

Freedom 'Almost Like Prison,' Abp. Stepinac Tells U. S. Priest Visitor

Munich —(NC)— An American priest, who has just visited Yugoslavia and saw Archbishop Aloysius Stepinac, found that country's regime as communistic as that of any Soviet-controlled state.

The Rev. Joseph B. Koncius of the United Lithuanian Relief Fund of America, heard from Archbishop Stepinac that, during his tour of Yugoslavia, he observed the complete lack of religious freedom there, expressed wonderment why the United States government is giving aid to the Tito regime without demanding a guaranty of human rights, including freedom of religion, for the Yugoslav people.

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It is true, I can say Mass and preach in church, but I was able to say Mass in the state prison, too. Father Koncius quoted the Archbishop as saying: "The American priest found Archbishop Stepinac 'depressed' over his inability to perform his sacerdotal functions from which he has been arbitrarily barred by the Yugoslav government. The Archbishop reemphasized that only the Pope himself, if he so desires, can release him from these duties.

ACCORDING TO Father Koncius, Archbishop Stepinac pressed his determination not to ask for any favors from the Yugoslav regime. He voted his resolution to make any sacrifice in defense of religion and in upholding the rights and the freedom of the Church. The American priest was informed that, according to the orders of the Tito regime, the confinement of Archbishop Stepinac at Krasic will last until 1952.

Observations related by Father Koncius in illustrating the present situation of the Church in Yugoslavia are:

(1) Religious instruction to children is only allowed in church during Mass. Any priest who disobeys governmental orders and teaches religion to children privately, or before or after Mass, is immediately imprisoned.

(2) THE NUMBER of students in the three still existing seminaries is rapidly decreasing. A couple, both of them school teachers, were ordered by the government to withdraw their two sons from the seminary immediately, or be dismissed from their teaching jobs. After this demand had been complied with, the parents were forbidden to go to church. When they refused, both lost their positions.

(3) Government officials attending religious services are immediately suspect and many of them have been dismissed.

(4) The arrests of persons, both priests and lay, suspected of being hostile to the regime continue in great numbers. Many seek for ways and means to escape from totalitarian rule to Austria, Italy or Germany.

Holy Father Lauds Small Catechism.

Vatican City —(NC)— The small catechism is of greater value than the great encyclopedia, Pope Pius XII declared here.

The Holy Father addressed an audience of pilgrims who came here for the beatification rites of Sister Maria Bertilla Boscardin of the Teaching Sisters of St. Dorothy, Daughters of the Sacred Heart.

In his discourse on the member of the Teaching Sisters of St. Dorothy, the Pope spoke of the small Catechism. He said: "That tiny book has per se greater value than the great encyclopedia; contains truths which must be believed, duties which must be fulfilled as a means of one's sanctification. What is there on earth which is more important? It is a book of wisdom, art, living well, peace of soul and security in trial."

REWARD FOR BLIND VET



Thanks being planted upon the cheek of Peter McKenna, Jr. by his wife at Catholic University of America commencement exercises serve a double purpose—he has just received his degree of Bachelor of Arts in history, magna cum laude, and it's their third wedding anniversary. Peter, who is president of the Blind Veterans of World War II, served with the 88th U. S. Infantry at Kassel, Germany, where he was blinded by a tank shell during the German counter-attack. His wife was his nurse in a Veterans' hospital back home. The McKennas have three children. (NC Photos).

Convert From Shintoism Takes Vows As Capuchin

Marathon, Wis.—(NC)— A convert from Shintoism, Frater Peter Baptist Ishimani, O.F.M. Cap., a native of Ryukyu islands, has pronounced his solemn vows as a member of the Capuchin Franciscans at the St. Anthony Priory here.

BELIEVED to be the first Japanese to join the Capuchin in this country, Frater Ishimani was born in O'hasari on Aomori O'Shima island in the Ryukyus group. When he was seven, his parents were converted from Shintoism to Catholicism and he followed them into the Church. He left home for the Japanese mainland when 14 to begin studies for the priesthood and had completed 13 years of study when he was called into the Japanese army in 1944. At war's end he went home and assisted in re-habilitation work.

Daily Mass Slated For Olympic Village

Helsinki, Finland —(NC)— Although there is only one Catholic church in this capital of Finland, arrangements have been made to meet the spiritual needs of participants and visitors of the forthcoming Olympic Games.

BISHOP WILLIAM Cobben, Vicar Apostolic of Finland, has named one of his priests, Father Veekker, to serve as liaison with the Olympic Committee. Mass will be said daily during the Games in a hall located in the Olympic Village where the sportsmen and women from all countries live. The Most Blessed Sacrament will be reserved there.

The Olympic Games will take place from July 19 to August 3. Many of the athletes competing for Olympic honors are Catholics, the Bishop pointed out, not only those coming from the traditionally Catholic countries but also from others. He cited as an example the Indian hockey team which in its majority consists of Catholic players.

OPPORTUNITY for Mass and devotions is also provided each day at the Catholic church of Helsinki at Puistokatu 1. There are less than 2,000 native Catholics in Finland, which has a total population of almost 4,000,000. Freedom of worship is guaranteed by the Toleration Act of 1822 and the government of Finland has been friendly to the Church.

