

Russia Tightens Code on Family And Marriages

Washington — (NC) — The continued interest of Russia in tightening the marriage laws and safeguarding of the family is noted by the Rev. Dr. Edgar Schmiedeler, O.S.B., in commenting on recent Soviet articles on the question, one of which has just been broadcast at length by the Moscow radio and heard in the country.

RECALLING THE early days of the Soviet regime, the Rev. Dr. Schmiedeler pointed out that the Reds swung the pendulum of the traditionally stable family life of the Christian Russia far to the left.

The communist view at the time apparently, he said, was that marriage was chiefly a biological matter, rarely for the begetting of children, with the State seeing to the offspring. Parents were widely denied the right to educate their children in their own way. Divorce was made obtainable in a few minutes.

BIRTH CONTROL information was officially given out, he added. The right of women to abortion was legalized with the result that in 1938 there were 150,000 abortions in Moscow as against 70,000 births.

The distinction between legitimate and illegitimate children was ended, Father Schmiedeler went on, and "little indeed remained of the fundamentals of the traditional Russian family life."

Descriptive results were not slow in showing themselves, he continued, adding that the Soviet government realized the need for pushing the pendulum back again and in the 1930's a series of acts were passed in an effort to check the harm being done.

ABORTION, HE SAID, was forbidden except in limited cases, venereal authority was restored, and more recently still co-education was abolished.

Eventually far-reaching legislation was passed, the most important of which came in 1944. Father Schmiedeler pointed out that this legislation recognized only registered marriages and imposed duties upon parents, restricted divorce with a view to keeping families intact and revoked the right of a mother to seek alimony for the support of a child from a father with whom she was not in a state of registered marriage.

Prayer Shields For Prisoners Pushed
Rochester, N. Y. — (NC) — A campaign for distribution of the second edition of luminous prayer reminder shields among the inmates of Federal and state prisons has been inaugurated by Father Anselm, S.A., of the Franciscan Friars of the Atonement at Graymoor Monastery here. Father Anselm said that more than 60,000 of the first edition were distributed.

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NEW S. V. D. PRIESTS



Ordained at St. Augustine's Shrine, Bay St. Louis, Miss. on Feb. 24, were these three colored priests of the Society of the Divine Word: (left to right) Rev. Carlos Lewis of La Boca, Panama Canal Zone; Rev. Mark Egan, of Lafayette, La.; Rev. Curtis Washington of Coconut Grove, Fla. Bishop Leo C. Kirkfield, S.V.D., Vicar Apostolic of Central New Guinea and a native of Panama, La., was the consecrator. (NC Photos).

Negro Converts To Church Reach New Record In U. S.

Washington — (NC) — A total of 8,857 Negro converts were received into the Church in the United States during 1948, it was disclosed in the annual report of the Commission for Catholic Missions Among the Colored People and the Indians, which stated it represented the largest number of such converts within a single year during the commission's 63-year-old history.

The report placed the number of Negro Catholics in the United States at 362,427, but added that this represents about one Catholic out of every 40 Negroes, who number 15,000,000 in the United States.

CONVERTS AMONG the Indians numbered 624, the report disclosed, bringing the total Indian Catholic population to 8,335, which represents about one-third of the Indian population.

The report was drawn up by the commission's board of directors — Their Eminences Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, and Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; and Archbishop Francis P. Keough of Baltimore. The Rev. J. B. Tennyly, S.S., is Secretary of the commission, which has its headquarters in this city.

THE REPORT reminded that the support for Negro and Indian mission work is derived from a collection taken up in all churches throughout the United States on the first Sunday of Lent — March 6 this year — as directed by the Third Plenary Council of Baltimore in 1847, which established the commission.

Regarding the work among Indians, the report stated that the Church today stands "first and foremost among the religious bodies which are manifest-

Cardinal von Faulhaber

Munich Prelate Who Defied Nazis To Mark 80th Year

By MAX JORDAN
Munich — (NC) — This capital city of Bavaria and the whole of Germany are engaged in preparations for the observance on March 5 of the 80th birthday of His Eminence Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of this See and senior of the German Hierarchy, and one of the most beloved and revered prelates of the Church throughout Europe.



CARD. FAULHABER

THE CARDINAL himself modestly insisted that the clergy and the faithful desist from devoting too much attention to him on this notable anniversary. If he had his way, he would rather leave town on his birthday and retire to a quiet spot, away from the crowds, but, fortunately, he has deferred to the wishes expressed by his flock, and decided to remain here for the festivities in his honor.

Throughout the crucial years of the Nazi tyranny and the war, and especially in the trying days since Germany's defeat, Cardinal von Faulhaber has been a tower of strength to his people, never wavered in his deep allegiance to his country, and yet always willing to cooperate with the American authorities here in order to preserve law and order, and to find solutions to the numerous problems naturally arising from a confusing period of transition by joint consultation in the interest of both vanquished and victors.

