

'Underground Church'

Million Catholics Slave in Siberia

Chicago (NC) — An underground church body of approximately 1,000,000 Catholics is growing in Soviet concentration camps and slave labor colonies of Siberia.

Comprising a "Siberian Catholic Church," which stretches from the Urals across Siberia to the Pacific, are more than 200,000 Poles, 100,000 Lithuanians, 70,000 Latvians, thousands of Ukrainians, Hungarians and the rest German prisoners of war.

THIS WAS TOLD here by Dr. Peter Dauzvardis, Lithuanian consul in Chicago. He said the startling reports came from reliable sources including a Catholic priest who escaped recently from Siberia to Germany.

There isn't any outward appearance of the church in the wastes of Siberia. The Church exists totally underground, as even for making the Sign of the Cross. Soviet guards have shot down persons. The faithful cannot contact the Holy Father — that is illegal.

But the Church exists where the faithful can meet in the forests, mine pits and secret meeting places. There are priests — but without Sacraments holy oils or missals for Masses. The priests are prisoners like the rest of the wretched human beings making up the slave battalions of Russia.

A FEW MONTHS ago according to the reports, at one of the most isolated spots of the U. S. S. R. Chukotski — hundreds of bodies of men, women and children were piled upon the frozen ground and covered by snow drifts. But a man standing nearby in Latin whispered:

"Requiem aeternam dona eis, Domine . . ."

"Eternal rest grant unto them, O Lord," was the prayer and the funeral service as rendered by the man — a priest.

The Church is in action even at night. While guards with machine guns parade under windows of the cabins in the slave camps, the members of the underground church remove pictures of saints from under floors or other hiding places, and join in congregational prayers.



Visiting his "congregation" at Silver Basin Yukon Mines, Keno Hill, Y.T., Canada, the Rev. Henri Huybers, O.M.I., former Army chaplain, with a portable altar packed on his back, is ready to continue his hike through his 40,000 square mile parish.

Missionary Braves Yukon Perils in Sub-Arctic Area

Mayo, Yukon Territory, Canada (NC) — As pastor of a 40,000 square-mile sub-Arctic parish, the Rev. Henri Huybers, O.M.I., is finding almost as much adventure and excitement as when he worked with a Dutch "underground" group during the last war.

The Dutch priest brings the Church to his widely scattered parishioners of 120 white people and 20 Indians, traveling through mountains, bush and along waterways through which thousands of men rushed 50 years ago during the historic Klondike gold strike.

FATHER HUYBERS travels by foot, by Eskimo kayak along the northern waterways and, in winter, by dogteam with huskies and malamutes relieving him of his pack, which consists of a 40-pound portable altar, bed roll, food, and heavy caliber rifle. The rifle is "must" baggage

They Walk Fifty Miles To Mass

Maternity Cost Program Begins At Notre Dame

Notre Dame, Ind. (Special) — A plan to help defray maternity expenses of married veterans attending college has been devised by the newly created Married Veterans Welfare Council at the University of Notre Dame, according to an announcement by the Rev. Alfred Mendez, C.S.C., moderator of the Council.

The Married Veterans Welfare Council at Notre Dame, formed to help solve the social recreational problems of the 500 married veterans at the University has determined by a recent poll that average veteran's costs approximate \$200 per baby.

THE POLL also determined that the average monthly income of a married veteran attending Notre Dame is \$237, and that monthly expenses of the average married veteran's family approximate \$214 — a situation which prevents the veteran from saving enough to build a backlog to pay maternity costs.

The Council plans to raise a fund out of which each couple will be given a certain amount to help defray expenses. The initial fund is to be raised through donations from various organizations in helping married veterans, and will be supplemented by activities to be staged in conjunction with the Notre Dame student body.

Goal of the council is \$5,000. With 100 births expected within the next seven months in families of the Notre Dame married veterans, each couple would receive \$50 toward the maternity bill. Father Mendez pointed out these 100 births would cost the families a total of about \$20,000 and that the Council hopes to aid materially with the fund.

Catholic Plan Eases Canada's Need of Houses

Montreal, Que. (NC) — Six homes have been completed, 94 more will be ready in a few months, another 500 in 1949, and 1,000 in 1950, according to present plans of a cooperative housing group which was organized by the Catholic Workers' League.

