

Mary's Legion Balks Reds

Hong Kong—(NC)—Shanghai's Red police lost their first encounter with city's Legion of Mary members.

Some 1,500 Legionnaires said no to all communist efforts to force their signatures to prepared "confessions." Teen-age students stood shoulder to shoulder with the adults in defying communism's threats.

THE GOVERNMENT order, requiring Legion members to "resign" from the banned organization, has been a failure. The proposed "resignations" read:

"I, the undersigned, joined the reactionary Legion of Mary on . . . (date) . . . and conducted secret counter-revolutionary and evil activities against the government, the people and Soviet Russia. I hereby resign from the Legion of Mary and promise never to participate in such activities in the future."

At least half of the 40 persons who signed such documents were neither Legion members nor Catholics. The others were generally tricked into affixing their signatures.

A SHOW OF angry authority, consisting of desk pounding and shouting, is the first police approach to the Legionnaires.

The second technique is to assure Legion members that its perfectly legitimate from the Church's viewpoint for them to sign.

"Monsignor Prevost and Father McGrath have 'confessed,' the Reds say, (Both Msgr. Gustave Prevost, Prefect Apostolic of Lintung, and the Rev. Alden McGrath were officials of the now suppressed Catholic Central Bureau and are under arrest.) "It must be permissible for you to sign this registration and resignation form," they add. The so-called confessions of these two missionaries, printed in Shanghai newspapers, are held by all people in Shanghai to be false.

A YOUNG GIRL after hours of such grilling and persuasion, replied: "You are wasting your time. If the priests have con-

fessed, simply release them from prison and let them tell us to sign this form. We will flock here in droves and without being forced by the police."

The deep faith of the members of the Legion of Mary has given Shanghai a display of heroism that is reminiscent of the early days of the church. Questioned for 48 hours in five days, one young Legionnaire returned to the police station with his bundle of clothes prepared to go to jail.

"This is the last day I am coming here," he declared, "and I am not signing any 'confession' either."

Another officer of the Legion was poked up one morning on his way to Mass. Weeks later the police visited his home and told his wife to prepare her husband's room because he was coming home.

"He signed a 'confession,'" the wife, was told, "Now you sign this paper and he'll be back."

"Let him come back," the woman replied, "and I will go to fill his prison cell to atone for his sin." The man has not returned home.

RENDER THANKS TO GOD



Capt. and Mrs. John J. Swift are greeted by their pastor, Rev. Joseph P. Kelly of St. Mary's Church, Glens Falls, N. Y., as they arrive for the Mass offered there in Thanksgiving for the aviator's safe return. Capt. Swift was one of the American airmen imprisoned 40 days by the Hungarian Communists. (The Evangelist, Albany Photo)

Chapel in Boston Airport Dedicated By Archbishop

Boston—(NC)—Returning from a 32-day tour which took him to Korea, Japan, the Philippines and Rome, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, took part in impressive ceremonies of dedication of the Our Lady of the Airways Chapel at Logan Airport here.

Archbishop Spellman said that among these prisoners are some who believe "they can save face and die with honor" only by serving with the United States combat forces.

Cardinal Spellman said he visited a prisoner of war camp where he saw 300 Chinese who had deserted the communist ranks after they had been forced into service. He said they have tattoos on their shoulders in English, Chinese and Korean, "I am a anti-communist."

Archbishop Cushing said the chapel is a memorial to pilots who gave their lives for their country. He said: "It makes me happy to dedicate Our Lady of the Airways Chapel. It always has been my policy to bring the Church to the people and the people to God."

When the Boston prelate heard that Cardinal Spellman was arriving at the airport, he sent a representative to meet the Cardinal and to invite him to the dedication ceremonies.

Among those who attended the dedication rites was Secretary of Labor Maurice J. Tobin; Boston's Mayor John E. Hynes, and Joseph Mulhern, chairman of the airport.

IN AN INTERVIEW at the airport, Cardinal Spellman said there are many Chinese prisoners of war "who feel dishonored because they were forced to fight

Catholic Men Set Convention in Toledo

Washington—(NC)—Establishment of two groups to handle contemplated reorganization and the program for the convention of the National Council of Catholic Men to be held in Toledo, O., April 19 and 20, was announced here at NCCM headquarters.

At a convention planning session held in Toledo, NCCM President Stuart Lynch of Wilmington, Del., named Judge David McWilliam of St. Louis to head a sub-committee to study revision of the council's by-laws, Martin Work, NCCM executive secretary, disclosed.

MR. LYNCH, AT the same time, appointed a sub-committee headed by Francis L. Nally of Toledo, NCCM vice president, to arrange for the program of the convention. Serving with Mr. Nally are Alfred Tennyson, Trenton, N. J., Leo Leddy, Detroit, with James Lavey, Sr., of Toledo and the Rev. Lawrence J. Ernst, moderator of the Toledo Diocesan Council of Catholic Men, as assistants.

In connection with the drawing up of the program, Mr. Work said it was observed by the planners at the Toledo meeting that a practical workshop type of meeting appears to be preferred.

JUDGE McMULLAN, who is president of the St. Louis Archdiocesan Council of Catholic Men, will work with John Fitzgerald, dean of Loyola University law school, Chicago, and Albert Sattler, New York, president of the Catholic Central Verein, in studying revision of the council's by-laws.

Judge McMullan's sub-committee will consider a proposal to transfer directorships from provinces to dioceses and to provide for representation of national organizations. It also is proposed to make voting rights reflect the percentages of parishes represented in a diocesan federation or other affiliated body.

Homeless Women Society Organized

Buenos Aires, Argentina—(NC)—The Society for the Protection of Young Women has been organized here under the patronage of St. Maria Goretti.

