

# East Zone Regime Bans Berlin Bishop From Diocese Entry

By REV. DR. MAX JORDAN

Berlin (NC)—Regular and permanent access to his own diocesan territory is now being denied to Bishop Wilhelm Westmann of Berlin by the communist authorities. The free movement of the Bishop, stationed in the Soviet zone of occupation, may soon be stopped altogether.

All pretense of friendliness toward the churches is being dropped by the Red rulers. They no longer deem it necessary to make concessions since they have given up hope to stop the West German government from coming to terms with the West.

With Bishop Westmann and the Lutheran Bishop Otto Dibelius have been informed that they cannot obtain permanent passes to cross the city border of Berlin into the surrounding Soviet zone unless they give up their residences in the Western sectors of the city and move to the East where they would be under communist jurisdiction.

From now on they will have to apply for passes each time they wish to make a trip to the East. Applications must be filed three weeks ahead of time and the Bishop will have to appear in person before the communist officials who issue these papers.

It is learned reliably that the Soviet zone government does not intend to issue permits any longer to the Bishop in the Soviet zone for trips to the West. Bishop Heinrich Wilhelm of Meissen, Saxony, and Bishop Friedrich Kintzel, Auxiliary of Egerborn, Bishop of Magdeburg, are the Catholics principally affected.

It remains to be seen whether they will not even be permitted to attend the annual meeting of the German Bishops at Fulda now scheduled to be held August 11-13, and whether the Berlin, Potsdam, and Potsdam conferences of German Catholics will be possibly limited in its scope. If the attendance of Catholics residing in the Soviet zone is made impossible, the Catholicism will take them from August 18-20.

# Large Church Crowds Alarm Czech Rulers

Vicars—The Czech communist regime has expressed alarm over the large attendance at church services. An official has charged that many participate in religious activities in religious activities merely as an "anti-state" gesture.

At the same time it is reported that the Czech regime has organized plans to pillage Catholic churches of all precious metals.

ALARM AT LARGE church attendance was expressed by the Czech Minister of Education, Zdenek Nejedly, over Prague radio. He declared:

"The religious freedom guaranteed by the Czechoslovak Constitution has been used by the enemies of the state as a cover for their antisocial activities. They are also inducing members of other religious creeds to participate in such political demonstrations."

"The presence of these people at this year's Easter and Corpus Christi processions was a political demonstration. Persons who otherwise would not dare to express themselves in such a way, started an impudent demonstration, hiding behind the freedom of religious rituals."

"THIS IMPERTINENCE can be beat judged by the fact that the Roman Catholic processions are joined by persons of other beliefs, or agnostics, who find in them an opportunity for expressing their hostility to the State."

Reports from behind the Iron Curtain indicate that communist persecution has actually strengthened the religious fervor of many people. Churches are pictured as more crowded with worshippers than ever before.

# Beatification Sought For Russian Bishop Who Died In U. S.

Rome (NC)—An informative process has been started here for the beatification of Archbishop John Baptist Cieplak, the first Catholic Bishop to be sentenced to death by a communist court as a "counter-revolutionary."

Archbishop Cieplak became an international figure in 1932, when he was the center of the notorious anti-religious trials at Moscow in which 13 other priests

of the Diocese of Kielce, a part of Poland, which later became Russian, were tried. He was the greater part of his life in Russia. At the time of his arrest and trial, he was Auxiliary to Archbishop Edward de Ropp of Mohilev, the leading Russian See. When the latter was forced to leave Russia due to Bolshevik persecution, Archbishop Cieplak became administrator.

While Archbishop Cieplak was confined in the Butrika prison, he was visited by the Rev. Edmund A. Walsh, S.J., of Georgetown University, Washington, D. C., who was then director of the Papal Relief Expedition to Russia. Passing through Warsaw on his way to Rome after his release he was given one of the most enthusiastic receptions ever accorded to a visitor in the Polish capital. In Rome he was cordially received by Pope Pius XI and other authorities of the Church and remained there for more than a year recuperating from the effects of his experiences in Russia.

ARCHBISHOP CIEPLAK landed in New York on November 10, 1926, and was greeted by city officials and ecclesiastical authorities. From New York he went to Washington, where he was received by President Calvin Coolidge and later was the guest of the Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

Archbishop Cieplak died of pneumonia in St. Mary's Hospital, Passaic, N. J., on February 17, 1926, at the age of 69. His death came on the eve of his projected departure for Poland to take possession of the Vilna See. Following a Solemn Requiem Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral, New York, his remains were shipped to Poland and now rest in a crypt under the Vilna Cathedral.

St. Joan of Arc Milwaukee, Wis. (NC) "Elo on the Sword" by Mary Purcell, a fictionalized biography of St. Joan of Arc, has been chosen as the August selection of the Catholic Literary Foundation here.



ARCHBISHOP CIEPLAK

# First Things No Longer First, Says Prelate

Auckland, New Zealand (NC)—Eighty years ago, the prelate said, the place that religion ought to occupy in the lives of the people and set aside land reserves on which churches could later be built.

