Red Rebels Slay Converts And Catechist

Rome — (NC-FIDES) — Reports continue to reach here of hatred for Catholicism among members of the communist-dominated Vietminh movement, which they say, recently resulted in an outbreak in which a catechist and three catechumens were savagely slain. The reports told the following story:

AT THAI-AP, a parish near Hanoi in French Indo-China, under the care of the Redemptorist Fathers, there has been of late a strong convert movement. People in about 15 villages expressed the desire to become Catholics, and zealously studied the doctrine under the guidance of priests and catechists.

One day about 200 of them were assembled at Thai-Ap, when some 50 armed men of the Vietminh broke into the meeting hall and killed the catechist and three of the more notable catechumens with cutlasses. This act did not frighten away the catechumens. They assisted at the funeral for the victims and continued their religious studies.

SEVERAL DAYS later the Vietminh raised a communist flag over the Catholic school and ordered a salute from those entering and leaving. School authorities nevertheless removed the red flag and in its place set up a sign which proclaimed liberty of conscience above and beyond any political regime.

Terrorism in his region is accompanied by lying propaganda and other means of attempting to mislead opinion and defame the Catholics. Recently there was held a mock religious procession near a Catholic village in Sontay. In the course of the parody, a man pretending to be the Vicar Apostolic of Phat Diem preached to the Christians on what he called their obligation to support the communist Vietminh.

Silence still hides the fate of six Sulpicians, who were taken captive two years ago, despite repeated attempts of the French Red Cross to learn of them.

German Women Held In Red Concentration

Frankfurt — (NC) — A survey of the Protestant Search Organization in Bethel reveals that there are 200 concentration camps for women in the Soviet Union today, holding some 200,000 women, most of them former auxiliaries of the German army and Red Cross.

Crushes Satan

This striking marble statue, 17½ feet high, carved by the artist Galileo Farisini, and approved "summa cum laude" by the Vatican Commission of Sacred Art, has been set in a niche of St. Peter's Basilica. It represents St. Louis de Montfort, (canonized July 20, 1947), in the act of crushing the head of Satin who is trying to destroy the classic treatise on "True Devotion to Mary" written by the saint. On his left arm he holds the crucifix blessed by Pope Clement XI who named his Apostolic Missionary and sent him back to France to fight Jansenism.

S.A. Mountain Range Named After Priest

New Rochelle, N. Y. —(NC)— The U. S. National Geographic Society has named the southern portion of the Patagonian Andes the De Agostini, according to word received at Salesian headquarters here.

Father De Agostini was the first person ever to scale 12,300-foot Mt. St. Lawrence, the second highest peak in the Patagonian Andes. On its summit, on the boundary between Argentina and Chile, he placed a small statue of Mary Help of Christians, Don Bosco's Madonna.

CIO Official Defends Priest Labor Articles

Erie — (NC) — Appearance of articles by Catholic priests in a local labor weekly has touched off a controversy here.

The Erie C.I.O. Council, prompted by the left-wing leader of the 16,000-member General Electric local of the United Electrical Workers union, voted to cancel the series, which treated moral problems involved in labor relations. But the top C.I.O. official in northwestern Pennsylvania then issued a statement giving high praise to Catholic clergymen and asking all council delegates to restudy the articles carefully before making a final decision.

THE PRIESTS who were scheduled to write for the paper, The People's Press, are the Revs. Henry Paul, O.S.F.S., and John Lerhinan, C.SS.R., both instructors in the Cathedral Prep labor management school, which is approved and supported by the Erie Industrial Union Council.

Immediately following the appearance of the first article in the series, by Father Paul, a meeting of the Erie council was called and strong objections to continuing the articles were made by the U. E. official, a Catholic but widely known for his leftist views, who argued that they were not in the best interests of labor. The council has a total membership of about 160 persons. Left-wingers attended the meeting in force, and the motion to cancel the articles was carried by about five votes.

RESPONDING TO this action, Ralph W. Tillotson, C.I.O. subregional director and a non-Catholic, wrote to all members of the council, enclosing a copy of the article objected to and another by Father Lerhinan, which was to be the second in the series.

In asking for a reconsideration of the subject matter in the writings, the C.I.O. director said that he wanted the delegates' opinions as to whether they found any statements derogatory to organized labor. He said further action would be taken "in due time."

