

Ex-Wave, Jitterbug Contest Winner Becomes Nun To Work For Lepers

By WALTER V. CARTY
Special Writer

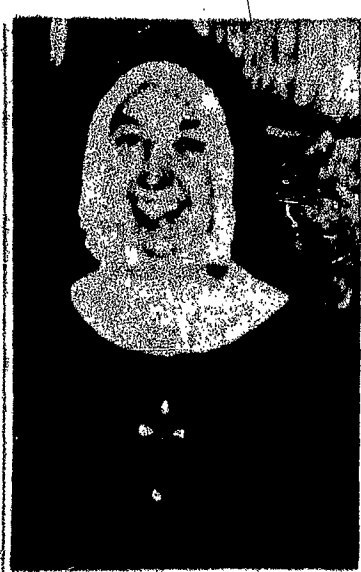
At the airport a few days ago you may have noticed a quiet little nun whose luggage was packed for the leper colony at Spanishtown, Jamaica. She was not, thank heaven, a victim of the dread disease; rather she is the victim of a much more joyful affliction—a whole hearted love of God Whom she will henceforth serve with all her energy and strength.

You may be surprised to know that Sister Mary Jerome of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary (Marists) not too long ago won a Jitterbug contest at a U. S. Navy base. Uniforms are natural to her, now the wimple and she veil, then the costume and feathers, insignia of a Franchiscella, Mazurka, Flat Glass in the Waves. It is still the same motif—finish service for someone else.

She does not fall into any of the cliché categories that designers think designate people with "vocations" to religious life. She is no swooning ecstatic; she was not thwarted in love; she was not a "lonely heart"; she had no great urge to escape the "fey" and "fret of humanity." In point of fact, she was voted the most popular Wave at the Naval Hospital at Portsmouth, New Hampshire, during her stint there. She comes from a large, energetic family in Milwaukee, and her love of wholesome hearty living is extraordinary.

Now comes the inevitable question—how could a girl like this, with such a "normal" regular outlook on life, ever bring herself to enter the seclusion of convent walls, and, of all things, volunteer to work among the wretchedness of a leper colony?

LESS THAN A quarter-century ago, Frances Lofy was born in Milwaukee, the bright and comely city which has been the fruitful mother of so many vocations to the service of the Church. For "Franny" high school days



SISTER MARY JEROME

work, preferably nursing wounded servicemen in the more dangerous areas. "But all my Florence Nightingale aspirations," she says, "went up in smoke." First there was the training station, then the hospital corps school. Along the way, some busybody had to discover that I was a fairly good typist. So for two years our heroine was receptionist and secretary for an officer with a couple of pans of scrambled eggs on his hat. It was interesting enough and I was with some very fine people but I know it was not what I wanted. I was still shopping around.

But Franny continued on her "bargain-hunt." Like most women on such a mission she kept an eye out for ads. Finally she found it. Tucked away in one of the popular slick magazines, was this curious item: "CAN YOU FILL THESE SHOES?" They belong to a man who works for the lepers on a far-away island. There was a picture of the shoes and nothing more. Many a copy writer would envy the skill and subtlety of this invitation. At the bottom was the name and address of a religious community. Franny had a kind of hunch that, with the grace of God, she might be able to fill the shoes and answer the ad.

Almost before she realized it she found herself in the Novitiate of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary in Bedford, Massachusetts. And the wonderful Marist Sisters, founded in France after the Revolution and world renowned for their missionary activities, had a new Sister Mary Jerome, bright and shiny as a new half-dollar—and nothing counterfeited about her!

Last week she left for the leper colony in the British West Indies. We pray that she will find the wherewithal to keep the heel and soles of the "black shoes" in constant repair. Unless Franny Lofy has changed, they will often need it!

When we read all the great achievements of our Government, they parade us three times a day with roll call, we as to make sure that none of us has to work from 8 a.m. till 12 noon, escaped.

Vienna (NC)—Practically all the 1,000 Religious ousted from their monasteries and convents by the Hungarian Reds are now without priests. The expulsions were carried out on the night of June 9 without warning. The number of monks ousted is given as 322. The number of nuns deported is estimated at 800.

Hungarian "security" police climbed over walls and fences to enter the convents of the nuns. It is reported that some places they did not bother to ring the door bell but broke into windows or broke down doors.

THE NUNS AND monks were generally given only a half hour to get ready for deportation. They were not permitted to take any blankets or bedding and only a minimum of ten pounds of personal belongings. At some places the Religious were searched and such things as note books, prayer books, holy pictures, and identification cards were taken from them.

The treatment generally accorded the Religious was that of criminals, it is said. THEY WERE hauled away in tarpaulin-covered trucks like cattle, the reports state. Many of the trucks had no benches and the Religious were forced to stand for the long journey to the "concentration" monasteries. The trucks stopped for rest periods only every six or eight hours. The Religious were not permitted to take along food, nor were they given any along the way.

