

Prayers Ask Return Of Britain to Fold

London (NC)—The Hierarchy of England and Wales demanded special sacrifices, including a voluntary return to fasting and abstinence, in a special joint pastoral letter read in all churches in connection with the national General Mission to bring the country back into the fold of the Catholic Church.

Pointing to the spiritual disorder still causing anxiety at home and abroad four years after the end of world hostilities, they urged all Catholics voluntarily:

- 1. To observe every Friday, from the first of Lent, March 4, until the General Mission's end, as a day of fasting and abstinence;
- 2. To observe each week the Holy Hour of Exposition of the Blessed Sacrament;
- 3. To revive, or institute, the custom of family prayer, particularly the Family Rosary.

"The time has come for the Catholics of England and Wales to join in a sustained public profession of their Faith," the letter says. "It is nearly four years since the second world war ended but there is still no peace. It is all too easy to postpone the great exercises of religion until times are what is called normal. But we cannot wait on the rulers of this world. Times of peace will return not through the wisdom of politicians but through the alacrity with which the world turns to the practice of the religion of the Son of God."

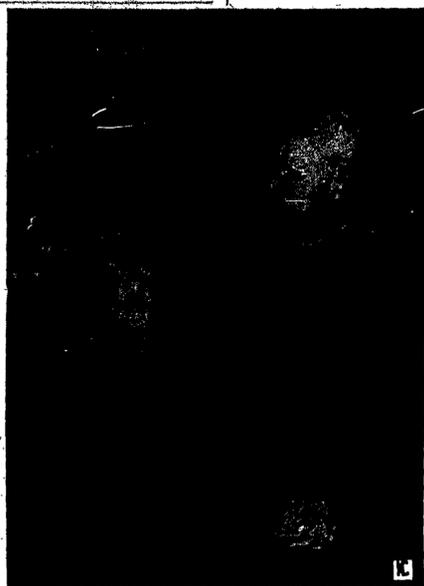
"THE YEAR 1949 will be a year of prayer and sacrifice. In every town and village in the land a mission will be preached. But the words of preachers are not enough. Unless behind the words of the priests there is the generous and united effort of the people, the general mission must fail."

"The call which we make to you today is for prayer and penance. Throughout Europe we see the activity of the powers of evil. To speak plainly, the followers of Christ are called upon to eat out devils now no less than in the days when Our Lord walked with His first disciples."

Population of English Catholics Up 120,000

London (RNS)—An increase of 120,000 in the Roman Catholic population of England and Wales from 1948 to 1947 was reported here by the 1948 Catholic Directory. The increase is centered mainly in the four dioceses of Southwark, Birmingham, Salford and Westminster. Estimated total Catholic population of England and Wales is given as 2,648,000.

Bishops' Relief Fund



In the first of a series of regional meetings throughout the nation, plans were made for the \$5,000,000 campaign of the Bishops' Fund for Victims of War, which will be conducted in Rochester and other dioceses, Laetare Sunday, March 27. At a meeting of regional directors in New York, the official poster of the campaign is viewed by Auxiliary Bishop Stephen J. Donahue of New York (NC Photos).

Bishops' Relief Fund Sets \$5 Million Drive in March

Chicago — Despite efforts of communists to thwart its mission of mercy, War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference will continue to carry on its world-wide program to assist needy refugees, displaced persons and other victims of war. Mr. Edward E. Swanson, executive director of the agency, told a meeting of 50 regional directors of the Bishops' Fund for the Victims of War here.

The meeting was held in preparation for the \$5,000,000 Bishops' Fund campaign, which will be staged in some 16,000 parishes throughout the United States on Laetare Sunday, March 27.

"THE RED LEADERS of the Kremlin," Monsignor Swanson said, "would like nothing better than to see the Catholic Church halt its relief program entirely. Our charity mocks their claim that the Church has no interest in the poor." The Monsignor declared that the Catholic relief program not only affords material assistance

Jurists Assail Hungary Trial As Brazen Crime

Washington (NC)—Fourteen Washington jurists and deans of law schools have denounced "the simulated judicial proceeding, known as the trial of Josef Cardinal Mindszenty," as a "crime against international society, against the Hungarian people, and against the administration of justice."

In a joint statement they describe the "trial" as "a brazen attempt by the Communist party, to prostitute the judicial process for the unjust purpose of fastening guilt upon Cardinal Mindszenty, in order to gain totalitarian domination in Hungary, to destroy religious freedom and influence, and, incidentally, to discredit the United States of America."

"Civilized nations administering justice under universal concepts of right and wrong recognize the necessity for the existence of constitutional law, written or unwritten. Constitutional law protects the individual against the unreasonable exercise of the power of sovereignty possessed by the State."

"But the Hungarian State has been unlawfully deprived of its sovereignty by the influence of Soviet arms and made a captive by the Soviet-dominated Communist Party, which has identified itself with the Hungarian State."

"The Communist Party polled only about 17 per cent of the vote in Hungary at the last free election, but it controls the Hungarian State by measures of force and by means of the Soviet Army. Since the Communist party regards itself as the Hungarian State, there can be no constitutional law so that any opposition to the Communist party, however reasonable, becomes punishable as criminal. This Communist legal doctrine was a significant factor in the Cardinal Mindszenty case."

Redemptorists Mark 200th Year of Rule

Esopus, N. Y. (NC)—Seventy-one hundred Redemptorists in all parts of the world will commemorate the 200th anniversary of their rule on February 25. The congregation is actually 217 years old, founded by St. Alphonsus Liguori in 1732.

To date, the Redemptorist rule has led the way to the supreme honors of the altar for three members of the Order: the holy Father St. Alphonsus of Liguori; St. Clement Mary Hofbauer; and St. Gerard Majella, popularly called the "Saint of Mothers."