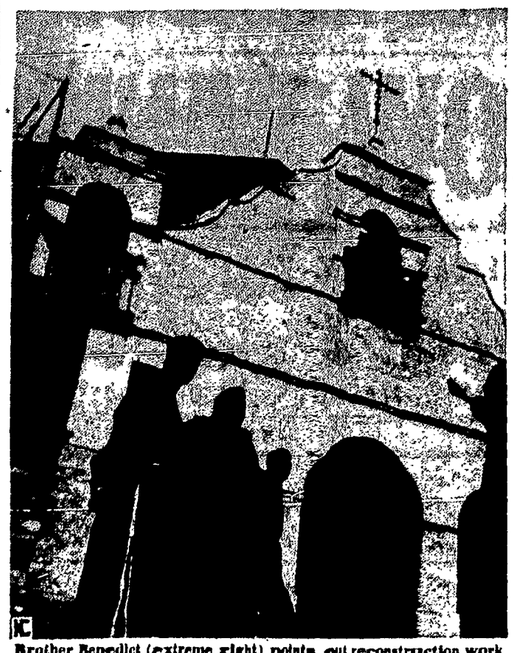
"The national C.I.O. has been very appreciative of the support it has had from the Catholic clergy," Mr. Tillotson pointed out. "Many of its eminent leaders have spoken from our platforms and rendered tremendous support in our battles to win better conditions. In the great strike two years ago, it was Bishop (John Mark) Gannon of Erie who made the largest single donation of $5,000 to the strikers' relief fund . . . The C.I.O. itself has published millions of copies of circulars and pamphlets written by the Catholic clergy in defense of labor."

Serra Beatification Hearings Close

Fresno, Cal. —(RNS)— Hearings in the cause for the beatification of Father Junipero Serra, founder of the California missions who died in 1784, were closed here and more than 600 documents pertaining to the case were prepared for shipment to the Vatican.

Father Eric O'Brien, vice-postulator of the cause, will travel to Rome this summer to take part in hearings to be conducted there.

RESTORATION OF MISSION



Brother Benedict (extreme right) points out reconstruction work now underway at San Antonio de Padua Mission, Jolon, California, by visiting Franciscan Fathers. Padre Junipero Serra celebrated the Mass at the Mission, which was founded July 14, 1771.

Irish Trade Unions Support Education Courses for Adults

Dublin — (NC) — Irish trade unions are giving enthusiastic support to a new program of adult education in Dublin which provides for a two-year course in social, political, and economic science and aims at training leaders.

The course, under the direction of the Rev. E. J. Coyne, S.J., consists of six lectures weekly on three evenings and is the first of the extension courses at University College here. More than 250 applications were received but the number of students had to be limited to 200.

TRADE UNIONS, eager to avail themselves of this opportunity for the education of their members, have provided a great number of scholarships, amounting to two-thirds of the fees. A number of unions have endowed one each of the lectureships for the current year.

The subjects taught are social theory and ethics, political theory and institutions, political and national economy, Irish culture and there is also a tutorial class.

DEMANDS ALSO have been received for courses in literature, philosophy and the fine arts. Diplomas will be awarded to students who have successfully completed the course.

In an introductory lecture, Father Coyne said that the realization of the project was due to the foresight and drive by Michael Tierney, president of University College, Dublin, and to the help given by Prof. Alfred O'Rahilly, president of University College in Cork.

Jews Honor Abp. Lucey

San Antonio, Tex.—(RNS)— The Most Rev. Robert E. Lucey, Roman Catholic Archbishop of San Antonio, was presented with the Friendship Award of the Temple Beth-El men's club, in a ceremony here.

The Archbishop has been a vigorous supporter of the National Conference of Christians and Jews, a group seeking to eliminate prejudice and promote cooperation. He issued a public statement favoring the National Conference in 1944.

Pope to Mark Coronation Date at Mass

Vatican City — (NC) — The tenth anniversary of the election of His Holiness Pope Pius XII passed in a quiet manner. A more solemn observance has been scheduled for his coronation anniversary on (March 12), Saturday.

For that occasion His Eminence Benedetto Cardinal Aloisi Masella, Archbishop of Palestrina, who was the first prelate to get the Red Hat from the Pope, will celebrate a Pontifical Mass, the Pope presiding at the throne, in the Sistine Chapel.

