

Rumania Reduces Catholic Dioceses

Washington (NC) — Translating into action a decree that all ecclesiastical dioceses must have a definite number of faithful, arbitrarily set at 750,000, the Rumanian government has published an order authorizing only four Catholic dioceses in the whole country, according to a Vatican Radio broadcast heard here. Rumania formerly had 10 Catholic dioceses — five of the Latin and five of the Byzantine rite.

THE DECREE invoked by the communist authorities to limit the number of Catholic dioceses and that of other religious denominations was part of a list of statutes issued by the Ministry of Religious Affairs during the early part of August, according to the Vatican broadcast.

The statutes require church bodies to obtain the permission of the Minister of Religious Affairs before holding a general congress or assembly and require approval of local authorities for all religious conferences or meetings, the Vatican Radio said. They demand that relations with religious bodies outside the country be only of a religious character and that no Church group or representative may conduct relations with foreign ecclesiastical groups, institutions or officials except with the approval of the Minister of Religious Affairs and through the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the broadcast stated.

AS A CONSEQUENCE, Rumania's Catholic Hierarchy may not communicate with the Holy See except through the Rumanian Foreign Office, headed by arch communist Ana Pauker.

Another part of the statutes according to the broadcast, states that no foreign church body may exercise jurisdiction over the faithful in Rumania and that church groups in Rumania may not exercise jurisdiction outside its boundaries.

It is "obvious," the broadcast said, that these laws violate a large number of rights. Other sources indicate the new statutes also stipulate that all church officials must be Rumanian citizens and that major ecclesiastical authorities must be confirmed by the State, demand that pastoral letters be submitted to the Ministry of Religious Affairs for approval two days before publication, bring relief funds, such as Catholic war relief, under state control, and outlaw political parties based on religious beliefs.

HNS in NYC To Hold Polo Grounds Rally

New York (NC) — Mass prayers for world unity will feature a mammoth Holy Name Society Rally in the Polo Grounds here on Sunday, Oct. 10. Candlelight ceremonies and a tableau "The Five Joyful Mysteries of the Rosary," will highlight the gathering before thousands of spectators.

Their Dad Made This Home Altar



The children of Mr. and Mrs. J. M. Flaherty, of White Plains, N. Y., are pictured before the little "home altar," constructed by their daddy in his hobby-woodworking shop in the basement of his home. Family devotions in the home and the building of shrines in the home have long been advocated and encouraged by the National Council of Catholic Women and the Family Life Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Catholic Labor Group Reports Gain in Canada

Hull, Que. — (NC) — The Canadian Confederation of Catholic Workers now has a total membership of 2,218, 12,000 more than last year, it was reported at the 27th annual convention here. Four hundred and fifty delegates, representing most of the 376 Catholic unions which make up the C.C.C.W., were present.

ONE HUNDRED and sixteen resolutions on a wide variety of subjects were adopted. They included:

1. That the Dominion Government be urged to name a Canadian Ambassador to the Vatican. In this resolution it was pointed out that 42 per cent of Canada's population are Catholics and that Canada is one of the few countries with no representative in Rome.

2. That Quebec make religious feast days obligatory holidays in the province.

3. THAT QUEBEC establish a service which would provide cost-of-living figures based on the expenses of an average Quebec family. Figures provided for cost of living index by the Dominion Bureau of Statistics often have been criticized as including items which many families do not use.

It was recalled that the C.C.C.W. has repeatedly called for the banning of the Communist Party in Canada, and has criticized the Dominion Government for not having taken any action toward such a ban.

Formation of special boards which would closely check rising commodity prices was urged. These boards would include representatives of the producers, workers, cooperatives and the government.

Holy Eucharist Congress Held in Mexico City

Mexico City — (NC) — Archbishop Luis M. Martinez of Mexico City crowned the statue of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus in the cathedral here during ceremonies of the six-day Eucharistic Congress. Shouts of "Viva Maria y Cristo Rey" (Live Mary and Christ the King) broke from the faithful as the Archbishop placed the crown of pure gold and precious jewels on the statue.

