

Priest Escapee Tells of Tito's Mass Graves

Chicago, June 25—(NC)—"Every country in Yugoslavia has its mass grave, dug up by the communists for the so-called enemies of the state. It's only by this wave of terror Tito rules."

This charge was leveled here by the Rev. John Poulik, secular priest who escaped from Yugoslavia to Italy in 1945 when Marshal Tito officially took over the Balkan country.

The priest, now a teacher in an Illinois college, escaped the same day he was condemned to death for preaching against atheistic communism from the pulpit.

Attending the annual meeting of the Franciscan Educational Conference here, the soft-spoken priest declared:

"THE COMMUNISTS have killed more than 1,600,000 men, women and children in Yugoslavia. And Tito boasts of this record to keep the people in fear. There's one mass grave at Kovevski Rog, Slovenia, with 28,000 persons murdered by the communists. The population of this area is 330,000."

Father Poulik said he was condemned to death for preaching on the Encyclical, "Divini Redemptoris," of Pope Pius XI, which vehemently denounced atheistic communism. He added that about 300 priests were killed by the Yugoslav Reds for preaching against communism in the diocese of Ljubljana, Slovenia. About 80 priests were tortured and later executed without trial he said.

The Roman Catholic Church in Yugoslavia is permitted to operate "legally," but it is considered an act against the state for a priest to sanctify any day as a holy day, including a Sunday, as the state requires the people to work all days.

"All work is prescribed by the state," Father Poulik said. "Farmers must produce a prescribed quota for the state or else the farm is taken away or the farmer liquidated. No worker has a car. All cars were confiscated by the state. In fact, a shoemaker who owns a machine is denounced as a capitalist and his machine is confiscated."

BIG DAY IN LITTLE LIVES



Kathleen Ann Lally, 5, receives her "sheepskin" from her pastor, Very Rev. Thomas M. O'Conner, O.P., at the graduation exercises of St. Catherine of Siena Church, New York. Other proud kindergarten "graduates" await their turn. (NC Photos.)

Pagans, Buddhist Priests At Japanese Mission Mass

Himeji, Japan—(NC)—This pagan city of 250,000 people, with only about 15 Catholics, was touched by the arrival of four Immaculate-Heart of Mary missionaries to aid the people's moral and religious rehabilitation.

Under the leadership of a pagan businessman the city decided on a public demonstration to show its gratitude to the Belgian missionaries. After three months of painstaking preparation the demonstration took place. It included a Solemn Pontifical Mass.

Since there is no Catholic church in Himeji, the Mass was celebrated in a public playground in front of historic Himeji Castle. Over 10,000 people attended. (On the left) a group of Shinto and Buddhist priests clad in the full regalia of their office.

"No greater honor could have come to this city," Mayor (Iwami of Himeji) declared, "than that official representatives of the Catholic Church should take up their abode among us and decide to bear with us the good and bad of the present hour. We entrust and need your guidance and may I assure you of our wholehearted cooperation."

WHILE AT THEIR posts only a short time, the four missionaries, entrusted with the care of more than two million souls in the (Himeji) area, have already received requests for the erection of churches and hospitals. Trusting that Divine Providence will furnish the resources necessary to fulfill these requests, the Rev. Joseph James IH.M. superior, stated: "Japan is ours if we want it to be ours."

The priests have also been flooded with requests for instructions by prospective catechumens. "Our immediate problem is to catch some sleep," Father James commented. "They even come at night." One of the priests, the Rev. Joseph Spae, who spent three years and eight months in a Japanese concentration camp during the war, is a favorite of the some 120 Japanese wounded veterans at the local hospital. These former soldiers, many of whom spent two years in Siberian camps, are obsessed with despair. Suicide among them is not uncommon. Enamored by Father Spae's cheerfulness and friendly ways, some of the men have taken a happier outlook on life. A few have begun taking instructions in the faith.

Catholics in U.S. Now 26,075,697

New York—(NC)—The Catholic population of the United States, Alaska, and the Hawaiian Islands numbered 26,075,697 as of January 1, 1948, according to The Official Catholic Directory for 1948, which has just been issued here by P. J. Kennedy & Sons, publishers. This represents an increase of 807,524 over the last year.

The 23 U. S. archdioceses showed increases totaling 316,122, while the 101 dioceses recorded gains of 491,342. Thirteen sees reported no changes in their Catholic population, five showed slight decreases, while substantial gains were recorded in the remaining 106.