Despite his age the Cardinal enjoys sturdy health. He never fails to attend personally the annual meetings of the German Hierarchy in Fulda and still travels widely and regularly all over his vast archdiocese to administer the Sacrament of Confirmation, and to look after the manifold in-

Shame the Reds With Bells?

Washington — (NC) — A suggestion that throughout the free world churches unite in the simultaneous tolling of their bells in protest against communist attacks on religion, has been made by Senator Styles Bridges of New Hampshire.

Senator Bridges, who with several other Senators, recently introduced a resolution in the Senate condemning the arrest and trial of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty of Hungary as unjust, has made his proposal in a letter to Francis Cardinal Spellman

interests of the Church throughout the land.

THE MAN against whose life Nazi fanatics once had plotted, through the grace of God has survived undaunted to guide his people toward regeneration and a happier era.

American Catholics who know him to be a sincere and tested friend of their country, will join the German people on his 80th birthday in wishing him well and offering their prayers that he may continue for many more years as the great shepherd, the "pastor bonus" he has been all through his priestly, exemplary life.

THE SON of a baker, Cardinal von Faulhaber was born on March 5, 1869, in Klosterheidenfeld, in the Franconian district of Bavaria, and spent his childhood in an atmosphere of exemplary faith in the circle of his family. He was ordained at the age of 23, and after an interval as assistant pastor and teacher, he went to Rome to devote himself almost exclusively to Biblical studies. He extended his studies at Oxford, Cambridge, Paris and Toledo, in Spain.

He went through two world wars in his episcopal capacity. In 1911 he was elected Bishop of Speyer, in the Palatinate, and in 1917 became Archbishop of Munich. He received the Cardinal's hat in 1921 on the same day as His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, contact with whom probably inspired the Munich Archbishop to visit the United States in 1923 and 1926.

In 1942 he preached a famous and defiant sermon in the midst of Nazi persecution, denouncing "the food of execrations and calumnies that flows through Germany to undermine the Pope's authority and to shake the fidelity of Catholics."

From Korea



Dr. John M. Chang (above) leading Catholic layman of Korea and newly appointed Korean Ambassador to the United States. Dr. Chang reports that his country's constitutional guarantee of full religious freedom and the friendliness of its President, Dr. Syngman Rhee, to the Catholic Church assure it a bright future there. Chase-Stetler photo.

Germans Offer Gifts For Radio At Vatican

Cologne — (NC) — In a letter addressed to Archbishop Valerio Valeri, head of the Central Committee for the Holy Year in Rome, His Eminence Josef Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne, has suggested on behalf of the German Hierarchy that parts of the new equipment for the Vatican Radio station, which is to be offered as a gift to His Holiness Pope Pius XII on the occasion of the golden jubilee of his ordination, be manufactured in Germany.

The letter said that this request is made so that German Catholics, who still have no facilities for transferring funds abroad, may thus make their contribution.

Vatican Report Cites Church's World Progress

(NCWC NEWS SERVICE)
Six new Sees, four of them in the western hemisphere, were created during 1948, it is disclosed in the 1949 edition of the Annuario Pontificio, Vatican Yearbook, copies of which have reached this country.

The six new dioceses are Joliet, Illinois; St. Paul, Alberta, Canada; Caruaru, Brazil; Ambato, Ecuador; San Fernando, Republic of the Philippines; and Karachi, India. In addition to these new Sees, the Diocese of Marseilles, France, and Goulburn, Australia, were raised to archdioceses and the Apostolic Prefecture of Lishui, China, was elevated to a Diocese.

DURING THE Pontificate of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, the Annuario discloses, there has been an increase of 158 in the number of archdioceses and dioceses. This increase was brought about by the creation of 53 new Sees and the elevation of 100 vicariates and five prefectures.

The new Vatican yearbook lists 14 patriarchates, 27 metropolitan archdioceses, 39 non-metropolitan archdioceses, 1,052 dioceses, 798 occupied titular Sees, 54 abbey and prelate nullius, 11 apostolic administrations, 15 Oriental Rite prelates having personal and territorial jurisdiction of ordinaries, 24 vicariates, 129 prefectures and 12 missions sui iuris.

OTHER CHANGES in the 1949 Vatican Radio station, which include the creation of two abbeys nullius, one in Rio de Janeiro, the other in Mayocoba, Peru; the creation of six new vicariates in Bethlehem and Pretoria, Union of South Africa; Karimpala, Uganda; Owerri, Nigeria; Los Rios, Ecuador and the creation of four prefectures in Lago Moezi, Belgian Congo; Parakou, French West Africa.

Hungarians Flock to Holy Communion Rail

Budapest — (NC) — A movement has been launched in Hungary which, using the slogan, "No Mass without Communion," aims at having the faithful receive the Eucharist at every Mass they attend.

While the movement was started only recently, 237 of the 3,000 parishes report that almost all their people are participating. A priest usually distributes Communion during the entire Mass.

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