Future Of Catholic Schools In Red China Judged Bleak

Hong Kong — (NC) — The future of Catholic schools in communist China is bleak, according to the editors of the China Missionary Bulletin, published here monthly by a committee of Catholic missionaries.

"Reports of a representative cross-section of the country outline a clear pattern of official subjugation of private educational institutions," the editors state. "It is evident that the Church is fast being deprived of the management and control of her schools.

"The conclusion that the slow strangulation of authority is a segment of a direct persecution of the Church, to our minds, is still untenable, but it certainly does indicate communism's campaign of anarchy and godlessness in the classroom.

"IT IS NOT difficult to predict that the final decline of private schools will follow" the present "turmoil of student dictation in administrative matters" unless a direct about-face takes place soon, the magazine states. "The disruption of school authority and lack of discipline will be made a pretext for total subjugation of the schools to an iron control," it adds. "Only the students dazed by the glamor of the words 'freedom' and 'authority' can miss the anomaly of inverting the authority in the teacher student relationship."

The teaching of materialism has become obligatory, Catholic officials of one school write. "We are forced to allow the teachers to proclaim from their rostrums that there is no God, man has no soul and that the after life is only a myth," the missionaries relate.

"STUDENTS OF the higher classes must also attend three hours of classes in social and economic policy as dictated by the Soviet ideology. No examination into the validity of the arguments brought forth is permitted, and sad to relate, the propaganda is by and large accepted and swallowed without question by the students. The determinative presentation, and forced allegiance to these doctrines is the antithesis of scientific enquiry. No room is left for the freedom and dignity of the students' conscience."

The school is administered by a committee composed of representatives of teachers, students, servants and the priests. However, in practice the Fathers are merely tolerated and have nothing to say in the management.

Discipline has reached the vanishing point, the missionaries report. One student caught cheating could not be punished because he threatened to accuse the Fathers before a "people's court" of behaving in an imperialistic manner. The dean, a layman, decided to close the incident by giving the student "a good grade."

The missionaries write that they are determined to stay at the school. "Though the standard of the school is rapidly declining and difficulties hedge us in on all sides, as long as we are able to remain here we can keep up our contact with the students who are still of good will," they say. "Our presence may be able to preserve the good elements from contagion, and the spiritual and intellectual assistance we can give them is of no small moment. There are those who feel they need this help."

The Catholic authorities of another school write: "We have no voice in anything. The students themselves are the first and highest authority, then the teachers and servants. All decisions pertaining to running the school are made at weekly meetings from which we are barred."

African Bantu Boy Runaway Comes Back Ordained Priest

Pretoria, Union of South Africa — (NC) — The little Bantu Protestant minister's son who ran away from home ten years ago has returned and celebrated his first Mass as a Catholic priest in the new Vicariate.

The Bantu boy who has become the new Vicariate's first native priest is Boniface Legwate. He was born at DeWildt, where there is a picturesque mission with presbytery, convent, school, workshops and church clustered together on a mountainside. In the village below, the boy was born on July 24, 1923.

HIS PARENTS were of the Bakgatla tribe, one of the Bechwana group. His father was a Protestant minister who had broken away from the Anglicans to set up his own church. The children, of course, were brought up in the Protestant belief.

But little Boniface became most interested in the little Catholic mission on the hill. Here he watched, listened and began to visit the church. Little by little he realized that the Catholic Church was the true church, and he decided to become a Catholic priest to offset his father's Protestant ministry.

THERE WAS opposition, and Boniface ran away.

While the parents were disturbed and could not approve of his course, they left him alone to follow his plans because they felt he was safe at the mission. At 17 he left for Basutoland to study for the priesthood. That was in 1939 and he underwent intensive training for ten years.

IN 1948 HE was professed as an Oblate of Mary Immaculate and returned to the seminary to study philosophy and to go on to his theological studies. Last year he was ordained to the priesthood by Bishop William P. Whelan, Vicar Apostolic of Johannesburg, in the Church of St Hubert at Alexandra there.

Finally came the triumphal homecoming to DeWildt, to the scenes of his childhood, his early struggle for the truth and his first Mass. Meantime, his mother has become a Catholic and the rest of the family, except for the father, are catechumens soon to enter the Church.

Weekly Wins Prisoner and Cellmates To Daily Mass

London — (NC) — Because a prisoner awaiting trial idly picked up a copy of the Universe, Catholic weekly published here, 15 prisoners in an English jail are now attending daily Mass and reciting the Rosary. Some of these men are lapsed Catholics.

The man who picked up the Universe before the trial read in it a report of a pilgrimage last October to the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, in Bala, North Wales.