Statues Given To Army Base Chapel

Aberdeen Proving Ground, Md.—(NC)— A Spanish student officer at the Ordnance School at this base presented statues of the Sacred Heart and the Blessed Virgin Mary to the Central Catholic Chapel.

The student officer, Col. Jose Quintana, made the presentation to the Rev. Capt. J. Jerome Hickey, Catholic chaplain, in the presence of attaches from the Spanish Embassy in Washington and officers of the Proving Ground.

Louises Bites Paris —(NC)— No less than 150 priests were needed to distribute Holy Communion to the huge throng attending the last Mass of the French Women's pilgrimage to Lourdes.

Cardinal Of Munich Dies, Foe Of Nazis



CARDINAL VON FAULHABER

Munich, Germany —(NC)— His Eminence Michael Cardinal von Faulhaber, Archbishop of Munich and Freising, died here at the age of 83. The spilor member of the German Hierarchy had been ailing for some weeks after suffering a slight stroke.

UNDOUBTEDLY THE No. 1 spokesman of the Church during the Nazi era, Cardinal von Faulhaber was called upon throughout his career to face one trial and burden after another. In the wake of the first world war, he had to undertake an extensive task of rebuilding. Then came the oppression of National Socialism, and the terrors of air raids in World War II, to be followed by the great responsibility of ministering to a shattered and demoralized people.

Widely revered as a valiant shepherd of souls and a distinguished scholar, Cardinal von Faulhaber won the respect of many non-Catholics throughout the world for his uncompromising stand against Nazi practices and the anti-Semitism promoted by the Hitlerite leaders. Last December, he was given the Grand Cross of the Order of Merit, his country's highest decoration, for his distinguished services to the nation.

Rochester Missioners Overseas Total 30

Washington, D. C.—(Special)— Rochester Diocese has 30 missioners in foreign lands, 18 from communities of men and 12 from communities of women. This fact is found in the new booklet "U. S. Catholic Missionary Personnel Overseas in 1951" published by the Mission Secretariat, whose offices are in the N.C.W.C. Building here.

THE BOOKLET lists 53 religious institutes of men which supply 2,474 American missioners overseas, and 77 communities of women with 1,901 members in foreign lands. Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, director of the Mission Secretariat, analyzes these figures in a foreword to the booklet and points out:

"Five out of the 53 institutes of men supply 57 per cent of all the male personnel. The eight provinces of the Society of Jesus in the United States supply 23 per cent of all our American missionaries, the Maryknoll Fathers supply 15 per cent.

THREE OTHERS, the Redemptorists, the Franciscans and the Divine Word Fathers, supply jointly an additional 19 per cent. Thus the remaining 43 per cent supplied by 43 institutes.

"For most of the communities of women, missionary work up to the present is still marginal. Only one out of the 77 institutes has more than 100 U. S. members overseas; namely the Maryknoll Sisters with 367.

EACH OF EIGHT other communities counts between 40 and 100 U. S. members overseas, the eight supply a total of 485 Sisters. Thus the top nine of the 77 communities of Sisters overseas supply 51 per cent of the total of 1,901 U. S. Sisters in the foreign missions."

The Mission Secretariat is a working bureau to serve the mission sending societies and mission aid societies of the United States. Its foundation was approved by the American Hierarchy at its annual assembly three years ago.

Women Retreatants Slate Convention

Pittsburgh, Pa.—(NC)— Choice of Kansas City, Mo., as the site of the ninth annual congress of the National Laywomen's Retreat Movement in September, 1953, was announced here at a meeting of the organization's Legislative Council.

Won Honors



For the second consecutive year, a Chinese convert to Catholicism has been elected to Kappa Gamma Phi, national honor and activity society of Catholic women's colleges. Miss Yeh Shun-yala, Wool (left), of Shanghai, member of the graduating class of Cardinal Stritch College, Milwaukee, joins her fellow countrywomen and alumna, Angela Yu Fu Shien (right), who last year won similar honors.

Educators Planning Audio-Visual Session

Chicago —(NC)— The first Catholic Audio-Visual Educators convention will be held here August 25 under sponsorship of The Catholic Educator.

General chairman will be the Rev. Thomas J. Quigley, superintendent of Pittsburgh's Catholic schools since 1939 and vice-president of the department of superintendents of the National Catholic Education Association. He is being assisted by the Rev. Paul E. Campbell of Pittsburgh, editor of The Catholic Educator and a general vice-president of the NCEEA.

The keynote address will be delivered by the Rev. Leo J. McCormick, Ph.D., superintendent of schools of the Baltimore archdiocese and president of the elementary of the NCEEA. A film specially produced for the CAVE convention by several companies will show Catholic educators the proper use and application of audio-visual industry will participate in answering questions from the floor.

Sibley's Best June Buys

Table with 4 columns listing various goods and their prices. Items include nylon gloves, men's slacks, wear-resistant anklets, swim and play shorts, Motorola television, fashions by McKettrick, boys' summerweight suits, Kotlek Brownie Target 620, lined drapes, summer furniture, Turkish towels, smart buffetware, golf sets, and more.

Advertisement for facial tissues and Across triple-tested syringes. Includes text like 'stock up on facial tissues!' and 'save on Across triple-tested syringes!' with a list of products and prices.