

General Franco Secretly Constructing Immense Basilica In Mountain Recess

Cathedral Rises In Hidden City

London (N.C.) Charles Foley, correspondent of the mass-circulation London Daily Express, told of a massive cathedral to be surmounted by a tremendous illuminated cross which General Franco is building secretly in the heart of the Guadarrama mountains of Spain.

Mr. Foley, just back from Spain, says that when completed this "eighth wonder of the world" will shine out across the whole of central Spain.

THE CATHEDRAL and cross will when completed at a cost of \$21,000,000 dollars be a monument to General Franco that will endure not for centuries but for millenniums. "More than that," Mr. Foley adds, "because the cathedral is impregnable even to the atom bomb. It may not last until the end of time."

Mr. Foley after describing how he was privileged with special passes to visit this "forbidden city" high up above Spain's central mountain mass guarded by mountain ramparts, armed guards and blocked roads writes:

"Suddenly before our eyes Franco's secret city was out there. At the head of a wild zig-zag there sprang a mountain crest its walls were of freestone scarred by fissures like flying Gothic buttresses unbroken by a bush or tree. Franco climbed this crest a dozen years ago. He had won the war. He had mastered Spain. And now?"

"IN THE FACE OF THE mountain a rent was long. Thousands of men, with pick and dynamite, tunneled and quarried for ten years. They fought their way through from one end of the crest to the other. The mountain was hollowed out.

"Below, the spilt-out rock was crushed and built up again to form a great imperial stairway down the valley. On both sides of the way into the crest a wide curve of white-masonry now beckons. Sculptors, tiny figures on scaffolding, were working on panels three times a man's height.

"We raised our eyes. Away over the mountains, tacking from peak to peak, a pilgrim's way all in wide shiving stairs is being built. On every peak is poised a chapel.

"All about the crest are villages built for and by workmen... long and white, with cloisters and colonnades. It is a monastery, they tell us, to house 50 priests and, when all is ready, 200 guests from every continent.

"We approached the arched entrance created by mink a concrete moat that will support the threshold for a great double doorway which is being cast in bronze. From the blinding sunshine we stepped into the cold, black depths of a sepulchre. Slowly in the endless gloom we began to see. We were standing in the entrance of a cathedral.

"THE MAIN AXIS is a mighty tunnel driven into the crest. As you pace its length, nearly 800 feet, you realize that this must be the longest nave in Christendom. (The overall length of St. Peter's Basilica in Rome is about 700 feet.) Transcepts lead off into the darkness.

"In the center of the cruciform design a cupola like the dome of St. Paul's in London's great Protestant cathedral soars upwards with a gallery around it. Along the aisles are 16 chapels cut into the rock.

"BEHIND THE High Altar there is a circular staircase with 250 steps cut into the rock. A lift (elevator) will go up to the pinnacle of the crest 450 feet above the cathedral floor. The overall height of St. Peter's including cross, is 488 feet. And now my story becomes plain fantasy. From the summit of the mountain another lift will go right on into the sky.

"A platform is being built on the summit 4,500 feet above sea level to support a cross three times the height of Nelson's monument, the great column to Admiral Nelson dominating London's Trafalgar Square. The lift will rise inside it so that when you reach the top you will stand like an angel on the theologian's needle point, in space.

"Within the hollowed arms of this crucifix—an architectural miracle—eternal lights will shine," Mr. Foley adds. "It will be seen in the sky from Madrid. It will shine out across the whole center of Spain."

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St. Joseph, Mercy Sisters Receive Habits



Newly-professed novices (above) of the Congregation of the Sisters of St. Joseph, wearing for the first time the religious habit of their community, enter the St. Joseph Motherhouse Chapel where they pledged vows in religion. Other photos of reception ceremonies are on page 5.

Nineteen Novices Received Into Sisters Of St. Joseph

Nineteen young women received the religious habit of the Sisters of St. Joseph and became the community's newest novices at impressive ceremonies held Monday morning in the exquisite new chapel of the Blossom Road Motherhouse Sunday afternoon.

Symbols of their desire to become spiritual spouses of Christ, the Divine Bridegroom, the group of young women entered the chapel wearing white bridal gowns and veils to pledge their first vows in the religious life.

ATTENDING THE postulants who had completed nine months in the community, were seven Nazareth Academy graduates, who carried by-trimmed baskets containing the black-colored religious habits that would soon replace the bridal finery.

