

Hungarian Bishops Under Police Control

Vienna—(RNS)—Hungary's Roman Catholic bishops have been placed under such tight police control that they lead lives almost like that of imprisoned Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, high Catholic sources here reported.

The bishops must submit to a complete censorship of all mail they receive and to the appointment of civilian secretaries, obviously agents of the State security police.

All their announcements are said to be dictated by the Communist-administered Ministry of Church Affairs, and their statements must contain lines praising the government and denouncing the West.

WHENEVER BISHOPS do not comply, or deviate even slightly from the prescribed course, they are denounced for "violating the agreement between Church and State" and privately reprimanded and threatened.

The main reason for the restrictions on Hungarian Church dignitaries, observers here believe, is their enormous influence and authority over the people, particularly among peasants. The government, which is attempting to rapidly communize the country, has had to neutralize the Bishop's influence to be able to carry out its drive.

Significantly, the sources said, the government is having more trouble with the lower clergy than with the hierarchy. For obvious reasons, it was easier to isolate the relatively small number of bishops.

THE MAJORITY of the clergy are fully aware of the situation created by the Bishop's forced agreement with the State. As a result, pastoral letters issued by the episcopate are hardly read in churches, and orders which are obviously government inspired are frequently disobeyed.

The Communist campaign to wean the people from the Church has progressed slowly. Churches in general are crowded, and according to witnesses, it has become common practice—as a sign of opposition to the government—for Hungarians to make the sign of the cross before churches, and even on streetcars and buses.

Soldiers, Sailors

Rome—(RNS)—Pope Pius XII received 3,000 United States soldiers and sailors and a group of South African members of the British Empire Service League in his usual Wednesday mass audience last week.

British Cardinal Pleads For More Priests

London—(NC)—His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, has warned that a grave shortage of priests is hindering the development of the Faith in Britain and has appealed to parents and to clergy to help foster vocations.

"I ASK YOU to give me your sons," the Cardinal told parents in a pastoral. "And the young men concerned again I ask for generosity. If Christ shall call you, give yourself to Him in the priesthood."

The Cardinal pointed out that the establishment of many new parishes is being delayed as much, if not more, by lack of priests as by lack of permission to build, a legal necessity in present-day Britain.

THE SHIFT of population, and the establishment of new towns is making an increasingly insistent demand for new parishes. At the same time many of the older parishes are finding that their population has so increased that extra curates are necessary.

According to the latest official figures, Britain has 4,237 secular and 2,447 regular clergy for a Catholic population of between 4,000,000 and 5,000,000. The country still borrows many of its parish clergy from the dioceses of Ireland.

Two Yugoslav Bishops Consecrated

Rome—(NC)—Two Yugoslav Bishops were consecrated in the Zagreb cathedral last April, according to information now released by SICO, the Information Service of the Oriental Church here.

The new Bishops are Bishop Gabriel Bukatko, Titular of Severiana and Administrator Apostolic of Crisio, and Bishop Tokic, Coadjutor to Archbishop Nicholas Dobrolic of Bar. Their consecration took place on April 27, SICO says.

War Is His Parish



DIOCESAN PRIEST IN KOREA—The battlefield is now the parish of Father Joseph Natale, Rochester Diocesan priest, serving as an Army Chaplain with American troops. In photo left, Father Natale gives Holy Communion to Yanks holding a forward battlepost. In photo right, he offers Mass in a ruined hospital at Choron only a few hundred yards from the front. Father Natale, who arrived in Korea last April, travels 80 miles in his jeep every Sunday to offer Mass and administer to the spiritual needs of his men.

'Ice Capades' Skating Star Organizes First Friday Club For Troupe Members

By BOB LABONGE (Correspondent, N. C. W. C. News Service)

Los Angeles—(NC)—Ice skating and Catholic Action go hand-in-hand for acrobatic-comedy skater John LaBrecque, 24-year-old French-Canadian. He is the organizer for the First Friday Club of the Ice Capades show, which annually tours the major cities of the United States.

Young LaBrecque joined the Ice Capades show two years ago after successfully hurdling the objections of his parents.

Mom and Dad LaBrecque, staunch Catholics, protested that there's no business like show business—in which to lose the Faith!

TODAY THEY readily admit having underestimated the deep-rooted Catholicity and apostolic zeal of their son, who is a graduate of Montreal's Rousin College conducted by the Sacred Heart Brothers.

Ice Capades owner is John H. Harris of Pittsburgh, a Georgetown University graduate, whose wife is a convert. She is better known as Donna Atwood, glamorous queen of Ice Capades, and the mother of twins.

Mr. Harris each year arranges a Communion-Breakfast for the Catholic members of his cast.

IT WAS at the latter event in 1951 that LaBrecque first conceived the idea for his First Friday Club.

