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ANTI-RED DECREE SAID 'FAR-REACHING'

(Continued from Page 1) they are no longer permitted to serve as sponsors at baptism or confirmation. Some expect such measures to produce an increase in bitterness and anti-clerical sentiments in some circles, but the prevailing opinion is that there will be a general improvement.

ONLY VERY few expect any return to the Church from the group of "hard-core" communists. While the view is widely held that such persons, too, have been made to think the ultimate result is feared to be increased bitterness among them.

The situation will be most difficult in southern Italy, according to some priests from that region, where the poverty, both of priests and people, is so great that even some priests have been tempted to eat a friendly pie toward communism as a possible means of obtaining some help for their flock. In such areas, it is said, the people will have to bear a real cross in judging whether to resume spiritual ministrations to people who may refuse to turn their back on communism.

Prays for Persecuted Buenos Aires — (NC) — His Eminence James Louis Cardinal Copello, Archbishop of Buenos Aires, has protested the persecution of the Church in various European countries and asked the faithful to join him in prayers that such abuses may cease.



Injured are tended outdoors at Ambato, Ecuador, so great is earthquake devastation. The scene is outside a Catholic hospital. A nun moves about aiding injured while a flyer of the Quito-Ambato airlift takes down the names of victims. (NC Photos).

WARD IN HOSPITAL GROUNDS

CZECHS DEFY REDS; CROWD CHURCH RITE

(Continued from Page 1) grims journeyed there from other parts of the country despite a government decree forbidding the holding of special church ceremonies or pilgrimages without prior official approval.

Although police did not interfere with the ceremony, train traffic to Trnava was halted and barriers set up on all roads approaching the town so that visitors would be obliged to identify themselves before passing through. This action created a great deal of foreboding among the outsiders who eventually assembled at the cathedral.

The only bishops absent were Archbishops Joseph Bern of Prague and Moric Picha of Hradec Kralove, both of whom have charged they are being held in semi-imprisonment at their residences.

Officiating at the consecration rite were Archbishop Joseph Macho of Olomouc, Bishop Jan Vojtasek of Spilaska Nova Ves, and Greek Catholic Bishop Pavel Gajdos of Presov. Five other bishops, two acting bishops, and a papal administrator, occupied seats in the sanctuary, all in full ceremonial robe. Only 3,000 persons were able to gain admittance to the cathedral but 3,000 others stood in the rain outside listening to the ceremony over a public address system.

Subsequently, a Mass was celebrated in the square outside the cathedral by Msgr. Isidore Holovic, Slovak Apostolic Vicar, who preached a sermon in which he declared that "no one can be a member of the Church if he does not follow the bishops, because their way is Christ's way."

Infiltrating into the crowd outside the cathedral were members of the government-sponsored Catholic Action organization, a group condemned as schismatic and invalid by Archbishop Bern. These individuals distributed leaflets explaining that many Catholics had misunderstood the government-backed organization and did not realize it sought only to advance the Church's welfare by promoting a Church-State agreement.

Several of the Catholics were seen tearing up the leaflets and scattering them on the ground. Meanwhile, loudspeakers set up on neighboring public buildings blared out popular tunes in an effort to drown out the services inside the cathedral.

Bishop Lazik and Pobozy were the first prelates to be consecrated since the Communist coup of February, 1948. Their elevation brings to fourteen the number of archbishops, bishops and apostolic administrators belonging to the Czechoslovakian Board of Bishops.

Nurses' Home Started — (NC) — Construction of the seven-story and basement nurses' home of St. Clara's Hospital here. Excavation work on the project has started. The home will be completed in 1950. The project has been awarded for the construction of the project has started.

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Washington National Shrine Plea Set Sunday In Diocese

(Continued from Page 1) rents today, but with the slackening of effort progress on the shrine was halted.

The Crypt of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception is now the only finished part of the edifice which is expected to be completed by 1954.

TEN YEARS WERE spent in the Crypt's construction and the cost was \$1,500,000. It is adorned with ornamentation from the far corners of the Catholic world, symbolizing, through the medium of marble and tile, the universality of devotions to the Mother of God.

The Crypt is the largest in the world for floor space and for height. It is 458 feet in length; 320 feet wide at the Sarcophagi and is 28 feet (medium) in height.

It is much larger than the Crypt of Chartres, most spacious of medieval French churches; larger also than the famous Church of Saint Paul, London. It covers more than twice as much space as the Crypt of Canterbury Cathedral, which the Encyclopaedia Britannica calls "a subterranean church of vast size and considerable altitude."

The Crypt is cruciform in shape, indicating that from its very foundation the great temple to the Virgin Mother of God is built upon the fundamental Dogma of how this pure Jewish maiden gave the world a Saviour.

