

Last week's paid

ABC circulation

35,237

* Audit Bureau of Circulations

THE CATHOLIC Courier Journal

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

64th Year

ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, DECEMBER 31, 1953

2 Sections

20 Pages

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'Outraged'
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American Priest Bound For Russia



WASHINGTON, D. C.—The Rev. Georges Bissonette, A. A., of Assumption College, Worcester, Mass., is shown with a visa issued by the Soviet Embassy here permitting him to go to Moscow where he will replace the Rev. John O. Arthur Brassard, A. A., the only Catholic priest in the Soviet capital. With Father Bissonette is Michael Francis Doyle of Philadelphia, legal protector of the Catholic Mission in Moscow, which was established in 1953 under the treaty by which the U. S. recognized the Soviet government. Father Bissonette, who waited six months for the visa, will minister to religious needs of American Catholics in Moscow. (Religious News Service photo.)

Priest Gets Visa For Moscow Post

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(RNS)—The Soviet Embassy has issued a visa to an American Catholic priest to go to Moscow where he will minister to members of the diplomatic colony.

The Rev. Georges Bissonette, A. A., of the faculty of Assumption College, Worcester, Mass., will leave shortly for the Russian capital to replace the Rev. Arthur Brassard, A. A., an American priest who has served there since 1950.

FATHER BISSONETTE spent thirty minutes in the Soviet Embassy and emerged with the visa for which the Assumptionist Order applied six months ago. He was accompanied by Michael Francis Doyle, a Philadelphia attorney who has been legal advisor to the Catholic mission in Moscow since 1953.

"It has taken a long time to get the Russians to grant this authority," Mr. Doyle said, "and I hope nothing goes wrong now." He said that the Russians wanted Father Brassard to leave Moscow before allowing his successor to enter but this suggestion was not accepted.

Father Bissonette, 31, is a native of Central Falls, E. I. Ordained in 1949, he has been studying at the Russian Center of Fordham University, New York, for the past year.

He will be the fourth American priest permitted to go to

Parish School Building Rise Seen In '53

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(RNS)—Parochial school construction, which may set a new record of almost \$1,000,000 a day this year despite government construction controls, will achieve even higher levels next year, according to a forecast by the Departments of Commerce and Labor.

NEW STARTS on non-public school construction totaled \$321,000,000 for 1952, as of Dec. 1, the two departments said, \$4,000,000 over the same date a year ago.

Church construction, on the other hand, feeling the pinch of materials controls, definitely will fall below the 1951 level this year, the reports indicated. Starts for the year totaled \$360,000,000, as of Dec. 1, compared with \$400,000,000 on the same date in 1951.

However, new church construction in 1953 will total at least \$425,000,000. Meanwhile, parochial and other non-public schools are expected to spend \$775,000,000 on new construction. This would amount to 15 per cent of the anticipated \$2,150,000,000 for primary and secondary school construction in 1953. Parochial schools have approximately 13 per cent of the national enrollment.

Taxpayer Can Deduct 20 Pct For Charities

WASHINGTON, D. C.—(RNS)—Taxpayers are being reminded by the U. S. Bureau of Internal Revenue that they can give up to 20 per cent of their 1952 gross income to religious, charitable, or educational institutions and deduct it from their income in computing the Federal tax due on March 15.

THE BUREAU'S 1952 edition of instructions to income tax payers calls attention to the fact that Congress has raised the previous limitation on charitable contributions from 15 per cent to 20 per cent.

From the tax tables in the 1952 instructions, it is possible to compute how much a contribution to a church, school, or charity will actually cost a taxpayer when he reports it on his income tax return.

If his net taxable income is \$1,500 a year or less, he makes a tax saving of 22 cents on each dollar given to his church. If his taxable income is \$2,500, he saves 25 cents on each dollar. At \$5,000, he finds he is saving 29 cents on each dollar. At \$10,000, the saving is 38 cents, and at \$20,000, it amounts to 53 cents.

By the time he reaches \$300,000 or above, it costs a taxpayer only eight cents for every dollar he gives away for charitable purposes.

IN ORDER to obtain the benefit of charitable contributions on 1952 deductions, actual payment before December 31 is necessary. A mere pledge is not sufficient.

Corporations are allowed to deduct from corporate income tax returns up to 5 per cent of their net income. Under some circumstances, corporations can deduct payments made up to March 15, 1953, from their 1952 returns. Most corporations will find their charitable contributions coming in less than 30 cents on the dollar in 1952 because of tax deductions thereby gained.

