

MASON WORK... BRAD THE WANT ADS

Early 'Holy Mother' Monument Discovered on Japan Hilltop

Nakatsu, Japan — (NC)—Another monument which may throw more light on the early history of Christianity in Japan has been discovered by the Rev. Charles Demleitner, S.D.B., on the top of Mt. Hahnen near this Kyushu city.

The monument consists of what looks like a shinto shrine, fronted with two stone pillars one of which bears the inscription: Seiho Daigosen. This might be roughly translated as "In the presence of the majesty of the Holy Mother."

"IN PLACE of the customary name of a deity at its summit, the shrine has merely a four-leaved chrysanthemum in the form of a cross. Extensive inquiries made among young and old reveal that religious services are supposed to be held only at midnight and that the central figure of the shrine may never be shown to anyone.

It is historically certain that there were many Christians in this area in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries. Father Demleitner is of the opinion that the Christians were probably accustomed to gather there under cover of darkness in the days of persecution to venerate the Blessed Virgin Mary.

Communist War on Church Hidden By Propaganda Lies

(Continued from Page 1) allies during the war, with the hope of absorbing them later. Finally it would serve to make the Moslem nations more friendly during this critical time.

ONCE THE WAR was over, communists reverted to its true colors. It opposed any genuine religion within its borders or in the conquered countries. It was willing to go along temporarily with a state religion under its complete control. This, however, was but a temporary stage. An indirect approach was considered better than a frontal attack. For the Catholic Church, and any other religious group which considered conscience above the state, there was all-out persecution.

It began first in Yugoslavia and Rumania, moved into Hungary, and is currently developing in Czechoslovakia. Poland alone has escaped full persecution, but few are optimistic about the future there. Now are conditions any better in Red-occupied China.

Only the blind could miss the clear signs that communists will try to stamp out religion wherever it is in power.

So clear is the opposition between communism and Catholicism that some may wonder why such a formal ban was considered necessary. The answer here is the cleverness of communist propaganda.

IN CATHOLIC countries, such as France and Italy, the conflict with religion was played down. It was possible for many believers to argue that things would be different in their country. They would have only the social reforms promised by communism, without its atheism and materialism. Such deception was easy in nations whose press had long been used for propaganda. The people did not know how to get the truth. So they remained in ignorance of both the full theory and the practice of communism.

For the same reason, the Church has banned any actions which give assistance or comfort to communism. Here we hark back to the strong words of Pope Pius XI, who pronounced communism as wrong by its very nature. He forbade Catholics to collaborate with it in any way whatsoever. Such a ban, uttered first in 1937, is reinforced by the current decree. It is badly needed in view of Communist deceptive tactics.

THE FORBIDDING OF collaboration with communists is more practical for American Catholics than other aspects of the recent

House Argument Stalls Aid Bill

(Continued from Page 1) Thomas Bill was sent to it from the upper house the first week in May and the Bardeen Bill was approved by a subcommittee early in June.

Catholic school authorities have been vehement in opposition to the Thomas Bill, though this opposition was overshadowed somewhat by the dramatic protest of Catholics against the more obviously restrictive Bardeen Bill. The Thomas Bill attempts to dodge the public-parochial school controversy by leaving the question to the States of how to distribute the federal money. This in effect, rules out aid to non-public school children, since most State constitutions forbid the use of any public money for such aid.

THE PROTESTANT and other Americans United for Separation of Church and State entered the Federal Aid picture with a denunciation of Representative Sims' efforts to get the Thomas Bill out of committee. This group, which will accept nothing but the Bardeen Bill, regards the Thomas Bill as only "a less flagrant violation of principle than that which is contained in the Fogarty Bill."

PAOU director Glenn L. Archer said: "It does not matter whether the Federal funds would go directly or indirectly to parochial schools, or whether the amount would be \$10,000 or \$10,000,000; this policy would still involve an unconstitutional discrimination in favor of a particular religious group."

What is worse, and has not been fully revealed, they were often in a position to influence vital policies. Their part in the now discredited Potsdam agreement and China policy has never been fully published.

A volume could be written on the successes achieved by the "united front" tactic. American Catholics were deceived by this device, even when they were deeply anti-communist. Most have learned by bitter experience the folly of their course. But they would have been saved many heartaches had they heeded the wise advice of Pope Pius XI.

Communist practice, accordingly, varies according to time and place. Its final goal is the same everywhere, but often it is concealed through clever propaganda. For this reason, it was necessary for Rome to make the danger unmistakably clear. Catholics should not knowingly work with communists in any field of action. The detailed policy this involves will be explained in the concluding article of this series.

Berlin Leaders Ban Pope's Red Decree

Berlin — (RNS)—Konrad Caspary, director of the office here, announced that the excommunication decree recently promulgated by the Vatican against Roman Catholics assisting the Communists will not be read from pulpits in Berlin or the Soviet Zone because Red officials have threatened to arrest clergymen and laymen discussing the subject in public. However, 50,000 copies of a complete text of the decree have been distributed in Berlin and the Soviet Zone.

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Papal Nuncio Sees Cure d'Arts Film

Paris — (NC)—The recently-completed film on the life of the Cure d'Arts, "The Sorcerer of Heaven," has been given a special performance in one of Paris' largest movie houses. The Apostolic Nuncio to France, Archbishop Angelo Roncalli attended.

A previously unreleased documentary film made in the Vatican.

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Pope Presented Stamp Collection

Rome — (RNS)—Four volumes comprising a "philatelic litany of the saints" made up of stamps from 61 countries were presented to Pope Pius XII by the Most Rev. John Tracy, Bishop of La Crosse, Wis., at an audience in the Vatican palace.

The collection was made by the Rt. Rev. Msgr. Ferdinand Cech, pastor of the Church of St. Wenceslaus in La Crosse. It will be placed among other stamp treasures in the Vatican library.

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