When the monks and nuns arrived at the new monasteries and convents, it was discovered that the heads of these houses had received no notification that they were to house additional Religious and consequently had no accommodations for them.

Soldiers Honor Saint. Lisbon, Portugal (NC)—The statue of St. Anthony of Padua was borne in a procession of artillerymen of the Portuguese army who had just been sworn into service by the Minister of War, Fernando dos Santos Costa at Cascais, near here.

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Czech Monk Reveals 'Slavery' Severe Vatican Penalty Hits Of 'Concentration Monastery' Red Helpers

By DR. FREDRICH FINDER
NCWC News Correspondent

Vienna The Czech Communist regime's mass expulsions of practically all Religious from their monasteries to so-called "concentration monasteries" during the night of horror in the latter part of April have been described as "highly beneficial" to the evacuees in a recent issue of the daily Lidova (Liberator).

The paper says that the Religious are now able to pursue their vocational activities under excellent hygienic and social conditions. How "excellent" these conditions are can be gathered from the letter of an interned monk, smuggled out of one of these "concentration camp monasteries," as he describes them.

TELLING OF FILTH, slave labor and complete lack of contact with the outside world, this monk writes. "All our mail is being censored and therefore all you can say in a 'legal' letter is that you are very well. We are here about 300 members of religious orders. More than 90 are Capuchins, about 60 Dominicans, the rest include White Canons, Redemptorists, Fathers of the Cross, etc."

"You may already know how they brought us here, our Superiors were called to Prague, to the Ministry of Church Affairs, where they were told that their congregations would have to move, at the same time they were given all sorts of promises. Then they were packed into cars and taken back to their respective monasteries. This was on April 28."

"AFTER THE return of the Fathers Superior we were given 24 hours within which to prepare for the journey and pack a minimum of luggage. Other congregations were allowed only four hours or even one hour only, for that purpose. At 10:15 p.m. we were herded between two lines of armed police to waiting buses and at 6 o'clock next morning we arrived here. We are constantly surrounded by police so as to make any contact with the outside world practically impossible. Nobody must be allowed to learn that we are not in a convent, but, for all practical purposes, in a concentration camp. You have no idea of the filth we found here in Prague they had told our Superiors that everything had been arranged and prepared in actual fact nothing at all had been prepared and we had to fix up things as far as possible with our own hands."

"NOW AT LAST we begin to exist again more like human beings but there is still no running water and no sanitation. For our young members things are not quite so bad, but almost one-third of our number are old men, some are over eighty. They give us newspapers every day, perhaps so we can laugh

FIVE SACRAMENTS IN 2 MONTHS



Five Sacraments in two months, Baptism, Penance, Holy Eucharist, Confirmation and Matrimony, is the record of Mr. and Mrs. Ku, converts to Catholicism. Mr. Timothy Tu, son of General Chu Tung Ku, Chief of Staff of the National Forces on Formosa, is pictured with his bride, Victoria Feng, just graduated from Barst College, Lake Forest, Ill. Both are continuing their education at Michigan State College, where Mr. Ku will receive his Ph.D. in forestry. (NC Photos)

Cardinal Spellman To Mark Centennial of Archdiocese

New York (NC)—Members of the clergy and religious have been invited by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, to attend a pontifical Mass which the Cardinal will offer at old St. Patrick's Cathedral July 19 in observance of the 100th anniversary of New York as an archdiocese.

The New York See was erected as a diocese in 1800 and raised to an archdiocese on July 19, 1850. This was another glorious day in the history of Old St. Patrick's down in the heart of the East Side and the veritable cradle of Catholic New York. Founded on June 8, 1809 by Irish immigrants, it is New York's first cathedral. Behind the brick walls of its grounds or in crypts are buried many who brought the Faith to a strange land and planted the seeds of a great archdiocese. Old St. Patrick's was not ready for divine service until 1815 but

Vatican City

The Vatican has taken the sternest disciplinary action against those priests and members of the laity who cooperate with Red regimes in disrupting ecclesiastical authority.

A decree issued by the Sacred Congregation of the Index automatically excommunicates all those who attempt to overthrow ecclesiastical authority and those who accept of such church offices or benefices without the proper ecclesiastical designation. The excommunication is especially reserved to the Holy See.

THE DECREE is aimed especially at three categories of persons: 1. Anyone who plots against the legitimate ecclesiastical authorities or seeks in any way to overthrow their power. 2. Anyone who, without canonical establishment or provision made according to canon law occupies an office, benefice or ecclesiastical dignities or areas himself or has caused it to be done.

3. Anyone who directly or indirectly participates in the aforementioned crimes.

The basis for this drastic action, the decree states, is the fact that the Catholic Church, as the institution of Jesus Christ, is a perfect society, hierarchically constituted whose supreme law and jurisdiction are vested in the Roman Pontiff, the successor of St. Peter in primary.

