

# Catholics 1st Among Australia Church-Goers, Survey Reveals

**By BRIAN DOYLE**  
 Sydney, Australia — (NC) — The results of the Gallup Poll have shown that the Catholics are the largest church-goers in Australia. The Gallup Poll, which has yet to make a serious investigation in this country and placed much stress on the results of the Federal Election last December, has estimated that only 21 per cent of the population attend a church service every week.

Catholics, who represent 21 per cent of the population, attend church services at the rate of 40 per cent of the population, according to the Gallup Poll. Protestants, who are 16 per cent of the population (743,540 in 1947), provide six per cent of weekly church-goers.

BAPTIST PROVIDE only one per cent of the Australian population (113,577 in 1947) but they constitute four per cent of those who attend church every week.

Within the various denominations, only six per cent of the Anglicans are weekly church-goers, 11 per cent of the Presbyterians, 16 per cent of the Methodists and 28 per cent of the Baptists. The poll shows that 62 per cent of Catholics go to church each week.

The most remarkable feature of all revealed by the Gallup Poll is the decline in the church-going habit of members of the Church of England (Anglicans), which is the "official" established religion of Australia, a former British colony and now member of the British Commonwealth of Nations.

Church and state are separated in Australia and religion is not the concern of the nation's legislators.

The separation is figured by Section 118 of the Federal Constitution, which states that: "The Commonwealth shall not make any law for establishing any religion, or for imposing any religious observance, or for promoting the free exercise of any religion, and no religious test shall be required as a qualification for any office or trust under the Commonwealth."

The aim of the Australian Constitution founders was that "the fundamental principles of the Christian religion would be respected," though not enforced or applied by Federal legislation.

THE DECLINE in practice as opposed to nominal religion affecting the Protestant denominations, particularly the predominant Anglicanism today, renders ironic the lofty aims of the constitution framers.

**Biggest single cause of the decline is 70 years of public education. Unlike the Catholic Church, the Protestant denominations did not build up their own systems of religious schools when state aid was withdrawn in 1880.**

Nor did they avail themselves of the provision of the Public Instruction Act that has operated since 1900, enabling every denomination to send a teacher into every public school to teach religion to children of the denomination for one hour every day.

In practice, and only spasmodically, they have been content with a half hour or hour per week of religious instruction in the public schools.

## U. N. Advisor

**Bishop Eric O'Brien, Auxiliary to His Eminence Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, Australia, who has arrived in New York where he will serve as an advisor to the Australian delegation to the United Nations General Assembly. (NO PHOTOS)**

# 40,000 Attend New York City HNS Rally

**New York — (RNS) —** An estimated 40,000 persons took part in a Holy Year service held in the Polo Grounds here under the auspices of the Holy Name Societies of New York. Taking part in the rites were Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Eugene Cardinal Tisserant, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Oriental Church; five bishops and scores of monsignori and priests.

The ceremonies, at which participants pledged respect for civil and spiritual authority and prayed for the conversion of Communists, simulated a pilgrimage to Rome. Spotlights on the night-darkened arena were five tableaux symbolizing shrines in various countries which Holy Year pilgrims have visited on their way to or from Rome.

**AS THE AUDIENCE** sang hymns, the two cardinals, followed by the bishops, monsignori and priests approached the "shrines" to offer special prayers. At each shrine a girl from one of the city's Catholic high schools posed as the Virgin is traditionally believed to have appeared in each instance.

The first shrine was that of Our Lady of Knock in Ireland, where prayers for peace were offered. Next was the shrine of St. Simon Stock in England, where prayers were said for the fighting men in Korea, and then the shrine of Our Lady of Fatima, where thanks were offered for the hundredth year of the New York Archdiocese.

At the two remaining shrines — those of Our Lady of Seville, Spain, and Our Lady of Lourdes, France — prayers were offered for the intentions of Pope Pius XII and for the conversion of Communists. The prayers at each shrine consisted of a decade of the Rosary.

**THE PROCESSION** of cardinals and prelates proceeded to a central altar where the flags of the five nations where the shrines are located were displayed alongside those of the United States and the Papal States in a broadcast address, Cardinal Spellman urged the participants to pledge loyalty to God and His commandments and "eternal enmity to all evils born of atheistic tyranny."

