

# Cardinal Spellman Releases Letters on St. Stephen Crown Controversy

## Rumanian Reds Slay Priest at Altar

Catholics living behind the "Iron Curtain" are facing martyrdom for their faith. Here for the first time in the American press, Father Sullivan, Rome correspondent of the NCWC News Service and priest of the Rochester Diocese, reports a shocking story of Communist brutality and suppression of Catholics.

By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN

Rome — (NC) — The Red persecution in Rumania has produced its first martyr — a newly ordained priest was shot dead by communist police as he finished his first Mass, according to SICO, information service of the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church.

After his ordination by Bishop John Suci, Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Fagaras and Alba Julia, who is now under arrest, the priest had been assigned to a village church without a pastor.

While offering his first Mass in the church he was approached by police who demanded that he sign a document avowing his "loyalty" to the national church.

His reply to the threats of the police was: "Shoot, because I will not deny my faith." He was shot at the altar in his priestly vestments and died a few moments later.

Together with the story of this martyr's death, SICO reports how the communist regime has struck the final blow at the Byzantine Rite Catholic Church in Rumania with a decree, dated December 1, suppressing all its dioceses, chapters, religious com-

munities and other institutions. All their property will go to the State with the exception of parish property which will be handed over to the dissident Orthodox body.

ANOTHER DECREE by the Rumanian regime has ordered the evacuation of practically all convents and monasteries in Transylvania. Nuns have been told to return to their homes.

Nuns and Brothers working in the recently nationalized hospitals were ordered to discard their religious habits. However, they have preferred to leave the hospitals rather than comply with the order.

The persecution against the clergy and laity of the Greek Catholic Church continues unabated, the information service relates. The exact number of priests arrested because they refused to sign a "voluntary" transfer to the Orthodox Church is not known, but indications are that they are many, SICO says. Those refusing to pass into schism are imprisoned on various trumped-up charges.

THE SPEED WITH which the Rumanian Red authorities are trying to change the people's traditional religious spirit to one of anti-religion is seen in a report received by SICO about the Mayor of Blaj. During a visit to a school he urged the children to discontinue the salutation "Long live the Rumanian People's Republic!" which has been introduced at the end of the war to replace the customary greeting: "Praised be Jesus Christ!" The reply had been "May He always be praised!"

Modeled on this later greeting the communist mayor offered a new one to the children, urging them to greet each other with "God does not exist!" and reply "Indeed, He does not exist!"

# Church in Czechoslovakia Next Aim of Communists

## Writer Fears Catholics To Fail Prelate

By MIAN JORDAN

Basel, Switzerland — (NC) — Fear that the Catholics of the world will fall short of their duty just as badly in the case of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty as they did in that of Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac, is expressed here by Dr. Karl Wick, member of the Swiss parliament and one of the most distinguished Catholic journalists of Europe.

Dr. Wick made his comment in the Lucerne Vaterland, the oldest Catholic journal in Switzerland, of which he is editor. Saying that the two incarcerated prelates are "in their very persons justice that is crowned with thorns, and human liberty hung on the cross," Dr. Wick goes on to complain:

"A world which merely looks on, while millions of oppressed people are confined in old and new concentration camps, a world which finds it difficult to maintain even a merely defensive position against the inroads of communism in the West, such a world does not impress the Kremlin with its paper protests against the arrest of a Cardinal."

"As an influence in the world today, Catholicism does not now represent the strength which should correspond to its numerical power. As world Catholics we are weak, without offensive spirit, without tenacity, without international cohesion."

Dr. Wick says that "it is true that we have an unconquerable and supranational Catholic Church," but, he added, "we also have a very conquerable international Catholicism." Continuing Dr. Wick states:

"The Western world does not face with sufficient strength the destructive forces now threatening. The arrests in Belgrade and Budapest would never have been possible unless the chieftains there had known beforehand that public opinion throughout the world would exhaust itself in hollow paper protests. Jews, Masons, Socialists and Liberals have a sense of world solidarity, one more pronounced, than we should have as Catholics."

"The anti-Christian spirit is now typical of the world we live in, and we Catholics do not command the collective courage to profess our Faith and to act accordingly."

## Cardinal Retutes Budapest Charge

New York — (NC) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, has released the text of three letters clarifying his role concerning the disposition of the Hungarian Crown of St. Stephen.

Budapest communist propaganda has accused the Cardinal of "conspiring" with His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty to prevent the return of the crown, now in the hands of the American Army, to the communist rulers of the country.

IN ONE OF the letters, written a year ago concerning the safeguarding of the crown, Cardinal Spellman gave it as his opinion, based on the views of experts in international law, "that there may be no legal way in which the United States authorities may retain the Crown of St. Stephen and certainly there is no way which is adequate under the prescriptions of international law whereby the crown might be entrusted to the Holy See."

Cardinal Spellman explained in an accompanying "statement of fact" that Cardinal Mindszenty, when he was in America, "expressed the desire that the crown be kept from the communist leaders of Hungary because he regarded it as a religious relic since it was a gift of Pope Sylvester to St. Stephen."

