

Cripple Cured After Visit To Tomb Of Father Sharbel

New York — (NC) — A new biography of Father Sharbel Maklouf prints a physician's statement telling how a man with one leg two inches shorter than the other was found to have become normal after visiting the saintly Lebanon monk's tomb.

The biography, "The Hermit of Lebanon: Father Sharbel," was written by the Rev. Joseph Eld, of Fall River, Mass., a member of the Vice Postulator Commission in the U.S. of Father Sharbel's cause for canonization. Publisher is the Paulist Press here.

DR. JEAN RIACHI, physician of the town of Jdeidet and of Bourje Hamoud, Lebanon, family doctor of Akl Wakim of Jdeidet, 25, swore that in a tumble from a bicycle Akl fractured his left leg, "which became five centimeters (about two inches) shorter than the right."

"He could neither move nor bend his leg," Dr. Riachi said. But on the very day Akl visited Father Sharbel's tomb at Annaya, the doctor went on, "I found him walking normally at a natural gait and, after measuring his two legs I found that they were of equal length."

"I am convinced that this cure is due to a supernatural power, seeing that it was effected in such an extremely short lapse of time, no hope whatever having been entertained for this patient's recovery," the physician declared.

FATHER SHARBEL was born in 1828. In 1851 he entered the Monastery of St. Maron, Annaya, as a member of the Lebanese branch of the Maronite Order of St. Anthony of the Desert. About 25 years later he became a hermit, sharing quarters with another monk in a tiny hermitage atop Mount Annaya, a mile above sea level. The fame of his sanctity spread, and the faithful

Press Freedom
Aachen, Germany — (RNS) — A hundred Roman Catholic journalists meeting here, adopted a resolution asking that both the freedom and responsibility of the press be defined in any future European constitution.

Cardinal Mooney Blesses Memorial



His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, blesses the statue of the noted Indian missionary, Father Francis Pierz, "the Father of the Diocese of St. Cloud," near the entrance to the St. Cloud Hospital. The ceremonies marked the 100th anniversary of the arrival of Fr. Pierz in Minnesota. (NC Photos)

from near and far brought their sick for his blessing.

Many seemingly miraculous events were attributed to Father Sharbel, and after he died in 1898 his body remained intact as late as 1950, warm and soft to the touch. Thousands of pilgrims have journeyed to his tomb at the Monastery of St. Maron Annaya, about 30 miles from Beirut.

FATHER ELD, author of the documented and illustrated 116-page biography, is like Father Sharbel — of the Maronite rite and a native of Lebanon. He is pastor of St. Anthony of the Desert Church, Fall River, Mass.

His book carries the imprimatur of Bishop James L. Connolly of Fall River, and the Nihil Obstat of Msgr. Thomas J. McMahon, president of the Pontifical Mission for Palestine, and national secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association.

Red Bulgaria Indicts Bishop For 'Spying'

Vienna — (NC) — A Catholic Bishop is among the group of Catholics just indicted by the Bulgarian communist regime.

This was revealed when the Sofia radio broadcast a summary of the indictment and mentioned some of the defendants.

IN ALL 40 are accused of "spying" for the Vatican and the western powers and of "criminal and hostile" activities against Red Bulgaria. The broadcast listed about a dozen of those accused. The "trial" was expected to get under way at almost any time.

The Bishop accused is Bishop Eugen Bossilkoff, C.P., of Nicopol, who usually maintains his residence at Ruse. He was elevated to the episcopacy since the time the communist regime came to power. The 51-year-old prelate was ordained in 1926 and consecrated a Bishop in 1947.

Others listed in the indictment are the Revs. Kazned Dichev Ion

kov, head of the Byzantine-Rite Catholic seminary in Bulgaria; Peter Petrov, secretary to Bishop John Romanoff, Vicar Apostolic of Sofia and Plovdiv; Marislav Antonov Banchev, former director of the Catholic seminary at Yambol, and Fortunat Pavlov Bakalov, priests of Sofia and former editor-in-chief of the Bulgarian Catholic paper, Istina (Truth).

ALSO THE Revs. Pavel Iozov Gegov, Klaud Vonchev and Nikola Barbov, the two engineers identified as Vukov and Zaekov. An earlier Sofia broadcast stated that there were 23 Catholic priests among the 40 accused. The more recent broadcast speaks of "29 Catholic leaders."

The indictment contains a long harangue against the western "imperialist" powers and the

Vatican which it charges is cooperating with the "imperialists."

THE INDICTMENT refers to the various "spy trials" in Hungary, Czechoslovakia and Rumania, and adds that "Vatican agents" have also been active in Bulgaria.

Religious Houses Now Red jails

Hong Kong — (RNS) — Communist authorities in Fokling have converted two religious houses there into prisons for priests and religious.

Priests expelled from China who arrived here said the converted houses are the Collegium Sincium, attached to the Fu Jen University, and the residence of the Belgian Schent Fathers. Fu Jen University, seized by the Communists in October, 1950, was operated by

It mentions in particular the "trial" of His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindzenty, Primate of Hungary, as proving that the Vatican and "the reactionaries of the Catholic hierarchy" are closely linked with their "American masters."

Each prisoner is given a number and assigned to an individual cell, they reported. Personal belongings, including books and Bibles, are removed and prisoners are not allowed to talk or walk about in their cells. Communist police feed those confined in the cells twice a day.

The American Province of the Fathers of the Divine Word. "The expelled priests said the houses are "complete jails in every sense of the word."

As pastor of Holy Cross he established the 2-30 a.m. Printers Mass on Sunday mornings, to which employes of four midtown daily newspapers as well as thousands of travellers still come.