Catholic Students Raise \$200,000 In Relief Funds

New York — (RNS) — Students in 174 Catholic colleges and universities raised about \$200,000 during the past year for the relief of needy students in war-hit countries. It was announced here by War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference. In addition, they collected over 81,000 pounds of goods-in-kind, of an estimated value of \$160,000.

The contributions were obtained through projects ranging from cake sales to citywide carnivals under the sponsorship of the Student Relief Campaign of the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

Specific relief allocations, including food, clothing, housing, books and scholarships, were made through officially recognized student organizations in France, Belgium, Switzerland, Austria, Trieste, Germany, Italy, Poland, Spain, China, India, Japan, the Philippine Islands, Korea, and Lebanon.

Purchase and shipping of the materials were handled by War Relief Services. One shipment to China provided a vitamin supply for 3,400 students for six months, and one German university ran its canteen for 300 students for a similar period on the supplementary rations received as its share of the shipment.

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Reds Hold Missionaries

Frankfurt — (NC) — There are at least 123 Catholic missionaries in the group arrested some months ago in north Korea by the communist regime, according to information received here. The missionaries are believed to be held in a penitentiary in Wonsan, north Korea.

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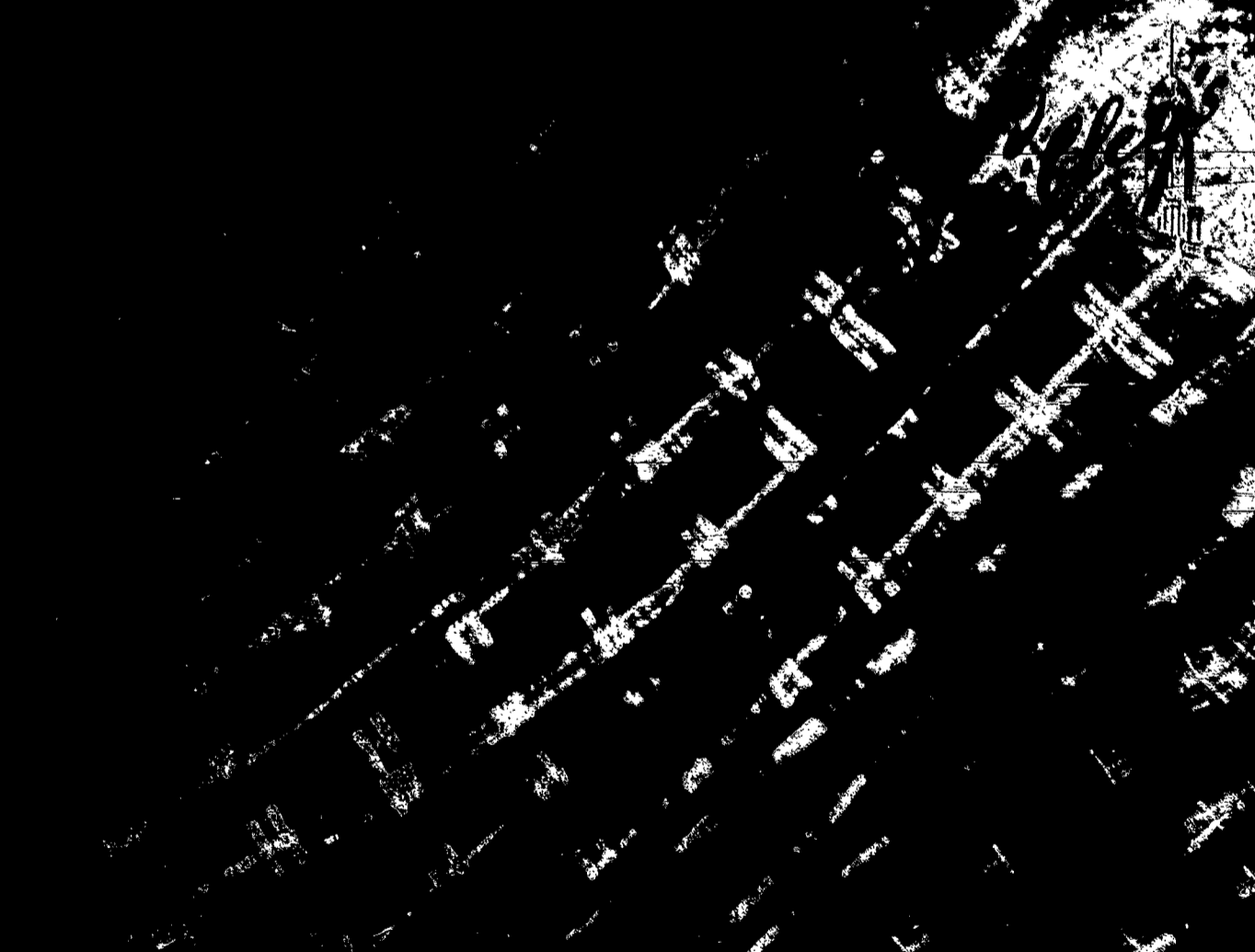
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