

Hiroshima Memorial Church Planned

By REV. WILLIAM A. KASCHMITZER, S.J.
 Hiroshima, Japan—(NC)—A nationwide architectural contest for plans for the memorial church to be built in Hiroshima in memory of the atomic bomb victims has been announced in the secular press here.

The project originated late in 1945 by the Very Rev. Hugo LaSalle, S.J., Superior of the Jesuits in Japan, arose from the basic idea that the victims of the Hiroshima holocaust, by their heroic voluntary deaths, were really hastening the end of the war and thereby saved countless others on both sides from death. Those who survive should therefore do something to honor the memory of the deceased.

Father LaSalle mentioned this project of a memorial church in his report to Pope Pius XII some time a year ago and the Pope commented favorably on the plan.

IN VIEW of the special character of the proposed church, it has been ruled that the designs submitted must be (1) modern, (2) Japanese, (3) religious and (4) commemorative. The commission chosen by Japanese artists may be judged from the fact that some of those asked to serve as judges declined the honor because they would rather be participants.

Italy Waits Social Reforms

(Continued from Page 1)
 that "the same hopes expressed the hope that the victorious parties leave no stone unturned to effectuate those social reforms that will remove the Communist menace by removing the weapons of discontent and misery which Communists cleverly exploit for political gain."

High Church leaders in Rome feel that any assistance which the Italian government and people receive should not be directed merely toward relief but toward economic reconstruction which will mean work instead of the idle security of unemployment. Father Sullivan reports, as viewed by the Vatican, the elimination of excuses for Communist activity in Italy is the number one problem to be faced by the new government in a country which has expressed its unmistakable desire to have no truck with Communist forces.

The fact that the Communists polled 31 per cent of the national vote is indicative of their strength and lends support to the Vatican's anxious concern for some solution of Italy's economic ills.

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There is every reason to fear that unless the new government, which Premier de Gasperi is again expected to lead, makes some headway in restoring Italy's shattered economy, the way will be open for the Communists to stage a comeback.

Premier de Gasperi himself has pledged social reforms and aid as well as the Vatican's crying need for social reconstruction in his war-torn nation.

Commenting on his party's signal victory at the polls, he said: "Without doubt, Italians were first of all firmly determined not to be re-entrusted by the Communists. In the second place, they realized that the members of the government are honest men and have been trying everything possible to bring about the country's reconstruction and improve the economic situation."

DESPITE THE widespread fear that the efficient Communist organization might attempt an armed uprising following its election defeat, there has been no serious disturbance.

Communist chief Togliatti has also promised that his party will respect the election verdict and attempt no violence. Cautious and wary observers, however, point out that Communist action is frequently at variance with Communist promises.

ALTHOUGH UNITA and other Communist newspapers claimed victory in the first hours following the election they now admit defeat but are continuing their pre-election attacks against the United States, the Catholic Church and the Italian clergy. The latter are accused of fraud in the elections by the Communists.

"The shameless Communist slander against the clergy is so strikingly insistent and played up by all the left-wing press in an identical manner that one cannot help sensing in it the bitter disappointment of defeat," said Oscaratore Romano, official newspaper of Vatican City.

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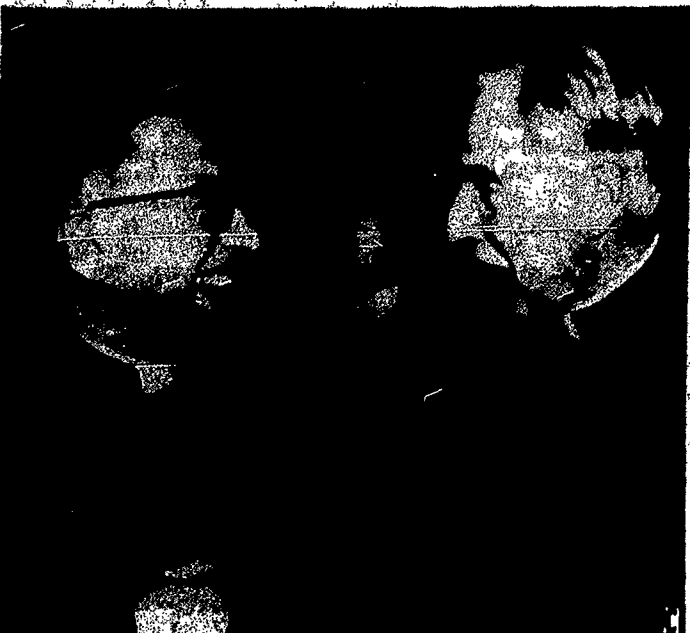
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FRIENDS MEET IN JAPAN



Leading figures of the occupation and of Japanese cultural life attended the reception for the Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., of Georgetown University, in Tokyo, held by the Allied Jesuit Alumni of Tokyo and the Catholic Journalists' Association. Father Walsh is pictured on that occasion with the Most Rev. Paul Marella, Apostolic Delegate to Japan. Archbishop Marella was formerly Auditor of the Apostolic Delegation in Washington. Official photo by U. S. Army Signal Corps. (NC Photos).