Today, when governments set out to plan new settlements, the churches have to go to the planners and ask that provision be made for sites on which to build churches.

This changed outlook was commemorated on by Archbishop Peter T. McGeedry, Coadjutor of Wellington, in an address marking the golden jubilee of St. Joseph's convent in Auckland.

"It is a great change to have come about in just 80 years," the Archbishop said. "Yes it is not a sign of the times? In this change of outlook we see the reason for so much that is wrong in the world today."

"Whereas once the things of God were placed first in the thoughts of men, in these advanced times first things no longer come first."

# Tito Press Shrugs Off New Attack On Bishop Vovk

Graz, Austria (NC)—The Tito press has shrugged off the latest display of communist-inspired violence against Bishop Anton Vovk, Apostolic Administrator of Ljubljana, as just indicative of "the anger of the people."

The latest violent demonstration against the Bishop took place at Jesenice when he was on a confirmation trip there. Only a few months before he narrowly escaped death when assassins poured gasoline on his robes and set them afire. This attack occurred at Nova Mesto as the Bishop alighted from the train to administer Confirmation there.

AT JESENICE a large crowd of Catholics was gathered in the parish church awaiting the Bishop's arrival. But as the Bishop neared the church he found a communistic mob blocking the road. No police came to clear the road so he turned back.

In shrugging off the incident Slovenski Porocvalec, communist daily of Ljubljana said:

"The workers of Jesenice had advised Monsignor Vovk not to come there again because his visit would provoke the anger of the people. Monsignor Vovk nevertheless came. "He probably thought he might become a martyr and thus offer his supporters at least one argument for his religion. . . . But in our country there is no persecution of religion except when it is only a screen for illegal activities of enemies of the people. That is why the workers did not allow Monsignor Vovk to come to Jesenice. His attempts at provocation were frustrated."

THE DEMONSTRATION of violence by communist youths came on the heels of a savage campaign of defamation against Bishop Vovk by the Tito press. The official press had hurled such names as "liar," "traitor," "enemy of socialist reconstruction" at the Bishop for issuing a circular in which he urged Catholics to practice their faith even at the price of suffering.

This and a pastoral on birth control were considered "subversive" by a Tito court. The Bishop was fined 15,000 (about \$50). Boris, the official Red organ of Belgrade, accused the Bishop of "shamelessly slandering the people's authority" in Yugoslavia by treating "the false impression abroad that there is no freedom of religion in Yugoslavia."

# Lady Of Perpetual Help

London (NC)—The Perpetual Novena of Our Lady of Perpetual Help, popularized here by American chaplains in World War II, is now being said in about 300 British parish churches.

The devotion has spread spectacularly. It is now drawing about 100,000 people to the weekly novena services, it has been announced.

It is particularly successful in the North, in Scotland and in Northern Ireland. In Belfast, stronghold of north Irish Protestantism, 21,000 attend the seven novena services which are held each week to meet popular demand in the Clonard Monastery Church.

At the Redemptorist church in Liverpool the faithful flocking to the novena became so numerous that two services are now being held. At Dundalk, Scotland, several novena services are always held on the novena day.

When World War II began Britain had only one church where the novena was being said, St. Peter's in Birmingham.

# Jewish Group Honors Catholic Navy Chaplain

Newport, R. I. (NC)—The Rev. (Lt. Comdr.) Dennis R. Kerrigan received the \$500 Four Chaplains Award, given annually by the United States Navy, for his work in the armed forces, during graduation exercises of the Navy Chaplains' School here.

Father Kerrigan was honored for his work in Naples, Italy, under Admiral Robert B. Carney while the Allied Forces, Southern Europe Headquarters was being established.

A native of Medford, Mass., he attended Cambridge College and the Catholic University of America. He was ordained in 1932. Father Kerrigan served as a Navy chaplain in World War II. Currently he is attached to the Newport Naval Training Station.

The Four Chaplains Award commemorates the death of four chaplains who gave their lives to save others when the troopship Dorchester was torpedoed and sunk off Greenland in 1943.

# Misery Of Children Cries To Heaven

Freiburg, Germany (NC)—No less than 6,000 children under the age of six have lived in German refugee camps ever since their birth and have never known the blessing of family life.

This was one of the facts stressed by the Caritasverband, national association of German Catholic charities here. In a news release which called attention to "a mass misery of children that cries to Heaven."

The release stated that another estimated 10,500 children between 7 and 14 have lived in refugee camps for more than half their lives. It stressed that since the end of the war 5,000,000 children have lost their homes, due to forcible evictions of families, especially in eastern Germany, in the wake of the Potsdam agreements.

Commissioner Curtis Aberdeen, S. D. (NC)—Plastic cards with prayers before and after Communion are being distributed at St. Luke's Hospital here to help patients better to prepare for reception of the Sacrament.

# Notre Dame Host To Mission Rally

Notre Dame, Ind. (NC)—Welfare of students in mission lands will be a major topic of discussion in the 15th National Convention of the Catholic Students' Mission Crusade, at the University of Notre Dame here, August 21-24. Bishops from Africa and Japan will take a leading part in the sessions.

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