He wrote to the organizer, Mrs. John McGrath, asking whether she would arrange for the paper to be sent him regularly. This she did. Meanwhile the man was tried, convicted and sent to prison.

By special permission he became a member of the Third Order of St. Francis, receiving the scapular and girdle from the prison chaplain. He is now studying Latin so that he can recite the Little Office. Through his influence a group of prisoners are joining in regular spiritual exercises.

Mrs. McGrath bought a statue of Our Lady of Fatima and asked permission to install it in the Catholic prisoner's cell. It now stands in a niche before the heavily barred cell window.

General Collins Named For Laetare Medal

GENERAL COLLINS

Notre Dame, Ind. — General Joseph L. Collins, Chief of Staff of the United States Army, has been chosen as the 1950 recipient of the Laetare Medal, awarded annually since 1883 by the University of Notre Dame to the outstanding Catholic Layman.

The announcement was made by the Rev. John J. Cavanaugh, C.S.C., President of Notre Dame. General Collins is the sixty-eighth distinguished American to receive the Laetare Medal, the oldest American Catholic medal, which is called the Laetare Medal because the award is announced on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent. Movie actress Irene Dunne was the 1949 recipient of the Laetare Medal, which was founded by the Rev. Edward F. Sorin, C.S.C., founder of Notre Dame.

General Collins assumed his position as Chief of Staff of the United States Army in 1949, succeeding General Omar Bradley. He previously had served consecutively as Chief of Public Information, Deputy Chief of Staff and Vice-Chief of Staff

House Group Votes Study Of Aid For Teachers' Pay

Washington — (NC) — The House Committee on Education and Labor has voted to make the Burke Bill, authorizing Federal grants to the States for the exclusive purpose of raising public school teachers' salaries the first order of business when it reconvenes for a post Easter meeting set for April 17.

The measure, sponsored by Representative Thomas H. Burke of Ohio, is similar to the Senate Federal aid bill which the House Committee rejected in an amended form this week except that Representative Burke's proposal would not permit the appropriated money to be spent for any purpose but to raise the salaries of school teachers. Only public school teachers would benefit.

The House Committee also defeated, by a vote of 13 to 12, a motion to table all Federal aid legislation at this session.

Sometime in April the Committee will also receive the report of the Lucas subcommittee on school house construction. This measure, sponsored by Representative Wingate H. Lucas of Texas, calls for $300,000,000 in Federal grants and another $300,000,000 in loans to the States to cover 50 per cent of the cost of public school construction.

The Senate has already passed a bill to make $5,000,000 available to help the States finance a survey of schoolhouse construction needs.

U. S. Bishop Surprised At Arrest Report

Philadelphia — (NC) — Bishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Regent of the Papal Nunciature in Rumania and Bishop of the Savannah-Atlanta diocese told his family by trans-Atlantic telephone here that he was at liberty and expressed surprise at the furore caused by the reports that he was about to be arrested by the communists.

DURING HIS conversation with his brother Edward who phoned his Bishop brother at his Bucharest residence, the Bishop told him, "I am well and quite surprised at the reports of my impending arrest." Edward said his brother "did not seem to be worried or concerned about it."

Bishop O'Hara is the son of Dr. P. J. O'Hara, a dentist of 602 North 52nd St. West Philadelphia.

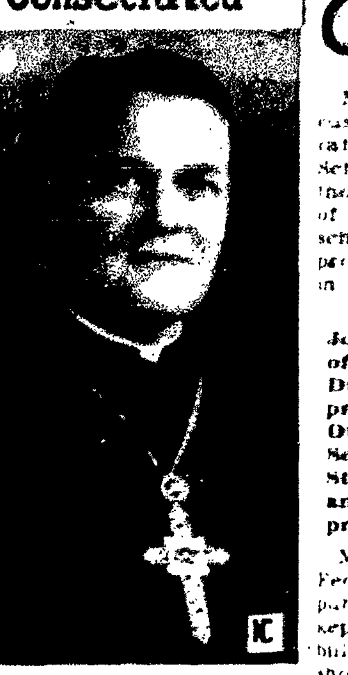
BISHOP AARON Marton of Alba Julia, Rumania prelate who was arrested and put in jail by the communists on June 22, 1949 on espionage charges is to come to trial soon according to informed sources. Bishop Marton for some time before his arrest was the spokesman for the Church against the terror and violence with which the Red regime was suppressing the Catholic Church. All Rumanian Bishops are now under arrest.