Red Threat Forces Four Missionaries To Return

By CHARLES J. MCCARTHY, S.J.
 Peiping, (NC)—Four veteran missionaries swept this region during the past year, the Catholic mission has set up relief centers at Sanshengkung and Ningxia.

In the central and northern parts of the diocese, extending through Ningxia and western Suiyuan provinces, relative peace prevails. Bishop Carlo van Melckebeke, I.H.M., of Ningxia, reports that the 22,000 Catholics in these parts manifest increased religious vitality, frequenting the Sacraments more than ever, and that there are significant movements to conversion among the student and professional groups.

Canadian Gifts Rise
 Quebec—(NC)—A total of \$617,000 was collected in Eastern Canada for the Propagation of the Faith during 1947, an increase of \$40,000 over the previous year. The Montreal Diocese led with contributions totaling \$138,000.

French Bond Drive
 Paris—(RNS)—A state-sponsored bond drive is to be launched on behalf of the French Federation of War-Devastated Churches and Religious Buildings to speed up reconstruction. It was announced here.

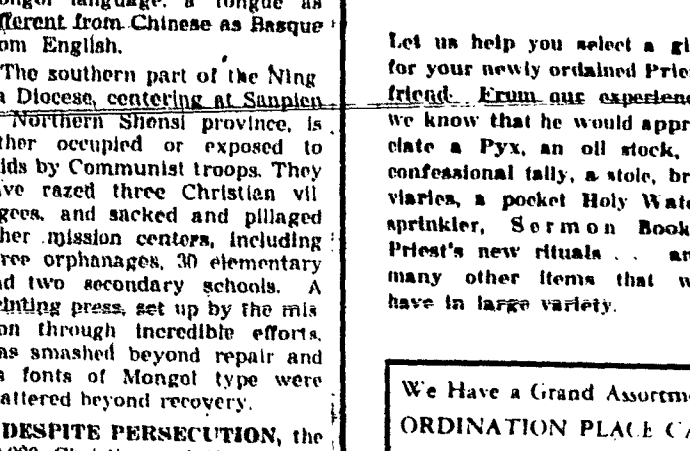
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Red Advance Through China Imperils More Missionaries

Peiping, China—(NC)—Two American Mothers General have arrived in Shanghai to survey their missions in China. They are Mother Madeleine of the Hospital Sisters of St. Francis, Springfield, Ill., and Mother Bartholomew of the School of Sisters of St. Francis of Assisi, Milwaukee, Wis. Both have institutions in Tsinan, which they expected to visit until the city was threatened by Communists some days ago.

At the same time it became known here that a group of American Sisters are being flown out of Kaileng, Honan province, at the urging of the United States consulate.

According to refugees arriving from Szeppingka, Bishop Louis Lapierre of the Quebec Foreign Missions remained in that city when it fell to Communists. With him were five Chinese secular priests and two Canadian Victorian Brothers.

Refugees also say that the Rev. Alphonse Caouette, Paul Emile Lachapelle and Lucien Lafond are being held under house arrest at Paichengtzze, while the Rev. Antonio Bonin, missing for almost a year, is believed to be held in a Communist jail at Liaoyuan. The Rev. Laurent Beaudoin is held under house arrest at Tuchuan; three Chinese priests, Fathers Wong, Li and Yu, are also prisoners of the Reds.

Last October Sister Changshun, Chinese nun taking care of the mission and orphanage at Pamiencheng, was subjected to a Communist mob trial and word has been received from her since. Two Canadian Missionary Sisters of the Immaculate Conception are believed to have remained at Taonan, four were stationed at Paichengtzze.

ON GUARD

(Continued from Page 1)
 frame of mind. Hungry and jobless Americans are no different than hungry and jobless Italians. And standing in the shadows of our nations, too, are those same disciplined agents of Moscow who threatened Italy—the Communists. American Communists are patiently waiting for the depression which so many of us blandly say is coming.

An American depression is the hour the Communists are waiting for and it is the hour that many Americans are doing nothing to prevent.

It is defeatism to surrender ourselves to the necessity of a depression—a disaster which will bring untold suffering to millions of Americans. American Catholics, therefore, should also sense the importance of the Church's program of social justice.

Methodist Group Hails Court Decision

Saratoga Springs, N. Y.—(En-Champaign, Ill., public schools thus assic accord" with the recent Supreme Court decision barring religious instruction from Troy Methodist Conference here.

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