

Rumania Reds Fake Attack On Pope Pius

Vienna (NC) — An incident which sheds more light on the methods employed by communist regimes to attack the Church and its Supreme Pontiff has been revealed here by a trustworthy Rumanian source.

At a meeting of pastors of the Hungarian Evangelical Church in Rumania which was held recently at Brasov, Transylvania the assembled clergy were asked to sign a declaration of loyalty to the Government, drafted by officials of the Rumanian Ministry of Culture.

FINDING THAT the declaration contained violent attacks on the Holy See and the Holy Father himself, the ministers refused their signatures where upon a new draft was submitted to them containing none of the libelous statements, and this was signed by the pastors.

A few days later the press published, above their signatures the text of the original declaration which they had rejected. Their protests needless to say were unavailing.

RELIABLE NEWS on events in the "people's democracies" is not easy to obtain, ever since crossing of the Austro-Hungarian border has been made difficult if not impossible, by electrically charged barbed wires and mines, machinegun posts and bloodhounds, but occasionally news of events gets through the Iron Curtain.

It has been learned for instance that in Rumanian boarding schools taken over by the state, religious belief and practice are being treated more and more openly with contempt. Every effort is being made to prevent pupils from attending divine service. To attend Sunday Mass they have to use various subterfuges and lies.

New Statue Arrives At St. Peter's
Rome — (RNS) — A statue of Jeanne Antide Thouret, founder of the Sister of Charity, who is expected to be canonized during the Holy Year of 1950, has arrived at St. Peter's Basilica.

Baptist Minister Makes Retreat At Lady Of Valley Trappist Monastery

Providence, R.I. — (RNS) — Undecided about accepting a call to the pastorate of a struggling church here, a Baptist clergyman spent three days at a Roman Catholic monastery in Cumberland, R.I., where he made a decision to take the proffered post.

The Rev. L. Louis Aber told the congregation of Elmwood Baptist church that he went to the Trappist Abbey of Our Lady of the Valley while still uncertain about answering the call because the Elmwood church was weak in numbers and in finances.

"I wanted to get away, to be with myself," he explained. "Possibly the goal ahead might not have been so clear, nor the ideals so sensibly possible, if I had not spent three wonderful days in a spiritual retreat the past week with Godly brothers of the strict order of Cistercians in their cloistered monastery."

Warm in his praise of the Trappists, Mr. Aber, a former official of the Rhode Island Baptist State Convention, told his new congregation:

"I appreciate Christians when I see them, and the Cistercians are real Christians. They made no attempt to convert me, they didn't even discuss their beliefs except when I asked them questions."

"I thank God for them, for their prayers, for what they were led to do as brothers of

Jesus Christ, without paying anything we Protestants ought to be ashamed that we do not possess."

Mr. Aber said that although he made the retreat entirely by himself, he kept the hours observed by the Trappists, rising at 3 a.m., attending Mass and other devotions, and retiring with the community at 7 p.m.

"In this way I caught the atmosphere of devotion," he said.

Cardinal Dougherty Says Newsmen Deserve Raise



PRESIDENT TRUMAN and CARDINAL DOUGHERTY

Washington — (NC) — His Eminence Dennis Cardinal Dougherty, Archbishop of Philadelphia, had news of a different kind for the correspondents at the White House when he emerged from a visit with President Truman in the executive offices. The cardinal told the newsmen about themselves, and it was pleasant intelligence to receive.

His Eminence said some of the greatest brains in the country are represented in the ranks of newspapermen, and that he doesn't believe reporters get proper credit "for the good work you do."

"I would vote for all of you to get a promotion," he told the journalists, a question they promptly relayed to their editors.

Cardinal Dougherty said his visit to the President was just a "courtesy call." "I think he's a fine man," he added of the President.

The 40-year-old physician says he is not going to let his new

Catholic Rural Population Need Stressed

Columbus, O. — (RNS) — The need for balancing Roman Catholic urban and rural populations in this country was stressed here by the directors of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference.

In urging Catholic leaders to band their efforts in this direction, the Conference pointed out that "only five to eight per cent of the American Catholic population lives on farms, whereas approximately 18 per cent of the general population tills the soil."

"THIS UNBALANCE," it was stated, "brings about biological, social, economic and even religious effects that are dangerous to any group."

