

In Labor Camps

Rome — (RNS) — More than one third of the nine thousand priests and monks of Czechoslovakia are in prison labor camps, according to Veritas, a publication sponsored here by Czech Catholic refugees.

It also reported that over half of the twelve thousand Czech nuns have been interned by the regime.



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Hospital Wing Named For John Raskob

New York — (NS) — The new wing of St. Vincent's Hospital now being built here at a cost of \$2,380,000 will be known as the John F. Raskob Memorial.

Sister Loretta Bernard, administrator of St. Vincent's, announced that the wing had been made possible through the generous action of the trustee of the Raskob Foundation for Catholic Activities, Inc.

The new wing will add to the Alfred E. Smith Building in addition to facilities for ward and private patients, it will contain complete diagnostic and research laboratories, angiographic laboratory, four additional operating suites and recovery rooms, doctors' and patients' libraries, doctors' conference and examining rooms and expansion of existing facilities for outpatient treatment.



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Famed Rome Seminary Includes Former Lawyers, Soldiers, Ministers In Alumni

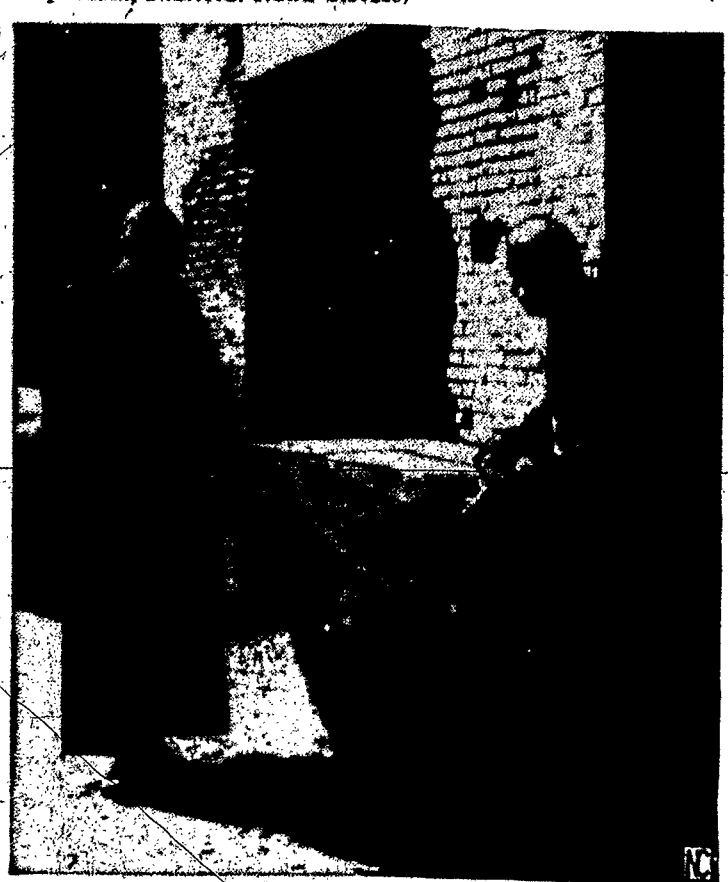
By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN
(Correspondent, N.C.W.C. News Service)

Rome — (NC) — The students at Beda College here are an unusual group of students because Beda is an unusual college. It is an English seminary for late vocations. It was established here by Pope Pius IX just 100 years ago. The seminarians range in age from the mid-twenties to 70.

THEY HAVE changed course in mid-ocean to dedicate the remainder of their lives to God in the priesthood. Their careers have been varied, often colorful. Many are converts. Some were even non-Catholic ministers.

The student at Beda is often older than the professor. Only the rector can be sure of being respected just for his age. He is Msgr. Charles Duchemin, himself a Beda graduate of the 1918 class. Prior to entering the priesthood he practiced law in London. He became rector in 1928.