THE CONGRESS marked the 25th anniversary of the consecration of Archbishop Martinez. Members of the Hierarchy from several foreign countries took part in the ceremonies, among them His Eminence Emmanuel Cardinal Arteaga y Betanourt, Archbishop of Havana, and Archbishop Robert F. Lucey of San Antonio.

The sermon at the crowning service was delivered by Magr. Gregory Aguilar who spoke on the veneration by Mexicans of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

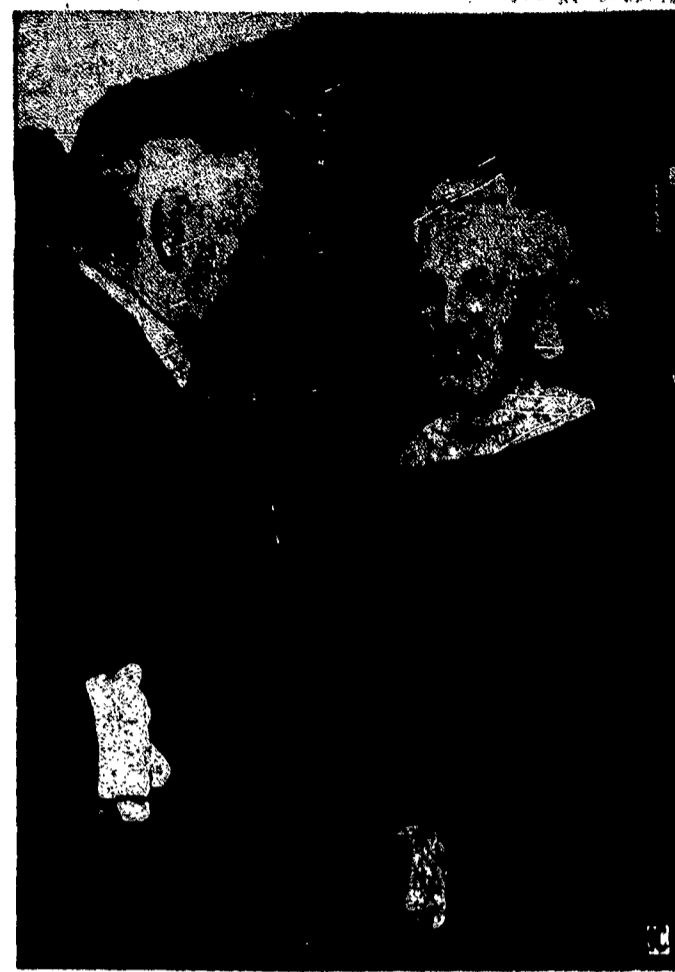
This veneration, he explained, unites devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mary and to the Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pointing out that it was originated by two missionaries of the Sacred Heart, he said it was introduced in Mexico in 1869, revived in 1929, and has now spread all over Mexico so that almost every church in the country has a picture of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

CARDINAL ARTEAGA officiated at the closing services held in the Basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe while 36 members of the Hierarchy occupied places in the sanctuary.

During the congress a message from His Holiness Pope Pius XII was read extending congratulations and best wishes to Archbishop Martinez. The Holy Father granted the Archbishop the faculty of giving the faithful an opportunity to merit a plenary indulgence, under the usual conditions, by attendance at a Mass designated by Archbishop Martinez.

Among the American clergy present at the celebrations were two missionaries of the Sacred Heart, the Revs. Charles Patrick and Anthony Wortmann, who flew to Mexico from Ohio in a small plane operated by Father Patrick. The plane is named "Our Lady of the Sacred Heart." Father Patrick acquired the plane for use in his mission station on Manus Island in the Victoria Apostolic of Rabaul, which comprises New Britain, New Ireland, New Hanover and the Admiralty Islands in the South Pacific.