Archdioceses with Catholic populations of more than 1,000,000 are Chicago with 1,735,868; Boston, 1,242,503; New York, 1,183,417; and Philadelphia, 1,011,064. Brooklyn continues as the diocese with the largest Catholic population, 1,153,467, with Pittsburgh in second place, 760,887, the Directory reports.

Comparisons indicate an increase of 1,277 in the number of clergy, bringing the total of priests to an all-time high in the United States of 41,747. Professed Religious include 7,335 Brothers, an increase of 397, and 141,083 Sisters, an increase of 520. The Directory lists the full-time teaching staffs of all educational in-

crease of 196, and 890 parishes without resident pastors, a decrease of 33. In addition, there are listed 5,617 chapels, 4,942 missions and 1,705 stations where Mass is offered more or less regularly.

Despite post-war conditions, the new Directory reports 11,239 separate educational institutions, an increase of 100. The total includes 60 diocesan seminaries; 278 seminaries, scholasticates and novitiates of religious communities; 221 universities and colleges for men and women; 1,637 diocesan and parish high schools; 795 private high schools; 7,724 elementary parish schools and 524 private elementary schools. There also are 129 protective institutions with 14,580 children under instruction.

An aggregate of 4,138,695 American youth in all grades are under Catholic instruction, an increase of 306,468 over 1947 statistics. An increase of 114 per cent in two years in enrollments in Catholic universities and colleges was reported. The enrollment jumped from 175,128 in 1947 to 220,228 in 1948—a numerical increase of 45,106. This shows that Catholic universities and colleges have more than doubled their student bodies in the last two years—from 102,655 to 220,226.

STUDENTS in seminaries and novitiates reached a record high of 23,701; the 1,637 parish and diocesan high schools recorded enrollments of 320,921, an increase of 5,503; private high school students numbered 185,470, a decrease of 2,073; elementary parish schools counted 2,198,212 students, an increase of 83,206, while students in private elementary schools numbered 76,628, an increase of 5,069.

The Directory also reports that 1,078,436 public school children received religious instruction in 13,671 classes under Catholic auspices. It records that children entirely dependent on Catholic care totaled 64,373, a decrease of 506, who included 44,216 in 365 orphanages and 20,157 in foster homes.

The Directory places the number of converts who entered the Church in 1947 at 113,214, an increase of 14,586, and notes that this was the second time of record that more than 100,000 converts had been received within a year. The number of infant baptisms is recorded at 907,294, an increase of 168,980; the number of marriages, 394,593, an increase of 48,821; and the number of deaths, 262,991.

'Know-how' on New Church Buildings Told by Experts

Chicago—(NC)—Warnings against building churches and schools in "disintegrating" communities and counsel on how to build them according to the latest scientific methods have been given to pastors and heads of Catholic institutions at the National Catholic Building Convention and Exposition now in session here.

The meeting was opened by His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, and honorary chairman of the convention. The sessions, believed to be the first of their kind in the history of the Catholic Church in the United States, are sponsored by the College of St. Joseph's of Indiana, Collegeville, Ind., as an educational service to Catholic builders.

DESCRIBING the modern community as one in "a fever," which has not been subdued, and where "main traffic arteries" go around the neighborhood, Homer Hoyt, an authority on construction and real estate, stated that schools and churches should be erected in the center of the modern community "so residents needn't cross heavy traffic arteries in their ordinary daily travels."

Hoyt told Catholic builders to keep an eye on their communities and to build in new neighborhoods protected from disintegration. This is especially true, he said, for hospitals, churches and schools which have a life of centuries and should not be left stranded by movements of their patrons.

Radiant heating, which feeds warm water through pipes imbedded in the floor or ceiling, not only gives better heat at reduced fuel cost, but does away with bulky radiators and the smudges of dirt the leave on walls and ceilings, he stated.

NATIONAL RETREAT HEADS



Elected at the annual meeting of the National Catholic Laymen's Retreat Conference, held at St. Louis are the following officers for the coming year (from left): Joseph P. Goergen, Chicago, treasurer; David J. Askin, Jr., K.S.G., Brooklyn, president and Daniel E. Morrissey, Chicago, selected secretary. (AP Photo) (NC Photos.)