Prayers were then recited for the Korean dead, and the lights were turned on for Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.

# Canal Zone Catholic School Opens; 30 Year Ban Lifted

**(N.C.W.A. NEWS SERVICE)**  
 After 30 years of persistent efforts, Catholics of the Panama Canal Zone have been rewarded with their first parochial school — St. Mary's elementary school, which has been opened at Cristobal with an enrollment of more than 300 students.

The school is under the jurisdiction of the Vincentian missionaries and is staffed by Sisters of the Third Order of St. Francis. It has been opened in a building which formerly was used as an art school.

**THE CANAL ZONE** is a stretch of territory ten miles wide and 40 miles long leased by the U. S. Government from the Republic of Panama for the operation of the canal. It is administered by a Governor appointed by the President. In the main, the majority of zone residents are from the United States, assigned to government work there.

When the efforts among Catholics to establish a parochial school were started some 30 years ago, the Governor met their request with a statement that there was insufficient land for such a project — that all land and buildings had to be used and carefully parcelled out in the best interests of operation of the canal. This stand by the Governor became a policy which was adopted by his successors, including the present Governor, Francis Newcomer.

The repeated rebuffs met by Catholics in their request for a school reached a climax a year ago when Magr. Paul

Berger, chargé d'affaires of Apostolic Nunciature, at the dedication of a chapel in Ancon, asserted that "of all the lands over which the Star-Spangled Banner graciously floats 'the only one where American citizens are not allowed to build and support' a school of their choice. Monsignor Berger's speech was reported widely in the Catholic Press of the United States at that time.

Appeals from refusal by Governor Newcomer were carried by Catholic leaders to officials in Washington and eventually the Governor decided to reconsider the petition. He met with a three-man committee representing the Catholic interests. The committee was headed by Joseph Mauro, then Faithful Navigator of the Archbishop Matzke's General Assembly, Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus.

**AS A RESULT** of these meetings, permission was granted to open a parochial school in the abandoned art school building.

Until the time that the Catholic school was opened, children of the government personnel stationed in the zone were served by one junior college, two high schools and some half dozen elementary schools.

Catholic leaders in their petitions to the Governor insisted that their children received virtually no moral or religious training in the public schools operated in the zone.

# Cardinal Bars Priests From Red Broadcasts

**Frankfurt, Germany — (NC) —** The Catholic clergy of the Berlin diocese have been ordered not to participate in any radio broadcast over Soviet-controlled radio stations. His Eminence Conrad Cardinal von Freytag, Bishop of Berlin, issued the order.

**BOTH PRIESTS** and other clergymen have been heard over these stations in the past in regular denominational broadcasts. But lately communist executives have attempted to influence the speakers and even to censor their texts.

The development led to the new restriction by religious authorities which again brings to light the growing tension that exists in relations between all organized religions and the communist regime.

**A RECENT** Red attempt to establish a closer relationship with the Eastzone clergy by inviting them to a meeting with Soviet authorities proved to be a fiasco, with about only one per cent of the Protestant ministers attending. One Catholic priest was present as an observer.

Meantime the communist party members still continue to ransack book stores for Catholic books and all Catholic literature is confiscated.