Beda's alumni include lawyers, businessmen, concert musicians, former army officers, surgeons, teachers and actors. The past quarter-century has seen the ordination of over 200 priests at Beda. Eighty-three were converts. Forty-three had been non-Catholic ministers.



An unusual college where the students are older than the professors, is Beda College in Rome, an English seminary for late vocations. Here the seminarians range in age from the mid-twenties to 70. Pope Pius IX established the seminary just 100 years ago. Pictured enjoying the summer vacation, are two American students, Ashley Pettis, right, founder and for 15 years director of the Composers' Forum, New York concert baron, and left, Patrick Norton, nearly 70, who left Dubuque, Ia., for Beda College, after the death of his wife. He has one son a priest and another a seminarian. (NC Photos).

LEADING THIS year's relatively small ordination class of six is Reginald Schomburg, a former British colonel now 71 years old. His career includes inspection and supervisory assignments in military service in India, Egypt, Singapore and Western China, consular service, exploration, and authoring of books such as "Between the Oxus and the Indus" and "Kafirs and Gladiators."

Another in the class is the Rev. Leo Hammond, 39. Formerly a clerk, he was commissioned a captain in the British army during World War II and saw service in India. He came to Beda in 1948.

Denis Hutchinson, a convert, is a former Shakespearean actor with the Frank Benson's company. During the war he served in the RAF.

STANLEY BORROWS, also a convert, was formerly with Lloyd's Bank and is a RAF veteran.

Karl Vath, 43, was a German banker and businessman with experience in the Orient. He was ordained for the Diocese of Hong Kong.

Ian Stewart of Eton, 39, is also a veteran of the RAF. His family now lives in Winsted, Conn.

The average ordination class of this unique institution is ten priests. Among its distinguished alumni are Archbishop Richard Downey of Liverpool, the late Bishop John Barrett of Plymouth, Archbishop Michael Gansz of Malta, and Archbishop David Mathew, Apostolic Delegate to British East and West Africa.

PROMINENT AMONG the U.S. alumni are the late Father Selden P. Delaney, formerly of the Protestant Episcopal Church of St. Mary the Virgin, New York, who after his conversion spent four years at Beda, and Monsignor Henry Pierce who served with him in New York and came to the Beda with him and now lives as a priest in Rome.

Though Beda is an English college, students are not limited to Englishmen. There are usually some Americans among the seminarians. At present the U.S. is represented by a convert concert pianist and by the Catholic father of 14 children.

Ashley Pettis, founder and for 15 years director of the Composers' Forum in New York City and well-known to both European and U.S. concert audiences, entered the Church in 1948. He came to Beda shortly after and he is now nearing the end of his course.

PATRICK NORTON, approaching 70, left Dubuque for Beda after the death of his wife. He followed one son toward the priesthood and accompanies, or rather is, beating, another to the same goal.

Father Claude B. Norton is stationed at Wokoma, Ia. Frater Charles Norton is at the Dominican scholasticate in River Forest, Ill.

Old Pat Norton says he has lost count of his grandchildren. Now is the fact that although he and son Charles began their studies together, he will finish long before his son.

THE COURSE at Beda is compressed to four years, one of philosophy and three of theology. But the matter is all covered and the men work intensely. Their day is a typical seminary day beginning at six a.m., with Meditation and Mass and ending at nine p.m., with night prayers and silence.

The regular professors are all Beda men who completed their

Nun Teachers' Garb Challenged In Idaho

Grangeville, Idaho — (RNS) — The question of whether or not nuns wearing religious garb should be permitted to teach in the public schools of this area was aired at a public meeting here of the Idaho County Board of Education.

Roman Catholic sisters have been teaching in public schools of Greencreek, Keuterville, and Ferdinand in western Idaho County for about 40 years. The population in all three areas is predominantly Roman Catholic.

A COMPLAINT which resulted in the public hearing was brought by Fred Pautfest of Ferdinand. He charged that public school funds were being spent for religious purposes as long as church garb was worn in classrooms.

Catholic residents of the areas maintained that as long as the nuns were qualified they should be permitted to teach regardless of their garb.