ALL CARDINALS living in Rome, prelates of the Curia and members of the Diplomatic Corps will attend. After the Mass the Cardinals will felicitate the Holy Father in the Hall of Vestments.

The anniversary of the election, observed on March 2, which was also his 73rd birthday, was a holiday for Vatican City, all offices being closed and the white and yellow Papal flag being flown on all buildings. Members of the Curia and diplomats marked the occasion by calling at the Papal apartments and signing in the register prepared for the occasion.

In connection with the anniversary independent secular newspapers as well as religious commented editorially on the terrific difficulties of this Pontificate during the last war and since then, and the Pope's bill to meet them.

IL GIORNALE d'ITALIA declared that the Pope's has been the only voice during the war and now which has been generous, peaceful and objective; that his action was the only one which inspired welfare and tranquility for the suffering and the needy, without double purpose, and is the answer for those needing comfort and guidance.

Several schools, seminaries and other organizations held special convocations and performed pilgrimages or other spiritual exercises for the Holy Father's intention.

Mobile Movie Units

Rome — (RNS) — Three mobile movie projection units to be used in displaying documentary and educational films in Italy's poorest regions were blessed by Pope Pius XII at a ceremony held in the Courtyard of St. Damascus outside the Vatican Palace.

Honored

In recognition of the extraordinary contribution made to Christian education and culture in the Dominican Republic by the Sisters of St. Dominic of Adrian, Mich., the University of Santo Domingo in Ciudad Trujillo, has bestowed the honorary degree of Doctor of Philosophy on the Reverend Mother Mary Gerald Barry.

Report Budapest Churches Closed

Vienna—(RNS)—Two of Budapest's leading Catholic churches were ordered closed after the sentencing of Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty, according to newly-arrived refugees here from Communist-dominated Hungary.

They said the closings were ordered by Hungarian authorities because prayer services in the churches for Cardinal Mindszenty were conducted "too ostentatiously." The churches in question they declared, belong to the Franciscan and Cistercian orders.

The same informants asserted that in order to maintain the appearance of religious freedom in Hungary, authorities are continuing religious classes in the schools.

However, they charged that priests and teachers are frequently removed as "enemies of Hungarian democracy," and replaced by laymen who are more "loyal" to the regime.

"This system," one informant said, "is more perfidious in its effect than would be the abolition of religious instruction. Children are taught, for instance, that some people believe in Christ while others don't."

Priest to Fight Color Bar in U. S. Bowling

New York —(NC)— The Catholic Youth Organization of Brooklyn has enlisted the support of other Catholic groups and is now making another attempt to have the American Bowling Congress change its constitution in order to allow negro bowlers to join in its tournaments.

The A.B.C. will meet in convention Friday Mar. 11 in Atlantic City, where this year's national tourney is now going on. The Rev. Charles T. Carow, of Brooklyn, an executive director of the New York Bowling Association, will take the floor in favor of the amendment.

At the same time the National Committee for Fair Play in Bowling, sponsored by the CIO-United Automobile Workers of Detroit declared that it will support the amendment at the convention.

"The A.B.C. has never before seriously considered the problem," Father Carow said before going to the convention. "Their promise to do so this year should result in their seeing the moral, democratic and practical implications of the problem. Many organizations have already willingly answered the request of the Brooklyn C.Y.O. of sending petitions to the A. B. C. in favor of dropping the color line in bowling tournaments."

The C.Y.O. had sent letters to ten Catholic interracial councils in the country, to the Catholic colleges represented in the National Federation of Catholic College Students and to other youth organizations. Meantime, it was pointed out, the State of New Jersey may look into the negro ban on the current tourney as a violation of its civil rights law.

The proposal, first presented by Father Carow last year, was rejected by the 1948 A.B.C. convention.

General Clay Aids Welfare Agencies

New York — (NC) — General Lucius Clay has forwarded the sum of $181,000 to CRALOG (Council of Relief Agencies Licensed for Operation in Germany), the organization's headquarters announces. The money, which will be used to provide relief for German children, was collected from small fees charged for viewing a collection of German paintings exhibited in nine American cities.

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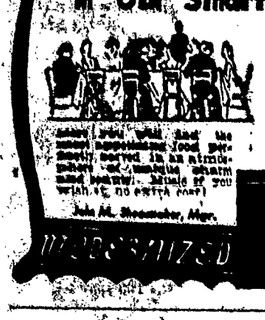

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