The postulants knelt prayerfully at the altar rail while His Excellency Bishop Kearney, who presided at the rites, blessed the habits which officially identify the wearers as members of the Sisters of St. Joseph Community.

Solemn and heart-warming were the assuring responses which the new Brides of Christ made when Bishop Kearney questioned them about their desires to become Sisters of St. Joseph.

ASSURED OF their worthiness, the Bishop requested the Mother Superior to receive the postulants as members of the Congregation. The postulants then retired to be vested in their habits.

The return in procession of the postulants to the chapel offered a dramatic contrast to their earlier entry. Each had replaced the gay bridal attire with the solemn black serge of the religious habit. Gone were the bridal veils and shining hair.

THE MOST dramatic moment of the ceremony came next as the entire group standing before the altar said together: "The empire of the world and all the grandeur of this earth I have despised for the love of Our Lord Jesus Christ whom I have seen, whom I have loved, and in whom I have believed and towards whom my heart inclines."

As though confirming this statement with physical rejection, the postulants were then retired to be vested in their habits.

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2 Million Koreans In South Fled From Red Terror In North, Says Correspondent

15 U. S. Missionaries In Northern Refugees' Flight Followed Russian Arrival

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE) Tokyo, June 30 — There were 15 Americans among some 75 foreign missionaries working in South Korea when that country was attacked by the northern communists. Three Maryknoll nuns have since been evacuated to Japan.

A great number of the foreign missionaries were in areas that fell to the Reds in the early stages of the fighting. They included five Maryknoll and two Columbian priests and one Maryknoll Bishop. All with the exception of one Columbian missionary were working in Seoul, the south Korean capital.

In response to a query by the N.C.W.C. News Service, it was stated at the Vatican that no word had been received from the missions in southern Korea and grave concern was expressed about their welfare.

The Maryknollers are Bishop Patrick Byrne, a native of Washington D.C., and Apostolic Delegate in Korea, and the Revs. George Carroll of New York, N.C.W.C. correspondent in Seoul; John Coffey of Detroit; Hugh L. Craig of Minneapolis; Patrick J. Duffy of Brooklyn; and William R. Booth of Rockville Center, N.Y.

THE COLUMBIAN priest in Seoul was the Rev. Cornelius Boyle of New Jersey. The other U. S. Columbian priest in the Red-captured area was the Rev. James P. Maginn, stationed at Chonchun, just below the 38th parallel, the north-south dividing line.

The Maryknollers in Seoul are engaged as follows: Father Booth is secretary to Bishop Byrne; Father Carroll is the Maryknoll superior in Korea, member of the advisory committee in Seoul for LARA (Licensed Agencies for Relief in Asia) and representative in Seoul for War Relief Services; National Catholic Welfare Conference; Father Craig is engaged in organizing a Central Committee similar to the N.C.W.C. in the United States; Fathers Duffy and Coffey are in parish work.

BEFORE COMMUNICATIONS with Seoul broke down, Father Carroll advised that all the missionaries were safe.

Two other American Maryknoll priests, the Revs. Patrick H. Cleary of Ithaca, N.Y., and Roy D. Pettipiece of Detroit, are stationed at Sechunge and Pyeng, talk respectively, two cities about 50 miles below Seoul.

Other American missionaries in South Korea at the time of the invasion include two Columbian priests at Mokpo near Korea's southwestern tip and three Maryknoll nuns at Pusan on the southeastern tip.

U. S. Bishop Accused In Rumania Trial

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE) Vatican City, June 29 — (Radio, N.C.) No reports have been received at the Vatican regarding the latest treason trial in Bucharest, according to competent Vatican authorities.

News dispatches from Bucharest say that a Catholic Bishop has been implicated in charges of spying and plotting to overthrow the communist regime in the indictment of seven Rumanians now on trial on charges of high treason, espionage, smuggling and helping fugitives from the country.

The reportedly accused prelate is Bishop Gerald Patrick O'Hara of Savannah, Atlanta, who is now acting as Regent of the Papal Nunciature at Bucharest. Although mentioned in the indictment of the others, as being a leader of an underground espionage plot, Bishop O'Hara has not been detained, according to the Bucharest dispatches. Also mentioned but not detained, according to the press reports, was Magr. Guido Del Meatri, auditor of the Nunciature.

