

Prelate Describes Tito Persecution

Denver—(NC)—"For me there are only two roads; one would take me back to my archdiocese; the other is that of an exile, it can end only in Heaven." These were the words of the Most Rev. Gregory Rozman, Archbishop of Ljubljana in Yugoslavia, a refugee from Tito's reign of terror, living example of the "freedom" the Red leader gives religion.

Against those priests who remain, Tito uses other means of persecution. For example, the Red dictator has withdrawn state support; also he has made it extremely difficult for the clergy to find support elsewhere. They may neither collect nor ask for offerings. Only what comes to them freely, in the church itself, may be accepted.

The instruction of children is also prevented — by a method no less obvious and crude. By law, children up to 14 years of age may receive religious instruction in the schools (all state owned now) if their parents request it. But simply by denying teacher certificates to the catechists, the guarantee of instruction is made worthless. And the scheduling of youth group activities on Sunday morning is a simple way of keeping the children from Mass.

THEIR PARENTS' practice of religion is interfered with by recruiting labor battalions for public works — and scheduling the work for Sunday morning. Permission for evening Mass has been given by the Holy See, however, in order to circumvent this particular tactic of the persecutor.

Archbishop Rozman does not think there is anything of serious moment to the Tito-Stalin "break." If there were, Stalin would have "cracked down" on the puppet who aspired to pull his own strings in a Balkan federation.

BUT THIS HE knows. Before Tito's seizure there were 700 priests in the Ljubljana archdiocese. Now there are only three or four hundred. Among the secular clergy alone, 87 have been killed or have disappeared and 152 are now refugees. He has no complete figures on the losses among the religious clergy, but knows definitely that 12 Vincentian Fathers and 20 Salesians have lost their lives. Of 277 parishes, 48 are without priests.

The teaching sisters have disappeared entirely. Turned out of their schools when the State seized them, the nuns were left to shift for themselves.

For a time nuns working in hospitals were allowed to con-

'First Round' Lost in Asia, Observer Says

Washington—(NC)—An appeal for scholarships in American Catholic colleges for young men and women of Southeast Asia was made here by Bob Rambusch of New York, the new international secretary of the Young Christians Students, who recently returned from an informative and sometimes precarious five-month tour of India, Burma, Siam, Indo-China and Indonesia.

"WE'VE LOST the first round" in the struggle to give right direction to the burgeoning nationalist movements which are the prime interest today of the hundreds of millions of souls in Southeast Asia, Mr. Rambusch believes. The best chance for Christianity now, he declared, is to help form tomorrow's political, professional and intellectual leaders for a free Burma, Viet Nam, Indonesia, etc.

It is "unfortunate but true," according to the YCS leader, "that Christianity has become identified with the fiercely hated colonial powers, and that as long as those who must bring the message of Christ to the brown and yellow-skinned Asiatics are Europeans, the cause of Christianity will languish."

The people sent from Europe to administer and exploit the commercial resources of the Asiatic colonies have been Christians in name, he said, but in their practical dealings they have ignored Christ's teaching that all men are brothers, and in these days when the interests of the European powers are in conflict with flaming nationalistic feelings, the bitterness bred in those who have been objects of contempt for years has spread to an unreasonable hatred for all things European.

"THE COMMUNISTS know how to reach these people," he explained. "They send able natives to Russia for training and then bring them back to do their work." Rambusch says that while the vast majority of Southeast Asiatics do not have the slightest knowledge of or sympathy for communist doctrine, the revolutionary nature of communism and its promises of a better day ahead has gained it great numbers of followers.

Rambusch said that the number of American Catholic missionaries in the Southeast was pitifully small in comparison with the American Protestant effort. In one instance, he related, he was asked by a missionary to appear before the latter's flock and tell them that there actually were 2,000,000 Catholics in the United States.

"An opportunity now," he emphasized, "is to bring some of the Burmese, Annamite and Indonesian youth over here for professional training. Then when a responsible self-government is finally won by the natives, and they look around for people who can do the work in public health, civil engineering, and other fields these Catholic-trained men and women will be able to come forward. Their influence in the new independent nations will be great."

Another extraordinary thing about the Heaton Norris statue is that a second crown of roses, placed atop the first on May Day this year, is still unwithered.

'I Like My Roses!' Teachers Say Girl of Stockport Roses Is 'Ordinary' and 'Healthily Naughty'

(This is the second of two articles on the 'Stockport Roses')
By JOHN A. GREAVES

London—(NC)—Little Pauline Byrne is "a lovely and loveable child, quite unpretentious in every way, deeply fond of Our Blessed Lady and Her Divine Son." In those words the Rev. Dr. James Turner describes the schoolgirl who placed the famous 'Stockport Roses' on a statue in his little Church of Our Lady of the Rosary at Heaton Norris, Stockport, 15 months ago. That the roses are still garden fresh has become one of England's—and the world's—most discussed phenomena.

The daughter of exemplary Catholics she is "in a child-like way aware of the honor to Our Lady with which she is associated, and distinctly feels privileged." Father Turner said. Her family is not poor, but is highly respectable working class. Her father was not in the armed forces.