HEEDING AN appeal by Archbishop Joseph Charbonneau of Montreal, who has recently voiced concern over housing conditions in this metropolitan city, the Catholic Workers' League took a leading part in preparing the public opinion and emphasizing that workers needed assistance in obtaining houses for themselves.

At the last session of the Quebec Legislature a law was passed making it possible to obtain a loan for the erection of single homes at the low interest rate of two percent. The Government paying the difference to make up the five per cent usually required for such loans.

DOWN PAYMENTS of \$1,400 are required, and the homes so far erected are each valued at \$9,200. However, to members of the cooperative group they are available at \$7,400 each, the system of financing meaning a saving of close of \$2,000. Repayments are made over a period of 30 years at the rate of \$35 a month, this sum including interest, payment of principal and taxes.

The cooperative organization is non-profit. Archbishop Charbonneau, attending the inauguration of the first six homes, suggested that a national housing committee should be formed on the same lines as in Montreal.

Cardinal Mooney Officiates

Abp. Cushing Hits Birth Controllers



The cornerstone to the first provincial house of studies in the United States, St. John's Major Seminary, at Plymouth Mich., is laid by His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit. More than 3,500 priests and laity attended the ceremony. The seminary, which will be staffed by the Sulpician Fathers, will serve the five dioceses of Michigan. (NO Photos)

Mooney (RNS) — Modern Society has degenerated into a "survival of the fittest," Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston, declared here in an attack on advocates of birth control and Americans with "moral pretensions" who seek to impose moral sanctions on "the rest of the world without moral assent in their own country."

ADDRESSING THE National Conference of Catholic Charities, the Archbishop declared that "the struggle to exist a struggle that in our age of abortion and race suicide and inadequate housing seems to begin even before birth, self-oblation seems a senseless ideal."

Asserting that "human life was never held in greater contempt than now," the prelate scored organized groups trying to change the laws of the land and accused "birth controllers, abortionists and mercy-killers" as leaders in the conspiracy.

THE SCOTMAN "jungle ethics in our novels, stage plays and motion pictures" and declared that American efforts to reform brought only foreign cynicism when Americans tried to impose reform at the international level.

Archbishop Patrick O'Boyle of Washington, D.C., speaking on housing said:

"During the war, the genius of America surpassed our proudest expectations in the building of planes, ships and all the implements of warfare. Now that same genius can, if it wishes, be effective in relieving the housing log jam."

"We, on our part, should readily and wholeheartedly join hands with all like-minded citizens in finding the remedy that will prevent the disintegration of family life, which is the cornerstone of our civilization."

On the question of labor, Archbishop O'Boyle declared that "long ago we insisted and continue to insist, that unions are no substitute for the pay envelope, company clubs no substitute for unions, nor philanthropy better than a family living wage."

MOONEY CONSIDERS ALMS London (NC) — An altar erected in memory of Royal Canadian Airforce men killed in the last war was consecrated in the cathedral of Westminster, England, by His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster.

Critic Hopes Pope's Plea Will Improve Church Music

Washington (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII's remarks on church music in the encyclical "Mediator Dei" should be a shot in the arm to the choirs of Catholic parishes today, and they need it, according to Paul Hume, music critic of the Washington Post.

Mr. Hume quotes the Holy Father to the effect that Gregorian chant should be restored to popular use in the parts of the Mass proper to the congregation, and then observes that the music heard in most Catholic churches today is "far from the explicit and implicit spirit" of the Pope's message.

"FEW CONGREGATIONS ever given the opportunity to sing plain (or Gregorian) chant; few choirs sing it, and too often the priests of the church either fail to encourage it or even oppose it," he declares.

"Paralleling this sad fact is the pitifully small list of hymns repeated over and over in most parish churches, few of which are worthy of the time or effort required to sing their saccharine

India Governor Lauds Jesuit Teacher Work

Madras, India (NC) — High tribute to the work of Jesuit educators in India was paid by Sri Rajagopalachari, Governor General of India, in an address at Loyola College here. He spoke at the unveiling of a portrait of Mahatma Gandhi in the college. The Rev. Jerome De Souza, S.J., principal of the college, is a member of the Indian Constituent Assembly.

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the students. "You need not think that I am just telling you a polite thing when I say I am very delighted to see the boys and professors of Loyola College doing and behaving as I expected them to behave."

"Remember that you have great standards to maintain. I have a very high opinion of you and trust you will never fall below that standard. This college is going to produce year after year young people fit to be leaders of the country."

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