"FOR THIS reason no one without legitimate establishment and canonical provision can presume to usurp oneself into ecclesiastical offices and benefices, or to place others there." Commenting on the decree a competent Church official stated that the present situation in the Iron Curtain countries exceeds the provisions of canon law and calls for special measures. The general church laws he said concerned individual infractions by capable of being dealt with by ecclesiastical authorities in case by case. But these crimes have been raised to the status of a general system by civil authorities.

While previously such cases were to be considered individually and sentence passed the penalty is now a blanket one.

Near East Missions

Press: Cardinal Spellman, President
Mgr. Thomas J. McMahon, Nat'l Sec'y
Rev. Wm. Keizer, D.D.
Rev. Andrew H. Rogosh
Rev. Joseph P. Conroy

Silver Jubilee

25 years a Bishop, convert to the Church leader of more than 70,000 converts to the Church. That in capsule is the story of Mar Ivanios. Honoring the Silver Jubilee of this Oriental Newman the benefactors of the Near East have given the means to build him a Shrine Chapel of Our Lady of the Miraculous Medal. This is our last appeal for furnishings for the Chapel. Some articles still needed:

- A set of Vestments \$100
- A Tabernacle \$75
- A Maniples \$50
- A Ciborium \$50
- An Altar Cross \$25

You can memorialize your family and friends by helping this memorial to a great Convert and Shepherd of India.

SALT SHAKER

BACK TO THE SOIL. That is the program of a group of young priests in Entree, Zealous learned, eager to bring Christ to their people they are rich in all but material things. Their greatest wish is a spirit of enterprise. They bought some land and livestock. They will care for both themselves using the produce for food and market. They are shy on capital. \$740 is their goal. Will you help?

ROD AND REEL

NATIVE PRODUCT. The trees of Christ are the Tree of Eternal Salvation that rise from the soil of Palestine. The world hardly think of sending a crucifix to Palestine. Let the new Latin Archbishop of Palestine needs many things for the churches in his territory. You can supply crucifixes for an altar for \$25.

RENT CONTROL

"COUNTRY DOCTOR". A title rich in history and respect, a symbol of safety and service. The mission lands of the Near East are sadly in need of medical services, especially in the Lebanon with nothing. They rented a house to live in, then brought in 75 kids of this mountain village to teach them. Rent for the year \$167. Right. A little less than \$14 a month. Can you pay a month's rent to keep them going?

QUICK CHANGE

MESS CALL. Right now a lot of our American kids are rejoicing in the simple living of some camp. They're "roughing it." Among the Palestine refugees another type of camp is being run—a camp where the kids can learn something of the decent living in a normal surroundings that they haven't known for years. \$15 will help some child recover his sense of human dignity.

BANK NOTE

VACATION MOOD. This is the season of easy, relaxed, leisurely mood, the season when it is easy to forget. Don't forget your loved ones. In season and out of season Masses can be said for them.

The Religious Houses in the Near East are in great need. A monthly deposit of \$1 in our MARY'S BANK can be a means of great help and encouragement to these heroic Nuns.

Send all communications to:
Catholic Near East Welfare Association
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St.
New York 17, N. Y.



New! Outdoor Butler
It's a table, tray and coaster set!
2.98

Outdoor entertaining is easier with this step-saver. You can carry out the plates and glasses all at one time! Lift the tray off for easy passing and serving... anchor the elbow-high coaster in the lawn. No spilling, no juggling. Rubber-tipped feet on the stand for "no-scratch" use on the porch or terrace.

McCurdy's Houseware Center, Fifth Floor

SUMMER STORE HOURS
Monday, Wednesday, Friday 9:30 a.m. to 8:45 p.m.
Tuesday and Thursday 9:30 a.m. to 8 p.m.
Closed Saturdays
during July and August

McCurdy's

It's Summer Sausage Season... and

ARPEAKO
MAKES THE BEST!

Offer a man a dainty egg and olive sandwich, a caviar canape or a small shrimp balanced precariously on a cracker and it's ten-to-one his face will fall into a frown! On the other hand... pass him a platter-full of sandwiches made with Arpeako Thuringer and you've made a friend who won't forget you! By careful curing, studied spicing and long smoking, we've given Arpeako Thuringer a tangy flavor that meets with favor immediately! Next time your party plans include the men-folks, set a heaping platter-full of Arpeako Thuringer before them... and slice enough... because you'll find the ladies will like it, too!

ARPEAKO THURINGER (Summer Sausage)
The Peak Of Perfection... Made Under Strict U. S. Government Inspection!

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MEAT FOOD PRODUCTS
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ROCHESTER DIVISION
ROCHESTER, N. Y.

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