36 Priests, 34 Nuns Still Held by Siensien Reds

By REV. CHARLES J. MCCARTHY, S. J. (Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Peiping, China, June 24—(Radio)—Thirty-four nuns and 36 priests and Brothers are still being held by communists in the city of Siensien, China, and are not free to leave the city, a group of 25 nuns, released from the city after long negotiations with the Reds by American and French consular officials, reported on their arrival in government-held territory.

The group of nuns released includes five American and five Canadian Sisters. They were escorted on the last 30 mile lap of their journey to freedom from Siensien to Tientsin by American consular officials.

THE NUNS reported that all the outlying convents of the Sisters of Our Lady of Purgatory and of the Presentandine nuns, who compose the group still at Siensien, have been closed by the Reds and the attached schools expropriated. The nuns now in Siensien are all Chinese.

Five of the priests at Siensien are being held in solitary confinement, the nuns related, adding that the communist authorities have not yet imposed final sentence on them. The rest of the priests and Brothers are compelled to do manual work and are at present engaged in harvesting wheat. Only an 88-year-old French Brother is exempt from manual labor, the Sisters stated.

In-between-time the priests may preach and teach, but only within the confines of Siensien. They have repeatedly asked Red authorities for permission to visit the Christian centers in the immediate vicinity of Siensien in response to the request of the people for Mass and the Sacraments. They hope that this permission will be granted, the Sisters said.

The Siensien cathedral, whose doors were sealed by the Reds early this year, was reopened in March. Catholics now throng to Mass in greater numbers than in normal times, the nuns stated. Of the 2,000 attending Mass on Sunday...

Priest Marries Ten Brothers and Sisters Kenyon, Minn.—RNS—Father Anthony Louis Roman, Catholic priest here, has officiated at the marriages of ten of his brothers and sisters.

He began the marrying marathon on June 24, 1936 when his oldest brother, Henry, was wed to Florence Zrust at Waconia, Minn. Father Roman had been ordained to a weeks earlier at St. Paul Cathedral.

He performed the tenth wedding ceremony on June 5, 1948, at Chicago, Minn., where his brother, John married Charles Meuwissen of Cologne.

Lay Apostolate Warned on Use Of Ballyhoo Art

Indianapolis—(NC)—Although advising the use of "good old side-walk American" as the brand of language that all in this country understand, Bishop James A. Griffin of Springfield in Illinois warned members of the Catholic Evidence Guild at their 15th national convention here, against the use of "ballyhoo art" in the field of their apostolate.

"You must always remember," the Bishop said, "that you are preaching the imperishable faith of the Incarnate Son of God, not selling soap. Huckster ballyhoo must be avoided. The same ballyhoo employed by the purveyor of soap flakes or breakfast food must never become the vocabulary of the lay apostolate."

THE BISHOP said such conduct shocks Catholics, annoys intelligent Protestants and hampers distorted conceptions of the great Christian truths among others. The ballyhoo in the form of advertising and "too suddenly" avoid the jargon of billboards.

"For years now," the bishop continued, "many modern laymen have been going on the frequent assumption that they must make people want what they frequently don't need. As a result their paralytic promises are oftentimes suspect. The pitchman at the country fair who convinces the gullible farmer that she can't do without his clever carrot grate, knows full well that she'll probably discard it within a month. The horse of baldheaded hopefuls who purchase every possible gadget which claims to restore lost youth and fill of the people to whom you will try to bring your glorious message of Christian Hope adorned with the eternal promise of Jesus Christ. These must be your approach through advertising, the ring of undeniable dignity and the grateful reserve which will indicate to the skeptic that it isn't just another exaggerated scheme on 'Flanboy' and religious slogans have the same phony ring to the American ear as the overwrought ballyhoo for a carnival side-show."

SPEAKING ABOUT the group of nuns who were released, Mother St. Paul of the Cross (formerly Juliette Janelle of Manchester, N. H.), superior of the group, related that the Red authorities aided their departure from Siensien and courteously permitted them to bring all their personal effects and many household and chapel goods.

Some of the Sisters are not in the best of health because the food was poor, the nun said. However, while the Red authorities thoroughly searched their convent last October and walked through it at will several times thereafter, she continued, none of the Sisters was directly molested. Communication with even Tientsin was strictly forbidden by the Reds, the Sisters said.

"Until we received orders from our Superior General in Canada and from our Bishop telling us to come out we were willing to remain at Siensien," Mother St. Paul of the Cross said. "Life there is not convenient, but patience is part of our vocation." The letters transmitting these orders were held up for two months before delivery to the Sisters.

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