South African Bishops Cite Racial Problem

By A. J. J. MURRAY (Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Capetown, South Africa—(NC)—South Africa's racial problem is a complex issue that "admits of no easy solution" and calls for prudent and careful planning and the practice of charity and justice.

This view was stressed in a joint statement on race relations approved by the Archbishops and Bishops of the Union of South Africa and the Protectorates at their first quinquennial meeting since the hierarchy established last year.

MEETING AT Mariannhill, in the province of Natal, the Bishops declared that "it can only be regretted that the racial problem is so frequently made the plaything of party politics without regard to the real welfare of the citizens." They said:

"A problem so fraught with grave consequences should be kept on the highest level of earnest and prudent consideration; for no good purpose can be served, and only detriment can result, when the problem or any proposed solution is exploited for sectional interest or party gain."

THE HIERARCHY'S statement said that, as a result of historical circumstances, the Europeans in South Africa, comprising about one-fifth of the population, hold most of the land, wealth and, "for all practical purposes, the entire political power."

"The non-Europeans (Africans, Asiatics and Colored people), the statement added, "have practically no share in the government, and are debarred by law and custom from enjoying equal opportunity with Europeans in the field of gainful employment, and consequently in other spheres of social life."

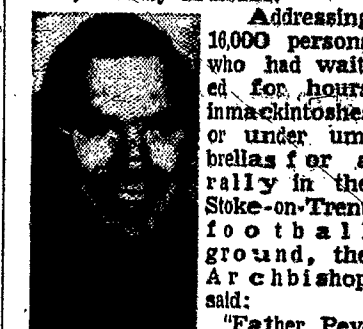
Hungarian Regime Closes Seminary

London—(RNS)—The Communist government of Hungary has closed down the Roman Catholic seminary at Veszprem, the Vatican-Radio, reported.

As its reason for the move the government alleged that the students prayed in the seminary chapel for Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, imprisoned Primate of Hungary, the Vatican station said.

Fr. Peyton Spurs Family Rosary Crusade In Britain

London—(NC)—High tribute was paid by Archbishop Joseph Masterson of Birmingham to the 15-week campaign undertaken in eight British dioceses by the Rev. Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., America's famed Family Rosary crusader.



Addressing 16,000 persons who had waited for hours in umbrellas for a rally in the Stoke-on-Trent town square, the Archbishop said:

"Father Peyton comes to us, not with a message that we cannot follow, but with a request that we shall once again Christianize the whole of our country, and that we shall once again bring back families to prayer."

Father Peyton, whose goal is a million daily Family Rosary pledges, spoke for nearly an hour. When he left at the end of the rally, afterwards had to force a way for him through the crowds of cheering people, all trying to touch his hand. Many of the crowd had come by special train, while others came by automobile, on bicycle, or on foot.

ON THE previous day, Father Peyton spoke to about 15,000 people at Stockport, where the concluding rally of his campaign in the Shrewsbury diocese was held. Among those attending was the Rev. Agnellus Andrew, O.F.M., Britain's "radio priest," who led the singing of the hymns.

Father Peyton addressed another big rally at Coventry, the center of the automobile industry, and was scheduled to speak at a meeting at Oxford, the University city, as he moved nearer to London for the final rally in July.

French Abbot—Don Flacide de Rolon, Abbot of the celebrated Abbey de la Pierre-qui-Vire (Abbey of the Turning Stone), has been killed in an automobile accident. He was 43.

St. Mary Goretti

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Girl Saint Inspires Purity In Youth

Huntington, Ind.—(NC)—Nearly 300,000 of the nation's Catholic youth, led by members of the Fighting 69th, will attend Mass and receive Holy Communion on the feast day of St. Mary Goretti, youthful martyr of purity.

July 6, the feast day, also marks the 50th anniversary of the saint's death.

PLANS FOR observance of the double anniversary were announced here by the Rev. James P. Conroy, associate editor of Our Sunday Visitor, at headquarters of the Fighting 69th. The youth group calls for observance of the Sixth and Ninth Commandments.

Besides attending Mass and receiving Communion, many of the nation's youth will make a novena of Masses and special prayers beginning June 23. They will attend Mass in their own parish church or the church near where they are vacationing.

CALLING THE project "Operation Vacation," Father Conroy, national director of the Fighting 69th, stated that too many young people bypass the sacraments entirely during the vacation months, some even missing Mass for the entire period.

"By making this novena and observing the feast of St. Mary Goretti with Mass and Holy Communion many will be drawn back to the Sacraments from the midst of violent vacation temptations," he said.

Spanish Newsman—Attesting the written word with the spoken, the editorial board of "Revista Catolica" has inaugurated a weekly radio program in Spanish each Sunday morning over station KEPO here.

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