Reds Force Rumanians Into Change of Faith

Rome (NC)—Either agree to join the orthodox church or go to prison, suffer physical and moral torture, and watch yourself and your family starve for lack of work and food. This appears to be the rule in Rumania today, according to the Information Service of the Oriental Church bulletin just issued here.

In less than two months, it is believed, the entire Byzantine-Rite Catholic Church has been wiped out, the bulletin said. Formerly there were 1,500,000 Byzantine Rite Churches with an Archbishop, four Bishops and 1,800 priests.

ONE PRIEST WAS imprisoned in a concrete cell, bare, foiled and without food or drink, until he signed a transfer to the Orthodox Church. It was said. Another was tortured 24 hours by electric reflectors until he lost consciousness; when he first regained his senses, he was presented the form and signed scarcely knowing what he did.

Another priest was immersed in a lake and kept there in an attempt to break his resistance. Friends who brought him food encouraged his resistance.

As a rule, when a priest is taken prisoner his Breviary, Rosary and prayer books are taken from him. In prison they are deprived of religious assistance and live and die without Mass or the Sacraments. It is forbidden to bring any food to those in prison.

At first, position, money and other advantages are promised the priest for his signature. If these fail, the commissar uses threats of expulsion, deportation to Russia, prison, or starvation of the priest's family.

Jesuit Students Pick Negro Vet

St. Louis (RNS)—A Negro student, Theodore McMillan, has been accepted into membership of the Alpha Sigma Nu, national Jesuit honor fraternity, for the first time in the organization's history. He is a senior in the St. Louis University's School of Law.

Named by the deans of their schools, members of the fraternity are chosen on the basis of scholarship, service and loyalty. Dean Paul E. Fitzsimons, in naming McMillan, stated he was "an outstanding student and a swell boy."

McMillan, 30, served as a captain in the Army Signal Corps during World War II. He is leading his class scholastically.

HONORED FOR JOURNALISM



Walter Fitzmaurice, (left), White House correspondent for Newsweek Magazine, is shown as he received the 1948 Byline Award of the Marquette University College of Journalism, Milwaukee. Dean J. L. O'Sullivan is pictured presenting the award while the Very Rev. Edward J. O'Donnell, S.J., Marquette president, looks on. The award is given annually to an alumnus who has distinguished himself in the field of journalism. (NC Photos).

Torture Room Method of Reds Told by ND Prof.

Notre Dame, Ind. — Methods used by the Communists to "coerce prisoners to confess to virtually any charges" brought against them are revealed by the Rev. Dr. John A. O'Brien, Professor of Religion at the University of Notre Dame, in an article in the current issue of "Our Sunday Visitor," Catholic weekly. Father O'Brien visited a number of "torture chambers" established by the Communists in parts of Spain in which they had gained control and brought back photographs of such chambers and the instruments used to coerce the victims.

"THE CHARGE has been made by those who are on the inside that the Communist regime frequently resorts to force, torture, drugs and terrorism to cow their victims and compel them to testify in accordance with the wishes of the government," Father O'Brien observes.

Confirmation of these suspicions, according to Father O'Brien, is found in the "chickas" or torture chambers which the Communists set up in parts of Spain during the Civil War, acting under orders from Moscow. Pointing out that these constituted assaults on the mind of the victim as well as the body, Father O'Brien said the Communists brought in a new technique of coercion known as "psycho-techniques" designed to confuse, harass and disorientate the mind.

He describes how the Communists established a "dungeon of hallucinations," placing on its walls dots of various colors, a chessboard, spirals and lines running at various angles.

"THEY ARE 80 arranged as to appear different in number depending upon the angle at which they are viewed," according to Father O'Brien. "This illusion is further deepened by changes in the color of the light in the cell."

The Notre Dame professor tells how prisoners, left for a day and a night in this cell and able to see only these strange drawings which he feels compelled to examine and to count, begin to feel that they can no longer believe their senses and that they are losing their minds. This mental bewilderment, he says, is further deepened by a clock which is so arranged as to record the passage of only four or five hours during the course of a day and night.

Missioners Return to Posts, Carry on in Red-Held China

Shanghai (NC)—In western Honan, cradle of China's civilization, rural parishes have been making a notable recovery during the past three months, although the region since last summer has been held by Communists. This is one of the few bright spots in the religious picture from Red-held zones.

Bishop Assuero T. Bassi of Loyang recently made a tour of the 15 mission centers in his diocese. He was able to circulate freely, and assisted at public religious "processions," he said. He took part in the reopening of several parishes.

In the diocese of Chengchow, new primary schools have been opened under Catholic auspices in several towns. All the rural posts that were temporarily evacuated are again staffed, either by Chinese or Italian priests.

The Catholic Hospital at Chengchow, conducted by Chinese nuns, was encouraged to continue its public services.

A pronounced change in Communist tactics toward religion, foreigners and private enterprise has been operative in western Honan since early last summer, it is reported here. Some hostility toward American mission enterprises included, still prevails among Communist officials, but other mission workers have been invited to return.

'Pre-fab' Church Planned for 8 New Parishes

New York (RNS)—The Protestant Episcopal Diocese of New York is going to lick the church's shortage and relieve crowded parishes by putting up eight pre-engineered buildings shaped like Quonset huts with corrugated asbestos roofs.

In opening a drive for \$150,000 to purchase the structures, Bishop Charles K. Gilbert of New York announced the new churches will serve suburban areas where new housing developments have increased pressure on existing church facilities.

Bishop Gilbert said the new buildings would be erected in areas of greatest need. One will provide a place of worship for a congregation that currently meets in the basement of a police station.

Each of the new buildings will have unpainted steel casement window frames instead of the conventional church windows, and floors will be of concrete.

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