J. F. Jenny, chairman of the school district which administers Idaho County schools, said that the board might reach a compromise solution. He said that a proposed contract clause would allow the sisters to teach at Greencreek and Keuterville in their religious garb, but would safeguard the board against any possible action brought by a nun whose teaching qualifications were questioned on any religious grounds.

THIS CONTRACT clause would not apply to Ferdinand, where the controversy arose, Mr. Jenny said. He indicated that nuns would not be permitted to teach there in the future.

Mr. Pautfest said that if the board would prohibit garbed nuns from teaching in Ferdinand, he would not press any complaints as regards the Greencreek and Keuterville schools.

Explaining the proposed exemption of Ferdinand from the proposed clause, Mr. Jenny said that "if the board holds the same for Ferdinand as for the other areas, an injunction there could also affect Greencreek and Keuterville." He added that no complaints are anticipated in these areas.



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Church Authorities Find Lourdes Cure Miraculous

Paris — (RNS) — A cure which took place at the famous Lourdes Shrine five years ago has been declared miraculous by ecclesiastical authorities, Archbishop Paul Mary Richard of Bordeaux announced.

The case is that of Jeanne Gestas, wife of a Bordeaux metal worker, who in 1946 was dying of an incurable disease of the intestines. Her doctors have confirmed that she is now in perfect health.

PRIOR TO 1946 the woman spent three years undergoing four major operations during which the greater part of her intestines were removed. She was unable to eat more than a few crumbs at a time. Doctors were unanimous in predicting she would live only a few more months.

During this period Mrs. Gestas held atheistic views. Having been nursed by nuns, however, she began to think about a possible trip to Lourdes before she died.

She was taken to the Marian city by her husband. There she went to the Sacraments for the first time in years and began to pray for a cure. Although she left Lourdes without any improvement in health, her medical advisors were astonished that she had been able to survive even that long.

THE FOLLOWING year Mrs. Gestas went to Lourdes on a stretcher. The first day she was plunged into the waters at the shrine she "felt a terrible pain, worse than I had ever had to bear before. I thought I was going to die."

On the second day she was again immersed in the water, but this time felt full of energy and the pain had gone. That

Church Authorities Find Lourdes Cure Miraculous

same day she was able to eat without vomiting for the first time since her illness.

Before Mrs. Gestas left the shrine, she took part in the traditional torch light procession—but on foot and not on a stretcher, as she had expected to do.

ON HER RETURN to Bordeaux the woman not only cooked a meal for her husband but sat down and ate with him. Later she visited her doctor and the surgeon who operated on her. Both expressed themselves amazed at her restored health. could not accept the cure until an investigation was made. After four years, during which the ecclesiastical commission heard the testimony of witnesses and medical experts, the cure of Jeanne Gestas was held to be miraculous.

Next Catholic Day Planned In Fulda

Fulda — (RNS) — The Central Committee of the German Roman Catholic Day (Katholikentag) announced here that the next Catholic Day will take place at Fulda in 1954. It will coincide with celebrations marking the 1200th anniversary of the death of St. Boniface whose body is entombed in Fulda Cathedral.

Meanwhile, West Berlin authorities reported that about 5,000 East Germans who participated in the Catholic Day observances here have applied for political asylum in the western sector of the city.

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Town Prohibits Immodest Dress
Monroe, N. Y. — (NC) — This resort town in the Catskill foothills of New York has posted signs this year prohibiting the wearing of immodest dress.

The language of the notices reads: "No person shall appear in or upon the public streets, sidewalks or public places so attired as to expose any portion of the body above the knees or below the shoulders. Village Ordinance No. 33 Penalty—Fine of \$10.00"

Half-Holiday
Trivandrum, India — (NC) — The Travancore-Cochin government has proclaimed a half-holiday on Sundays for the employees of hospitals. This is welcomed by Catholic workers in these institutions as it is hoped it will afford them the opportunity of attending Mass.

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