AT THE PRIMATE'S request, Cardinal Spellman wrote to the Secretary of War Robert Patterson and received a reply from Secretary of War Kenneth C. Royall, "who has given me permission to release this exchange of letters."

In his letter to Secretary Patterson, dated July 23, 1947, Cardinal Spellman transmitted the Hungarian Primate's request "to have every possible care taken of the Sacred Crown of Hungary" and "that the Supreme American Military Command if possible safeguard it in this country or entrust it to the care of His Holiness Pope Pius XII."

IN A REPLY, dated August 11, (Continued on Page 6)

## Same Tactic Followed as in Hungary

Reports from Czechoslovakia indicate that Church-State relations in that communist-dominated country are rapidly approaching a crisis which may well become as severe as that created in neighboring Hungary by the arrest of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Archbishop of Esztergom.

With the Catholic press practically eliminated, organizations curbed, distribution of pastoral bars and sermons strictly supervised, communist propaganda organs are working overtime to sow distrust of the Church and her leaders and, following the Hungarian pattern, to create a suitable atmosphere for violent action.

FRAGUE RADIO broadcasts, heard in this country, report that the Central Action Committee of the National Front and other mass organizations are receiving numerous resolutions appealing to the Czech Bishops to make clear their attitude to priests who have been found to be traitors and enemies of the Republic.

Similar resolutions, demanding action against Cardinal Mindszenty during the past few months. From his arrest, the Cardinal pointed out the serious nature of such "resolutions," support for which was obtained by coercive measures, such as threatened loss of employment.

THERE IS EVERY reason to believe that equally obnoxious methods were employed in Czechoslovakia to induce citizens to sign letters demanding "the speedy expulsion of those Roman Catholic priests who, serving the interests of foreign reaction, are undermining our Popular Democratic regime. . . . We are waiting for the reply of the Bishops."

Another broadcast accused Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague of not raising "his voice against those priests who hide behind their robes the assassin's knife" (almost a verbatim repetition of charges made against Cardinal Mindszenty).

THERE WERE also the usual (Continued on Page 6)



CARDINAL SPELLMAN

# THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

60TH YEAR 14 Pages ROCHESTER, N. Y., THURSDAY, JANUARY 13, 1949

## Groups Block Fr. Cannan Named Euthanasia Legal Move

Albany, N. Y. — Mounting opposition from lawmakers, clergy, members of the medical profession and veteran's organizations appeared to have sealed the doom of the legalized mercy-killing proposal made by 379 Protestant and Jewish clergymen from New York State.

Since the State Legislature received a petition signed by the clergymen urging passage of a bill authorizing mercy-killing, the legislators have been besieged with statements from other sources in opposition to the measure.

DR. MORRIS FISHBEIN, editor of the Journal of the American Medical Society, said he was "unalterably opposed to the legalization of voluntary euthanasia," adding "no one yet has been able to devise a law authorizing this act without placing full burden of responsibility on the doctor."

The Medical Society of the State of New York, previously on record as opposed to mercy killing, has not yet taken action on the latest move to legalize it, but the society's legislative representative reiterated the group's stand of "always being opposed to it."

EVEN THOUGH the euthanasia backers have recruited 379 ministers to support their stand, it is an "absolutely false concept" that they represent the common opinion of non-Catholic clergymen, it was stated by a New York ambassadorial official, Msgr. Rome at McCormick.

The clergyman who signed the euthanasia petition, Monsignor McCormick, said "should explain to the public just what kind of ideas, concepts and practices of religion justify the legalization of voluntary euthanasia" and how they can align their position with the Fifth Commandment and with the very first law of nature, which everyone knows is self-preservation."

## Labor Law Plan Urges Cooperation

Washington — (NC) — A six-point program for the improvement of labor legislation was advocated here in a statement issued by the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Signed by the Rev. Raymond A. McGowan, department director, the statement asserts that a new labor law should go "beyond governmental guarantee of collective bargaining and government intervention to settle disputes."

SPECIFICALLY THE statement urged that the new labor law should provide in some way for:

- (1) Inclusion in the preamble of a declaration of the government favoring labor-management cooperation.
- (2) An accepted procedure in the settlement of disputes to encourage labor-management cooperation in the laws and administrative regulations governing the agencies seeking settlement of disputes.
- (3) A FEDERAL committee made up of all departments and agencies dealing with business and labor to search out ways of encouraging business-labor cooperation.
- (4) The calling of periodical conferences of the unions with those segments of business which have passed beyond the fighting stage and believe in cooperating with unions.
- (5) The extension of business-labor cooperation to agriculture and to the professions, all four groups striving for mutual cooperation.
- (6) Extension of this cooperation to specific industries, to regions in states and to cities.



FATHER CANNAN

Immaculate Conception School, St. Andrew's and St. Bernard's Seminaries, was ordained June 11, 1921.

FIRST APPOINTED assistant pastor at St. Andrew's Church, Rochester in 1921, he was transferred to St. Patrick's, Corning, (Continued on Page 6)

## Fr. Mahoney Asks Laity To Examine Federal Aid Bills

Any Federal Aid to Education bill passed by Congress should include what is called "indirect aid to the child in the Catholic school," the Rev. Charles J. Mahoney, Ph.D., superintendent of Catholic schools in the Rochester Diocese, emphasized in a statement issued today.

