

Netherlands' Census Lists Increase in Catholic Ranks

New York (NC)—Although which does not belong to any the Netherlands is generally church also has increased considerably especially in the cities of Amsterdam and Rotterdam, the information bureau reported.

Census statistics for 1947, issued by the Netherlands Information Bureau here, show a 2.09 per cent increase in Catholics since 1930, while membership of all Protestant churches declined. In 1947 the percentage of Catholics in the Dutch population was 38.5.

"The census also disclosed that the percentage of the population of the Jewish population is due to the German persecutions," the information bureau explained. In 1930, there were in the Netherlands 111,917 persons who identified themselves as Jews. In 1947 there were 14,369 Jews left.

Pope Pius Receives Emperor Bao Dai

Rome—(NC)—Emperor Bao Dai of Indo-China was received in a special audience Sunday by His Holiness Pope Pius XII at the papal summer residence of Castelgandolfo. Following his private audience, the Emperor presented to the Holy Father his mother-in-law and his three children who are traveling with him.

ROSARY - RAIN OR NO RAIN



Rain or no rain, the Rosary had to be said outdoors every evening in St. Cloud, Minn. Little four-year-old Billy Gerard did not mind the rain either. He just clutched his rosary and was sheltered by the raincoat of his mother, Mrs. Ed Gerard. To the left, with no worry about the rain is Mrs. Herbert. Most hundreds of Catholics in the Diocese of St. Cloud have been saying the Rosary outdoors every evening in neighborhood groups for the cause of peace and the conversion of Russia. (NC Photos)

IMPRISONED FOR THE FAITH

Red Slain Bishop Buried In Secret

Cleveland (NC) Bishop Basil Aftenie reported to be the first martyr-bishop under the communist government of Rumania was buried anonymously and secretly in Belu Catholic cemetery in Bucharest, according to a dispatch to the Rumanian monthly magazine, "Unirea" (Unity), published here. The dispatch came from one of the last priests to leave Rumania. He signed it "Peregrinus." The priest is working among Rumanian refugees and learned of Bishop Aftenie's strange burial from some of these.

HIS REPORT says that last May 11 before the Church was "exterminated" in Rumania an urgent telephone call came to a priest at St. Joseph Cathedral, Bucharest, asking him to hasten to the cemetery. The priest did as he was ordered. Two days later, he discovered that the man he had buried was 51-year-old Bishop Aftenie, who had died of communist mistreatment in the infamous Vacaresti prison. Bishop Aftenie was Auxiliary to the Apostolic Administrator of Fagaras and Alba Giulia.

The report said that during Bishop Aftenie's long imprisonment, communists tried by every means to force him to join the Stalin-controlled wing of the Orthodox Church. In each case, his answer was, "With the devil I do not hold conversation."

Bishop Aftenie, according to the magazine, had been "shadowed" by communist agents from early 1948 until his arrest. Once he turned suddenly, approached the man fol-

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Reds Strike At Private Enterprise

New York (NC) - Reports from Poland indicate that the communist controlled government the remnants of privately owned has prepared a new blow against enterprises there, according to the Inter-Catholic Press Agency. A government directive requires that all industrial equipment owned by private enterprises and private persons be registered. According to the official explanation, this "registra-

Religious Workers Eligible For Social Security Aid

(Continued from Page 1) they have one. If they have not been under social security in a previous position, an account will be opened for them in the same manner as for any new worker in industry.

THE WORKER by refusing to sign will register his or her dissent. Signatures of two-thirds of those eligible will be required. The point has not been determined, but it is believed that only full time workers will be considered eligible, although if participation is approved, part time workers will be included in the social security coverage.

A difficult question will be presented in many instances by deciding who is the employer of religious lay workers. Within the Protestant faith, many denominations recognize the local church as the only body with inherent powers. In this case, each church will have to decide the matter for itself and will have to make application individually.

A CHURCH can do this even if it has only one eligible employee as, for example, the sexton. If it has two full time employees, a sexton and an organist, for example, both would have to vote for social security coverage, or neither could obtain it. If the local church has three employees, two of the three would have to vote for it and so on.

In the case of denominations such as The Methodist Church or the Episcopal Church, where there is an ecclesiastical organization, application could be made for all of that denomination's lay workers within a given area, should church authorities desire. Or it can be left to the discretion of the individual churches, hospitals, schools, orphanages and other church-related bodies within the diocese or district.

The Roman Catholic Church will face a similar problem as to whether application is to be made individually by parishes or collectively by dioceses and archdioceses.

"In general," a spokesman for the Federal Security Administration explained, "whoever makes out the pay check will have to pay the social security taxes and they will be the appropriate body to consider as the 'employer.' However, where they are merely part of a large ecclesiastical organization, we will accept whatever application is made."

Explaining further what is meant by "all eligible employees" the FSA points out that in a hospital where nurses might be covered by a retirement system, but where cooks, orderlies, and custodial help are not two-thirds of all employees would have to vote for coverage in order for any to be eligible.

The same situation pertains to schools and colleges where the faculty may be covered by a pension system, but custodial employees are not.

ATTEMPTS WERE made in Congress to permit a religious affiliated institution to apply for social security coverage for one group of its employees, but not another. However, this was rejected in the final version of the bill, and it must be all or none.

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