Whats This? ND. Irish Don Scottish Uniforms

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — The "Irish Pipers," a recent innovation with the University of Notre Dame Band — "the marching Irish" — will this year wear scarlet and green costumes imported from Scotland. Robert F. O'Brien, band director, is quick to point out, however, that the bagpipe was originally an Irish folk instrument although now generally associated with the Scotch.

The "Irish Pipers" are an eight-man contingent, each of whom stands eight feet tall, counting his plumed shako headdress. A long-range plan calls for 20 such performers. Their volunteer instructor is Louis Snedden, a native of Scotland recently arrived in South Bend.

'Crossroads Of World' Church Cited

New York — (NC) — The "Crossroads of the World Church," Holy Cross on west 42nd Street, famed as the parastore of the late Rev. Francis P. Duffy, chaplain of the Fighting 69th — has marked its centenary here.

HIS EMINENCE Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, presided at a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in the historic edifice. All of the priests officiating at the Mass and the preacher were ordained from Holy Cross parish.

Father Duffy, whose statue in World War I fighting garb stands in the center of Times Square, served with 89th Regiment of the New York National Guard in France. He received the Distinguished Service Medal among other awards.

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Parochial Schools Lead Expansion, Government Reports

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Parochial schools are doing a better job of meeting the demands of mushrooming enrollment by constructing new classroom space than are public schools, official government reports here indicate.

At the present time parochial schools, with an enrollment of about 13 per cent of all pupils in elementary and secondary schools, are spending 19 per cent of the funds going for school construction.

This continues a record going back to 1946 which reveals that church-related schools have been more energetic in planning for the future than public schools which must wait upon bond issues and state appropriations before proceeding with building projects.

THE DEPARTMENTS of Commerce and Labor in their monthly construction report for August, 1952, disclose that private schools started \$32,000,000 in new projects, including repairs and additions. This was 19 per cent of the total of \$168,000,000 spent for educational construction that month.

Meanwhile, the Federal Security Agency in a separate report, showed that parochial schools are at present receiving slightly less than 10 per cent of all permits for new school buildings.

The difference between the two figures suggests that parochial schools are concentrating their current efforts on enlarging and remodeling existing schools rather than on building new ones, although they are not far behind public schools in new units on a proportional basis.

FSA OFFICIALS said further that so far as the erection of new schools is concerned, it is more a case of the public schools catching up than of parochial schools slowing down.

Since 1946 parochial schools have enrolled an average of 122 per cent of the nation's 26,000,000 school students. Yet here is their record for new school starts: In 1946 new construction totaled \$123,000,000, or 69 per cent of the total. (Public schools started only \$101,000,000 worth of new school buildings that year.)

Tito Court Fines Bishop For 'Contempt'

Graz, Austria — (NC) — Bishop Anton Vovk, Apostolic Administrator of Ljubljana, has again been singled out by the Yugoslav communist regime to demonstrate the kind of "freedom" existing in that country.

THE BISHOP, who earlier this year almost lost his life when he was attacked by hoodlums, has been fined 50,000 dinari (about \$170) for "contempt of court" because, so the indictment said, he cast doubt on the "impartiality and objectivity" of justice in Yugoslavia.

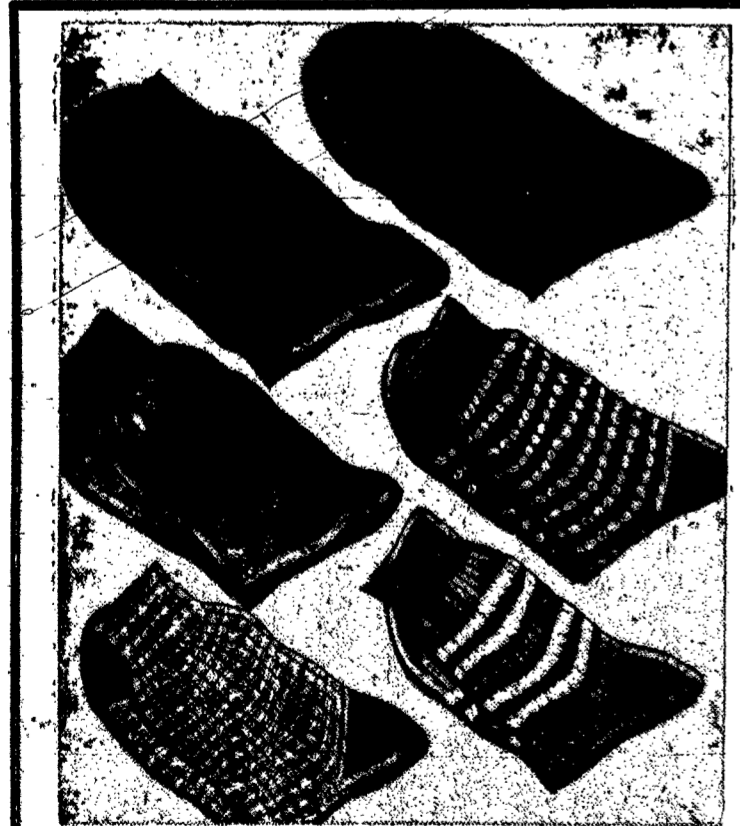
The "contempt of court" case arose from a previous "trial" of the Bishop during which he was fined 15,000 dinari (about \$50) for sending out pastoral letters setting forth the Catholic position on birth control and urging Catholics to practice their faith even at the price of suffering.

During the "trial" on this "offense" the Bishop was asked if he had anything to say before sentence was passed. He answered, according to the "contempt" indictment, that he had really nothing to say "and besides, it seems senseless to make any statements, because they would not have any value."

Tito Regime Ousts Magazine

London — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio reported that Communist authorities have suppressed the Catholic journal Oznanila published in Ljubljana, capital of Slovenia, Yugoslavia, "thus depriving Slovenian Catholics of their last Catholic periodical."

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