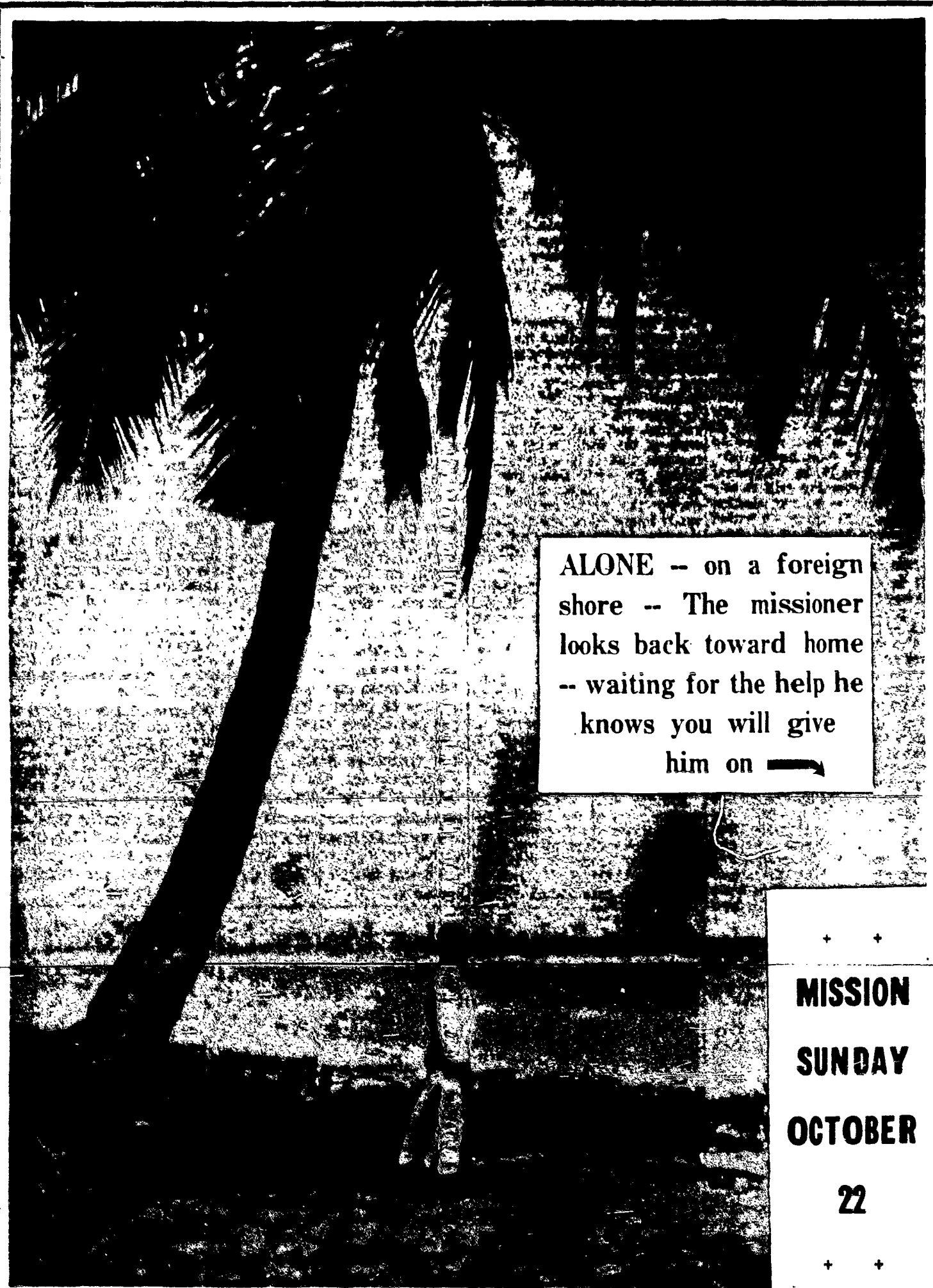
**Soviet Crimes**  
 London — (NC) — A detailed and up-to-date account of Soviet crimes against Poland is presented in a new book, "Stalin and the Poles," published here by Hollis and Carter.

# Criminal Baptized In Jail; Converts Mother By Mail

**Kagoshima, Japan — (NC) —** The misfortunes of war are often hard to bear and many times lead to despair. Here, however, is an instance when a misfortune of war is directly responsible for two conversions in one family, with the remaining members of the family taking instruction in the Catholic Faith.

An adjudged war criminal in a Japanese prison after long study was received into the Church. Once baptized he was anxious to convert his mother. Prison rules limited his letters to his mother to 100 words. He sent a long series of messages of instruction and had nearly covered the entire catechism when his mother became seriously ill.

The prisoner wrote to Father Seichida, pastor of Tanigama in the prefecture of Kagoshima, and asked him to visit his mother. The priest did so and found the woman so well instructed that she could be baptized immediately.



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