Catholic farmers were urged by the directors to associate themselves with farm organizations of their own choice. "Catholic farmers as Catholics and citizens," they said, "have a duty to contribute their share to the cause of bettering the lot of their fellow farmers."

The directors likewise urged the participation of farmers in "genuine cooperative enterprises" terming them "safeguards of the family type, owner-operator farms."

They SAID that producer, consumer and credit cooperatives "have often been blessed and praised as desirable forms of economic organization by Pope Pius XII. They are a means of 'carrying one another's burdens' and a channel for the expression of social justice and charity."

A program set forth by the directors urged that the government give financial aid to rural schools, including "provision of auxiliary services to rural children in parochial schools" that capable persons be permitted to migrate to areas with undeveloped land and resources; that farm laborers must not be excluded from the right to organize under the law.

Scientist Returns
Berlin — (NC) — The Rev. Hermann Muckermann, S.J., distinguished German biologist and ethnologist, is teaching again as a faculty member of the newly-established university of Western Berlin, after the Nazi regime for many years had banned and persecuted him.

Aid For Refugee Blindman



A blind refugee in Korea touches the material in the CARE wooden suitcase package he has just received from Father George Carroll, M.M., Marysville priest in charge of the work of War Relief Services-National Catholic Welfare Conference in Korea. WRR is one of CARE's 25 member agencies. This is the fourth winter that the refugees will spend in makeshift houses and tents, where the temperature gets down to 20 below zero. (NO Photos)

Nun Pleads Changes In Rural Education

Columbus, O. — (RNS) — A call for fundamental changes in the Roman Catholic rural education program was sounded here by Sister M. Rosalie of West Point, Ia.

Speaking before the annual convention of the National Catholic Rural Life Conference the nun declared that "traditional methods maintained certain obstacles in the path of our rural youth."

"THERE HAS been a lack of funds," she said. "There has been a lack of facilities. There has been a significant deficiency in teacher preparation. Graduate schools, we have had 50 years of indifference — 50 years of neglect — 50 years of educating and preparing youth for an urban environment which the convention recognizes as having definite spiritual, economic, political and social limitations."

Sister Rosalie, a member of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis of the Perpetual Adoration, said the major weakness of the Catholic rural education system was that religious teachers seldom had preparation which equipped them for work in rural schools.

"UNTIL now a teacher has been familiarly with practical agricultural matters, derived from business in general agriculture, how much the hope to win the confidence of her students or help them in their rural problems?" she asked.

She said that no Catholic college or university in the country was sponsoring a rural teacher training program. Her idea was offered by St. Ambrose College in Decaturport, Ia.

Considering that vocational agricultural courses are increasingly prohibitive to many Catholic schools, she said:

"A criticism that can rightfully be directed against it is that we do not use the facilities we are blessed with in the laboratory taught in this application to agriculture, the biology courses should be made time to students and theoretical material, rather than having any bearing on the rural environment or the future welfare of rural children."

Red-Robed Sisters Attract Attention In Festive Hawaii

Honolulu — (NC) — Celebrating at a mission post in the islands saw thousands parade about in bright-colored "mumuus" and "aloha shirts," but second-look honors went to five Mexican nuns who stopped off here enroute to Japan to establish a missionary institute.

The nuns are members of the Eucharistic Missionary Sisters of the Most Holy Trinity. They wear brilliant red religious habits. They will open their mission headquarters in Shimono-aki, the first mission endeavor of their community in Japan.

The red-robed nuns' community was founded in 1936 by the Rev. Pablo M. Guzman. There are 150 members and eight are