The Society will maintain a permanent service in stations and ports to help young women who arrive without a particular destination to find work and safe lodgings.

Columbia Violence Report Exaggerated

By JOSE LOPEZ

Bogota, Colombia—(NC)—Careful investigations here show that violence against Protestant missionaries and their property has been reduced to a minimum for a year now.

Both the national and local governments have shown themselves ready to protect the missionaries and their property. Investigations have been made into every known complaint. Those guilty have been punished.

The facts show, as completely exaggerated the picture given in the United States that a persecution is raging against Protestants here, with Protestant missionaries being stoned almost on sight.

THAT THIS picture is exaggerated is further indicated by the testimony of a key Protestant missionary here. The testimony comes from Dr. Gerald Riddell, pastor of the Baptist Central Church in Bogota, which was stoned last December by irresponsible youths in a question-and-answer interview in the Bogota Star, an English-language paper. Dr. Riddell stated that the December incident was the first instance of violence he had experienced in his five years as a missionary in Bogota and his prior service at Cartagena.

In punishing the few acts of religious intolerance which have occurred, authorities here point out, the government has taken action even against local mayors and police officials. But they state that some charges of persecution are difficult to investigate because they lack such essential data as names, places and dates.

THE CLIMATE OF violence which still obtains to some extent in this country goes back to the abortive Bogota revolt of April 8, 1949. This partially explains the excessive severity of some local authorities against Protestants groups which are at times allied with bands of "guerrillas" waging war against the government.

It is also an established fact that in some areas Catholics have been angered by the aggressive propaganda of Protestant ministers and have reacted with acts of violence.

IN OTHER answers given by Dr. Riddell to the Bogota Star, he stated that the pastor of the local Catholic church had "never" given him any trouble. An advertisement in the U. S. capital pictured the pastor as inciting a mob to violence against the Protestant chapel.

The stoning of the chapel windows was actually done by some youths who ignored the admonition of their pastor to refrain from violence. Dr. Riddell estimated the damage to the windows at about \$250.

DR. RIDDELL was also asked by the Bogota Star whether he or his family had received any threats on their life. "Only one," he said. It was an anonymous telephone threat received by the maid.

The Bogota Star also interviewed the Rev. Florencio Alvarez, S.J., local Catholic pastor. "Did you caution your parishioners against violence?" the Star asked.

"Emphatically yes! However, several of them, all adolescents, got out of hand and stoned the church."

"Once the violence began, did you do everything possible to end it immediately?"

"Yes."

Archdiocese Opens Pre-Induction Courses

Cincinnati—(NC)—A series of pre-induction courses to prepare young men for military life, soon will be offered in the Archdiocese of Cincinnati under the CVO at the request of Archbishop Karl J. Alter.

The courses will lay the foundation for further instruction which the youth will receive under the Character Guidance Program of the Army and Air Force. Msgr. (Lt. Col.) Robert J. Sherry, Cincinnati archdiocesan priest now on duty at Fort Monroe, Va., said the CG program, which he is helping to direct, teaches basic moral and religious truths to American boys.

City Council—Cleveland—(NC)—Msgr. Richard P. Walsh, rector of St. John's Cathedral here, officiated when a session of the Cleveland City Council for the first time was opened with prayer.

Why Don't Priests Marry?

Basel, Switzerland—(NC)—The coach on the Swiss mountain express was crowded. Passengers were in a gay mood. By contrast, a priest prayed his Office quietly. This did not seem to agree with an especially boisterous youth.

"Say, Father," he pounced on the priest, "why don't you marry?"

The priest was not disturbed a bit.

"Because I don't want to," he replied with a smile.

All around the people began to laugh. It sounded like a quiz game to them. They wondered how the priest would react.

"But," said the giber, "if you did, you'd have children and contribute some valuable citizens to your country, wouldn't you?"

"Oh," smiled the priest, "if that's what you mean, I've got plenty of children!"

The oo-ohs went all over the coach. Now, what sort of scandal had they come upon?

"Pardon me, Father," a lady broke in. "How many children do you really have?"

"Two hundred and thirty-one!" replied the priest triumphantly.

"Two hundred and thirty-one?" the lady came back. "But, Father, that's impossible!"

The priest pulled out his calling cards and handed them to all those who wanted them.

They read: "Rev. . . . chaplain at Our Lady's Orphanage . . ."

"And there was the name of the town."

The silence now was universal.

"And now, Father," said the giber at last, "do you—I mean, these children live?"

"Sir," answered the priest, "they live from whatever I can get for them from charitable souls."

When the priest alighted from the train at the next station, his collection had netted him a sizable sum.

"Sorry, Father," mumbled the giber. "I did not mean to be rude."

Ancient Biblical Scripts Discovered

Arman, Transjordan—(NC)—Another momentous discovery of Biblical has been made in Transjordan in the region of the Dead Sea. It was learned here.

Small fragments of parchment paper, which have appeared for sale here, were photographed with infrared rays and disclosed scriptural verses. The source of this find was traced with some difficulty by Mr. Harding, an Englishman who is Director of Antiques for the Hashemite Kingdom.

The work of exploring the cave, hiding place of the priceless documents, is now proceeding with collaboration of the Rev. Roland Dauxaux, O.P., of the Biblical and Archeological School of the Cominican Order in Jerusalem.

The manuscripts are believed to date from the second century A.D. and contain parts of the Gospel and other New Testament inscriptions.

Bishop Dies—Vatican City—(NC)—Bishop Alessandro Gatto of Lannino, expelled by the communists died at Kwaiyang, China, enroute to Hong Kong, according to word received at the Vatican Press Office.

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