A radio news commentator reported that three nuns had "confessed" to spying for the Vatican and the United States and that their "confession" implicated both Bishops Marton and O'Hara. The same source reported that members of the American Legation in Bucharest were implicated in alleged spying activities. Information on all those implicated was contained in a confidential message that has been delivered to the Vatican, according to the report.

Proposes Televising Oberammergau Play

Munich — (CIP) — The BBC (British Broadcasting Corporation) has requested the organizing committee of the Oberammergau Passion Play for permission to broadcast the first performance of this year's Passion Play ever television. The committee has not yet decided what its answer will be.

New Bishop Of Springfield Consecrated



Most Rev. Christopher J. Weldon, who was consecrated fourth Bishop of Springfield, Mass., by Cardinal Spellman, in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, on March 21. The new Bishop was formerly Executive Director of the New York Catholic Charities.

Pope Appoints Cardinal Canali New Camerlengo

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII today named His Eminence Nicola Cardinal Canali as Camerlengo of the Sacred College of Cardinals to succeed His Eminence Massimo Cardinal Massimi who had completed his term in that office.

The title of Camerlengo at Rome is borne by three ecclesiastics: 1) the one who administers the property and revenue of the Holy See, verifies the death of the Pope, directs the preparations for the conclave to elect a new Pope and manages the same. 2) the Camerlengo of the Sacred College to which Cardinal Canali was appointed who administers all fees and revenues belonging to the College of Cardinals, pontificates at the Requiem Mass for a deceased Cardinal, and is charged with the registry of the Consistorial Acts, and 3) the Camerlengo of the Roman clergy.

Jesuit Opposes:

Mrs. F.D.R., Poteat On Religious Study

New Haven — (NC) — A discussion "Church, State and Education" at Yale University Law School passed quickly from the thorny problem of participation of church schools in Federal school aid to the even thornier problem of religious instruction in the public schools.

The speakers were the Rev. John Courtney Murray, S.J., of Woodstock (Md.) College, Dr. Edwin McNeal Poteat, president of Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State, Mrs. Elanor Roosevelt, and Dr. George N. Shuster, president of Hunter College.

Mrs. Roosevelt declared that Federal welfare funds for non-public school children should be kept apart from an education aid bill. She said that private schools should receive no financial aid from public funds. She also felt that it would be desirable to teach general moral values in public schools but not the doctrine of any specific religion.

FATHER MURRAY questioned the possibility of separating morality from religion and cited George Washington's admonition on that matter. He rejected also a suggestion by Dr. Poteat that a common core of basic religious propositions be incorporated in the public school curriculum.

Father Murray held that this would amount to teaching liberal Protestantism. He advanced as the prime necessity for the solution of the problem of religion in public education the "reestablishment of the principle of religious freedom on a positive basis."

Father Murray said: "We have had 120 years of the development of the principle of the separation of church and state and until now that principle appears as absolute. I propose that we reverse more than a century of error and develop the real principle of religious freedom. Religious freedom must become a positive thing and there will be none in the field of education until it is a financed freedom."

This kind of freedom, he explained, did not mean the destruction of the public schools nor a total subsidy for private religious schools. He added that "Catholics think that in principle a proportionately fair measure of public funds is due them for schools—how much an amount nobody knows."

FATHER MURRAY contended that the minimum rights of private religious schools called for Federal help in bus transportation financing. Above that he said what should be tax-supported is a matter "to be worked out by honest collective bargaining among the American people."

"It is up to the American people to decide whether they consider freedom of religion valuable enough to be financed," he declared. "If they don't, that is the end of it."

Dr. Shuster deplored the "banal and contemptible quarreling about the place of religious education as a bad example to the younger generation. He said that separation of church and state [illegible] not mean indifference to the welfare of children and that no definition of that phrase can deny to any child welfare services.

Public Rosary Grows in Britain

London — (NC) — The open air public Rosary begun over a year ago by a group of young ex-servicemen at Marble Arch, Hyde Park has now spread to five other places. Two of them are in London: Streatham Common, south of the Thames, and Leyton, on the north-east outskirts.

THE PUBLIC Rosary is also recited at Chatham, Kent, at the Bull Ring in Birmingham, and in the Covered Market, Preston, Lancashire.

A crowd of between 100 and 200 still gathers every Sunday at Marble Arch. Many non-Catholics are known to join in the prayers there. In the other places onlookers are also beginning to take an interest.

WHATEVER THE weather all 15 Mysteries of the Rosary are said in each place every Sunday. Before each Mystery one of the group leading the devotions explains briefly to the onlookers the purpose of the prayers.

The intentions for which the Rosary is said are a just peace, the conversion of Russia, the persecuted Christians of Eastern Europe, the return of England to true Christianity and a just solution of the Catholic schools problem.

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