Red-Robed Sisters Attract Attention In Festive Hawaii

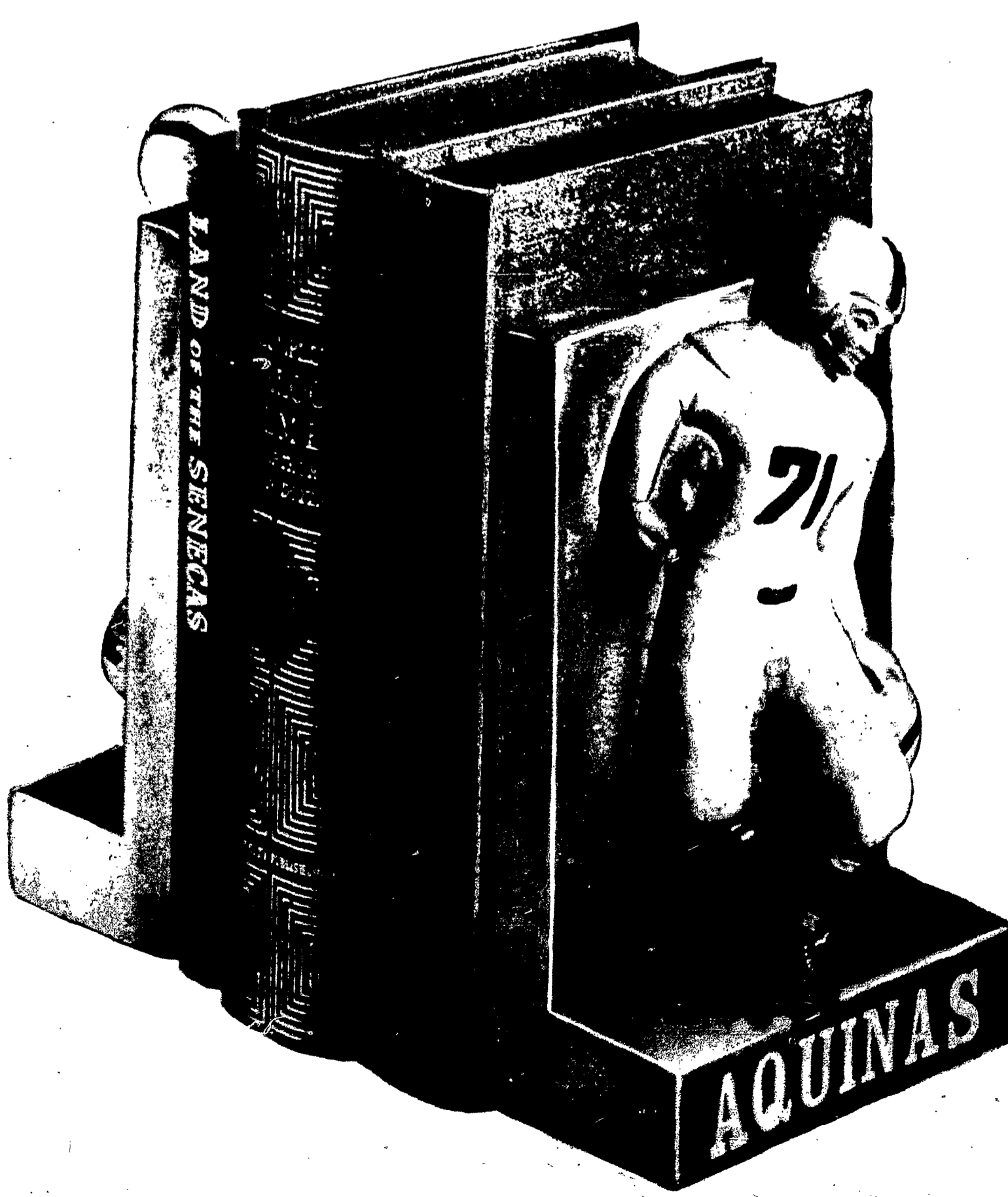
During their stay in Honolulu they were guests at the Maryknoll Sisters' convent. Mother Mary recalled some of her personal experiences as a young girl during the religious persecution in Mexico in the mid-30's and early 30's. She said that she often secretly carried the Blessed Sacrament to the altar, giving Holy Communion with a pair of silver tongs.

Bus Doctor Joins ND Law Course

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — There is a doctor at Notre Dame who wishes someone would invent a 36-hour day at least for himself. He is Dr. Harold M. Pritchard and the reason is that he is going to be very busy because he has enrolled as a first year student in the College of Law at the University of Notre Dame.

ND Law Course

student life interfere with his career as a doctor. The reason for his delayed-action dive into law is twofold, first, he had originally wanted to become a lawyer; second, in medical evidence in the courts doctors rarely understand legal terms and procedure and lawyers often know little of complicated medical terms, he said.



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