Another accused was U. S. Navy Captain Eugene F. Karpe, former attaché at Bucharest, who was mysteriously killed when he fell from the Orient Express in Austria last February.

The indictment as read over the Bucharest Radio accuses Bishop O'Hara of persuading the chaffeur to undertake espionage work and to carry it out under the direction of Monsignor Del Meatri. Also involved in the indictment are Magr. John C. Kirk, priest of the Savannah-Atlanta diocese and secretary of the Nunciature in Bucharest, and one Remus Ionescu, described as an employee of the Nunciature.

THE WOMAN Benedictines, priests, Brothers and Sisters, including some Korean and French nationals as well as Germans, are still captives also. Some reportedly were seen marching to forced labor in coal mines last winter. The Woman cathedral has been turned into a theater and the monastery into an agricultural college by the communists.

The present conflict was less severe in May, 1946, when it succeeded the departure of Soviet Gen. Terentiy Shitkov and a delegation from the Seoul railway station following the breakdown of the United States-Soviet joint commission. The commission was created by a foreign ministers' conference at Moscow in December, 1945, to handle the Korea partition problem. General Shitkov was recalled after an impasse had been reached regarding Korean representation on a proposed constituent body.

According to Gen. John P. Hodges, then commanding the U. S. forces in Korea, the Americans insisted that no Korean be excluded who represented "any sizeable group." The discussions were resumed after a long delay, but were again fruitless. The Russian objective was indicated when General Shitkov declared that Moscow wanted a Korea "loyal" to the Soviets. This Russian word comes directly

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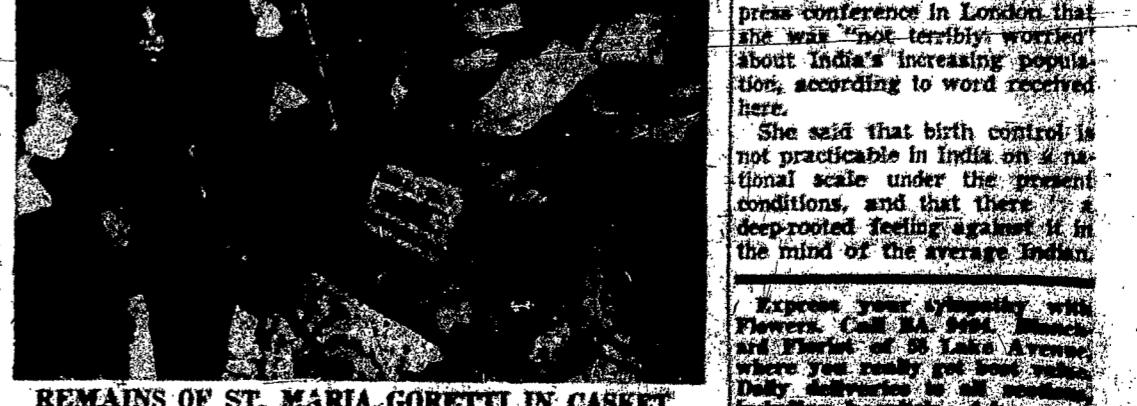
Woman Minister Hits Against Birth Control

New Delhi, India (N.C.) Rajkumari Amrit Kaur, India's woman Health Minister, told a press conference in London that she was "not terribly worried" about India's increasing population, according to word received here.

She said that birth control is not practicable in India on a national scale under the present conditions, and that there is a deep-rooted feeling against it in the mind of the average Indian.

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REMAINS OF ST. MARIA GORETTI IN CASKET



REMAINS OF ST. MARIA GORETTI IN CASKET



Garbed in religious habit and wearing white church cloak, fourteen young women (shown above) became professed members of the Sisters of Mercy at impressive rites held for the first time in the new Motherhouse Chapel. Other Photos on page 5.

Abandons Medical Career To Become Trappist Monk

Covington, Ky. — (N.C.) at Georgetown University hospital in Washington, D. C.

Dr. Bamberger, now called Frater Postulant Robert, entered the monastery June 11. He will receive the habit of a Trappist monk July 11, and will then spend nine years in prayer, study and contemplation before ordination to the priesthood.

Dr. Bamberger obtained his medical degree at the University of Cincinnati.

Summer Deadline Set

Starting next week, all matter must be in the Courier Journal office, 55 So. St., Rochester 4, N.Y., before Tuesday noon each week during the summer months. Regular schedule resumes Labor Day Week.