Irish P. M. Meets His Old Teacher



Pupil and teacher meet after 40 years when Prime Minister John A. Costello of Eire and his former teacher in Ireland, Rev. Brother Michael J. Lannon, of the faculty of Iona College, New Rochelle, N. Y., shook hands on the campus at a special convocation of the faculty there to honor the Prime Minister who is visiting in the United States. Brother Lannon, a golden jubilarian in the Congregation of the Christian Brothers of Ireland, formerly headed colleges in Vancouver, B. C.; Halifax, N. S., and taught in Seattle and New York. (NC Photos)

Shell Fire Shatters Truce in Holy City

By BRO. ANTHONY BERRY

Jerusalem, (via Amman) — (NC) — Whatever may be conditions elsewhere, there is no truce in Jerusalem. The Old City is subjected almost daily to violent attacks with gun fire roaring incessantly day and night. Aerial mines are the latest weapons used by the attackers.

The following religious buildings and institutions have suffered damage in these new attacks: the Latin Patriarchate, which was extensively damaged through a bomb blast; the Casanova apartment of the Sisters of St. Francis of Egypt; the Dominican monastery; the Anglican cathedral of St. George; and the Abyssinian Orthodox church.

UPON MY RETURN to the Old City after a fourweek absence, I find it more stricken and desolate than ever, with littered "protective" flags snapping furiously over religious institutions.

During recent weeks I have traveled through parts of Transjordan, Syria and Lebanon where I had an opportunity to see at close range the plight of some half million Arab refugees. Large numbers of them are concentrated in camps around Zarka, about ten miles west of the Dead Sea, where they live in tents amid the semi-desert plains of Transjordan. Others are being moved to Iraq, where it is feared their faith will be endangered because of the lack of priests, and to the vicinity of Jericho and elsewhere along the Jordan valley.

News that American Catholics have donated \$75,000 for the relief of these refugees, has brought some hope to them.

Catholic Schools Closed in Bulgaria and Rumania

Rome (NC) — Nine Catholic high schools with a combined enrollment of more than 5,000 pupils have been closed in Bulgaria, and confiscated Catholic schools in neighboring Rumania are obliged to devote a large part of their program to the teaching of communist ideology, the information service issued here by the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church reports. The regimes in both countries are dominated by the communists.

THE CATHOLIC schools in Bulgaria are affected by a decree of the National Assembly which orders the closing of all foreign, private and religious schools.

The schools are listed as follows: one at Varna conducted by the Oblate Sisters of the Assumption, two at Plovdiv under the direction of the Assumptionist Fathers and the Sisters of St. Joseph, one at Burgas run by the Sisters of St. Joseph, two at Russe conducted by the Sisters of Notre Dame of Sion, three at Sofia operated by the Christian Brothers, the Sisters of St. Joseph and the Sisters of Charity of Zagreb.

Bulgaria, with a population of seven million, has only around 45,000 Catholics, according to the National Catholic Almanac. In Rumania, the department of

public education has issued a program which aims at installing materialistic principles into the minds of children, the information service reports.

The program began by forcing directors of individual schools to hang portraits of Lenin, Marx and Stalin in places of honor and to cover the walls with communist slogans.

School teachers are warned by Red authorities not to add or subtract a single word from the prescribed textbooks in history, geography, sociology and civic education.

Medicine Institute Formed in Vienna

Vienna (RNS) — An Institute of Pastoral Medicine open to doctors, priests, and medical students, has been formed here in collaboration with the Office for Matrimonial Consultation, conducted by the Vienna Roman Catholic archdiocese.

Dr. Albert Niedermeyer, of Vienna University, was named head of the Institute.

Abp. Hanna Boys' Town Started

San Francisco (NC) — With Holy Water blessed by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, Archbishop John J. Mitty of San Francisco sprinkled the first spadeful of earth at the ground-breaking ceremonies for the Archbishop Hanna Center for Boys at Boyes Springs, about 40 miles from this city.

The center will be a shelter for neglected boys in the San Francisco archdiocese and will be erected at a cost of approximately \$1,250,000 on a tract of 170 acres.

The Holy Water was brought to the ceremony by Magr. Paul J. Sheen of the Catholic University of America, who delivered the dedicatory address.

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