"I PICKED Pauline Byrne," he added, "because of her innocence, her beautiful disposition and because her background, her parentage were all that could be desired. She was devoted to Our Lady for a long time before I chose her. Father and mother and younger brother Raymond are definitely devoted to Our Blessed Lady."

Pauline dresses (or rather her mother dresses her), in a very tasteful manner. She is always beautifully clean, her hair beautifully arranged, generally in ringlets, and she commands admiration from all who see her, being a very beautiful child. She is quite unspoiled.

Dr. Turner, ordained in Rome 28 years ago and pastor of Heaton Norris since May, 1940, did not baptize Pauline, but gave her her first Holy Communion on May 27, 1948, the Feast of Corpus Christi.

HIS PARISH he described as "a working class" with about 620 families. It was founded in 1867 and the present, second church was built 30 years later.

Last year marked the golden jubilee of the present church and "it was for this reason that I wanted a crown of roses approximating as nearly as possible to a golden color for the May Day ceremony." The church and mission property was entirely cleared of debt in March, 1944.

When I asked Dr. Turner if he could supply me with a picture of himself for publication, he said, "Personally I do not wish to appear in print and so have always refused all appeals and defended myself from all attacks to get my picture. Pictures of the church are available and about 30 different photographs of the statue have been available. I have taken all these photographs myself, at varying periods, for historical purposes later on. All these pictures have been available to the many thousands who have visited the church."

FROM LAST OCTOBER up to the end of July, according to press reports, over 100,000 visitors from outside had been to the church, some 20,000 petitions from all parts of the world had been placed at the foot of the statue, and Dr. Turner had received over 100 letters a day.

On four successive days last week he told me, "I had a visitor from America, who went on from here to Lisieux, thence to Lourdes, and thence he intended going to Fatima. Three gentlemen from Holland, two ladies from Texas and three Canadians also visited me."

THE PHENOMENON has its disadvantages: the church has to be guarded by parishioners to protect visitors from racketeers and to ward off anti-religious fanatics who according to news papers reports have threatened to smash the statue. Dr. Turner himself is also reported to have been threatened personally.

The second crown of roses is from a different nursery to the first Pauline Byrne, whom some



Statue of the Blessed Virgin in Stockport, England, with its crown of real roses, which remain unwithered since they were placed there at the annual May Queen ceremony 18 months ago.

A Look at Labor Who Is 'Labor'?

By A. C. TERRY

Labor Day is the one day in the year when all of us hold our hats to the "little fellow," the man who works for a moderate wage of salary. For the rest of the year the honor and the riches of this life go to others, but on Labor Day the worker is a king. He is a king because his fellow Americans recognize that without him our country could not long be great.

Who is this "labor" whom we venerate on September 6th? One member of the House of Representatives summed it up in this way:

"You talk of labor on the floor of the House as though labor was composed of villains, thieves and cut-throats. Who is this labor you talk about?"

"Sixty-eight million American men and women — your neighbors, your friends, the people who live next door to you. People who pay 80 per cent of the taxes of the United States. The people who support 75 per cent of the armed forces in time of war."

"The people who have built this great country and who have contributed their time and their money and their blood in every important moment of its existence."

"The people who today merely ask to be treated as Americans and seek a continuation of the guarantees of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights."

BUT LABOR is more than this Congressman says it is. Labor means more than the John Jones and the Jane Smiths who work for a living. Labor is more than the sum of individual workers.

In a real sense labor means organized labor. It means labor unions. It means the AFL and the CIO and the countless independent labor organizations.

Without trade unions labor would not have advanced to the point of greatness. Without organization the individual American workers would be like little children waiting to be served crumbs from the tables of the mighty and the powerful. Without their unions they would not be free, in the good and moral meaning of that word. Their rights would not be as respected as they are today.

Without organized labor there would be no Labor Day. Only since the American workers, through unionization, have made it themselves important in our society.

Company Donates Shoes
COLUMBUS, O., (NC) — Three thousand pairs of new shoes were donated by the Williams Manufacturing Company of Portsmouth, O., to the "Shoes For The Shoes" campaign being conducted by the Catholic Youth Council of the Columbus diocese.

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Probe Minister's Anti-Draft Plea

Albany (RNS) — Speculation is a life here that a nationwide investigation by the Department of Justice might be touched off as the result of a Sunday sermon by an obscure Methodist minister who urged young men in his congregation to refuse to register for the draft.

The speculation arose after Irving H. Higbee, U. S. attorney at Syracuse, said he would turn over the text of the sermon to the Criminal Division of the Justice Department for an opinion on its contents.

IN ADDITION, a probe may be launched into the activities of an organization known as the Peacemakers, of New York City, an offshoot of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, national religious pacifist group.

The sermon was delivered by an unaffiliated minister, the Rev. Ernest R. Bromley, who had been invited to deliver a sermon by the Rev. Robert Filmore, pastor of Nassau's Grace Methodist church.

His sermon, entitled, "The Great Idea," advised men to refuse to register for the draft or make weapons of war in complying with "the Christian course."

FOR MUCH of the material in his sermon, the minister drew on a letter being circulated by the Peacemakers urging young men to refuse to enlist in the armed forces. If they are now in them, and refuse to register or render service under a conscription act.

Meanwhile, residents of Nassau have launched a series of local protests against the controversial sermon.

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