A request that all Catholic groups "study and be able to defend the Catholic position" was contained in Dr. Mahoney's statement, which is being sent to priests, officers and members of all organizations in the diocese.

"LETTERS TO Congressmen dealing with this important matter," the statement reads, "should emphasize that Catholic schools should receive that which is constitutional, that in a bill for Federal Aid our contribution to American education should be considered and acknowledged."

Pointing out that the President has recommended in his budget an appropriation of 300 million dollars for Federal Aid Dr. Mahoney declared:

"WHATEVER ONE'S views may be in regard to the Federal government appropriating its funds for education, the fact remains that a Federal Aid bill undoubtedly will be passed by this Congress."

While the McCulligan decision has ruled out any direct aid to Catholic schools, it is to our interests to see that any bill passed by Congress includes what is called indirect aid to the child in the Catholic school. This indirect aid constitutes such services to the child as:

1. Transportation service.
2. Health and Welfare services.
3. Textbooks of a non-religious character.
4. Visual aids to education.

## Vatican Recognizes Republic of Korea

Rome — (NS) — The Vatican has formally recognized the new Republic of Korea, according to an announcement in *Osservatore Romano*, official Vatican paper.

## Catholic Schools Save Taxpayers

New Orleans — (NC) — Although only approximately 10 per cent of the Catholic children are enrolled in Catholic schools, the saving to taxpayers by this arrangement is \$100,000,000 a year.

The Rev. W. E. McManus, assistant director of the Department of Education of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, gave these figures at the Archdiocese's institute of the Archbishop of New Orleans here.

OUR GOAL, he said, is "Every Catholic child in a Catholic school," but at present, only half of the Catholic children in grammar schools attend Catholic schools.

He said that the nearly 1,000 grammar and high school teachers attending "that an increased enrollment of 20 per cent may be expected in the next five years," but said this should not detract from the essential task of developing a thoroughly Catholic curriculum.

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## Keating Urges Congress Aid Red-Jailed Churchmen

Washington — (Special) — Congressional and United Nations inquiry into the imprisonment of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary and Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac of Yugoslavia is demanded by Rep. Kenneth B. Keating of Rochester, congressman from the 40th District.

Terminating this outrageous action as "an affront not only to the Church they represent, but to right-thinking people the world over," Congressman Keating called for action which will serve to focus the attention of all nations on this great international and humanitarian problem.

KEATING'S STAND was expressed in a letter to the House Committee on Foreign Affairs, in which he requested the appointment of a sub-committee of inquiry into these Communist outrages.

Honorable Sol Bloom, Chairman Committee on Foreign Affairs House of Representatives

Dear Mr. Bloom:

The purpose of this letter is to request the appointment by you of a special sub-committee to inquire into the arrest and imprisonment of Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary and Archbishop Stepinac of Yugoslavia. The outrageous action of the government of these two countries in incarcerating these two courageous Christian leaders is an affront not only to the Church they represent, but to right-thinking people the world over.

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## Cardinal Spellman Will Visit Havana

Havana (NC) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will attend the Inter-American Week of Catholic Action to be held here February 5 to 13.

## Red Drive Hits Church in Poland

New York — (NC) — Following the pattern set in most Eastern European countries, communist speakers and newspapers in Poland are increasing their attacks on the Catholic Church.

According to a Warsaw dispatch to the Inter-Catholic Press Agency here, which specializes in religious and cultural news from Poland, Alexander Zawadzki, identified as one of the leading Polish communists, warned "the reactionary part of the clergy of acts against the state, against the people's Poland, against the democratic youth organizations."

Speaking at the fusion congress of the Polish communist and socialist parties, he declared: "We shall make the scope and form of our fight against the Church dependent on the future attitude of the clergy toward our peoples state and its 'historical mission of building socialism in Poland.'"

The same agency quotes the Warsaw communist paper *Gazeta Ludowa* as follows: "One must ruthlessly brand all chauvinist reaction and pseudo-religious activity of all those centers which fight against the people's structure. . . . One must continue to strive for the abolition of schools conducted by priests. . . . One must look deeper into the activities of rosary fraternities. . . . Ignorance and pseudo-religious fanaticism must be expelled once and for all from our life. . . . We must immediately decide 'fight against' 'reactionism.'"

The *Przegląd* for January is a Garnet. Bill Thomas has an assortment of Garnet for sale at the price of 10c per copy. Contact Bill Thomas, 111 E. Main St., Rochester, N. Y. — Adv.



Family Communion Sunday brought hundreds of families to the altar rail on the Feast of the Holy Family. Typical of those who responded to His Excellency, Bishop Kearney's diocesan-wide suggestion, are Mr. and Mrs. C. J. Larks and six daughters of 237 Waldford Road, receiving in Holy Redeemer Church, Rochester from Monsignor F. W. Stauder, pastor. A son-in-law and boy friend received with the family.