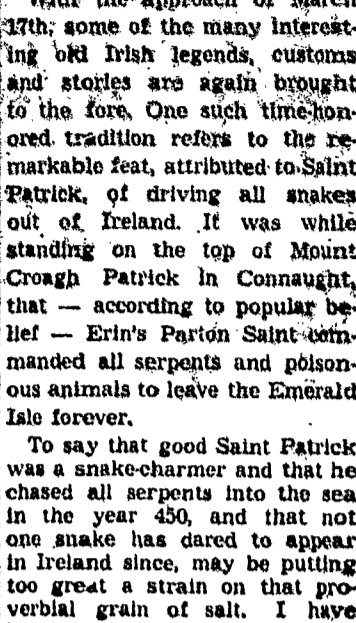
Religion of Convert's Five Children Involved In Suit

Morrison, Ill. — (NC) — The religion of five children, ages 3 to 11, born to Roy and Rosetta Sharp of Rock Falls, are involved in the suit. The children are now in St. Vincent's Catholic Orphanage, Freeport, Ill. County Judge Walter Stevens has ordered that they be transferred to Mt. Carmel Home, situated north of Morrison, a Protestant institution. The father of the children, and St. Vincent's orphanage have appealed from the decision of the judge.

The children were given to the custody of their father after the Sharps were divorced September 4, 1946. As he was unable to provide a home for them the father asked the county court to declare them dependent.

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Coadjutor



Most Rev. Thomas A. Connolly, Auxiliary Bishop of San Francisco since 1939, who has been named Coadjutor with right of succession to Bishop Gerald Shaughnessy, S.M., of Seattle. Bishop Connolly was the first native of California elevated to the Episcopacy. (NC Photos).

In an early fifteenth century edition of a book entitled "The Properties of Things," the first mention is made of the fact that there are no snakes in Ireland. An English Franciscan named Bartholomew wrote this work in 1240; in 1492 it was printed in Nuremberg, Germany.

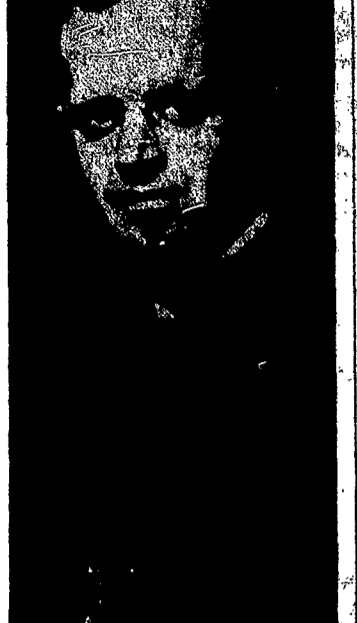
To quote from this rare volume, Bartholomew tells us in his medieval Latin that "In Ireland there are no snakes, no frogs, nor are there any poisonous spiders." That good St. Patrick was the cause of the extinction can more or less be assumed.

Bartholomew the Englishman, as he is sometimes known, doesn't stop there in his description of what appears the result of a vast open season on all harmful animals, amphibians and bacteria in Ireland. "But all the land is so contrary to venomous beasts that if the earth of that land be brought to another land, and sprong one the ground, it slayeth serpents and toads. And if serpents or frogs be brought into Ireland by shipping, they die anon."

"The Properties of Things" by Bartholomew, which may be seen by visitors at St. Bonaventure's Library, was probably the most prized reference book in medieval times, and is actually the first Biblical encyclopedia ever printed, and St. Bonaventure's Library is the proud possessor of two editions, both printed before Columbus set sail for America.

March Mission Intention New York — (NC) — Because the people of Japan have for centuries been used to unquestioning obedience, the country's working people can easily fall victim to Marxist totalitarianism, Bishop Thomas J. McDonnell stated in commenting on the mission intention of His Holiness Pope Pius XII for March: "That Christian principles be followed in dealing with Japanese working men."

Solidarity Need Stressed By Holy Father



Following the scientific discoveries of our days, the world has become too small a place to consider as remote the problems caused anywhere in the world by agitation, misery and oppression. He admonished the faithful to exert energy from the recognition of the solidarity of nations brings them closer together and also teaches them to know that the sufferings of an unfortunates are their own.

In presenting his credentials, the new ambassador of the Argentine Republic, he said, "The Holy Father is widely known and appreciated in the Argentine Republic. This mission, he said, unites the lofty spiritual ministry of the Vatican with its preponderant role in developing and maintaining western civilization. He recalled the efforts of the Holy Father during the war."

After a trial said to have caused much unfavorable comment in Trieste, five Benedictine monks of Italian descent were sentenced by a Yugoslav court at Buje in Istria on black market charges.

One monk was sent to prison for four years with labor, while the others were condemned to terms of from eighteen to six months' forced labor without imprisonment. All the prisoners were deprived of their civil rights for one year and the property of the Dalia monastery was ordered confiscated.

Both defense and prosecution counsel formally protested the court's sentences, the former considering them too heavy and the latter, too light. Prior to the opening of the trial, a group of foreign journalists charged they were refused permission to attend the hearings.

Argentine Hierarchy Stresses Vote Duty Buenos Aires — (NC) — "One should vote for candidates who in truth appear better able to obtain the greater welfare for religion and country, though they may not belong to one's own party, because public welfare is superior to party welfare."

This counsel is contained in a recent letter of the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops of Argentina to their people, reminding them of their duty to vote and to adhere to basic Christian principles in their political life.

Irish Priests To Australia Dublin — (RNS) — The Most Rev. John F. Dalton, Archbishop of Armagh and Primate of All-Ireland, will leave by plane for Australia soon to attend a practical meeting of the conference of the Archbishops of Melbourne.

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