Commie Bid For U. S. Christmas Trade Exposed By Senator

WASHINGTON — (NC) — Godless communists, in one of their "most diabolic conspiracies" which "turns the stomach of every decent American," are trying to cash in from unsuspecting Americans by flooding this country with Christmas ornaments, designed to register some \$7,000,000 in sales which would go back into Red hands.

"Let's not allow the hallowed Yuletide to be debased by communist plotters," the Senator said. "Let us turn thumbs down on Red products."

In a newsletter to his Wisconsin constituents the Senator said the free ornaments from iron curtain countries are grossly inferior to American-made merchandise but the Red products can be sold cheaply because the Soviet government subsidizes the exports. He said the Red products enter this country legally on ships of all nations, including American ships.

"Only a boycott can prevent the success of the Red conspiracy" to flood the American market with goods, not only Christmas tree ornaments, but fur and other items, and "bring back dollars behind the iron curtain," Senator Wiley said.

"THIS WHOLE situation turns the stomach of every decent American," he said.

"To think that Christmas should be used in effect by the anti-Christ of the Communist, to think that at the very time when American boys are dying in the streets of Korea under communist bullets, the Reds should be cashing in by having unsuspecting Americans buy Red Christmas tree ornaments to honor the Prince of Peace."

Cardinal Spellman Will Go To Korea For Christmas

New York — (NC) — The Baltimore Francis Cardinal Spellman will leave New York on December 17 for the second Christmas in Korea and plans to celebrate Mass in three different sectors during the rest of his ten-day visit to the peninsula.

Front on Christmas Day and in other sectors during the rest of the ten days which I shall spend in Korea," the Cardinal said.

THE MILITARY Vicar of Catholics in the Armed Forces of the United States made the announcement through the New York Archdiocese Chancery office and said his departure would follow the Christmas party at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel on December 16 for the children of the New York Foundling Hospital.

"I shall attend this Christmas party which each year helps to bring happiness into the lives of hundreds of homeless or motherless babies in my own beloved Archdiocese of New York," the Cardinal said, "but I shall leave immediately after to share the holy season of Christmas with America's soldiers—sons sacrificing and struggling, suffering and dying in the frozen war-torn lands of the Pacific."

"As long as I am going to Korea hoping to celebrate Mass in three different sectors of the

Congress Bares Filth-in-Print On Newstands

Washington, D. C.—(NC)—A Congressional committee dipped into the reading matter on the newsstands of "Every Neighborhood, U. S. A.," and came up with reams of filth-in-print. Demands were made for immediate action to stop the rising flood of indecent literature.

The special House Committee investigating obscene publications ended a five-day session of public hearings after listening to clergymen, writers, police officials, book dealers and others testify that something should be done to halt the spread of lurid magazines, comics and pocket-size books.

Next step of the committee is to propose means of eliminating the obscene goods on the Nation's newsstands. If suggestions of witnesses at the probe are followed the steps will be:

- (1) To urge the publishers of America to establish and enforce their own code of decency for selecting material.
- (2) TO TAKE a closer look at existing Federal laws dealing with obscene material so that loopholes may be stopped up in postal interstate and import regulations.
- (3) To awaken the public through national and civic organizations to the type of reading matter the youth of America can pick up in drug stores and similar places.
- (4) To encourage the establishment of local "watch-dog groups," composed of parents, clergymen and educators who will screen the books available to children in American communities.

IN A WEEK of testimony during which almost 100 publications were examined as evidence, members of the committee headed by Rep. E. C. Gathings of Arkansas, considered publications ranging from so-called "comic" books to blatantly obscene matter sold "under the counter." They learned that books dealing with sex, drug addiction, perversion, sadism and crime are on the increase and are available at low cost of newsstands throughout the United States.

Il. Ralph Burton, committee counsel, said that fiction books exhibited at the hearings included a veritable "manual for the guidance of potential dope addicts" and stories containing "the grossest obscenity that it is impossible to read them at a public hearing." These books are on sale throughout the country in low-cost, paperback editions, he said.

Chief concern of the committee was to determine to what extent the books are available to children and teenagers and what effect such material has on immature minds.

Representing the National Council of Catholic Men, the Rev. Thomas J. Fitzgerald of Chicago, told the committee there could be no doubt that a continued reading diet of crime and sex would tear down the ideals of American youth. He said the Police Commissioner of a large American city has stated that the present crime increase is "directly due to the books."

PUBLISHER DAVID C. Cook, president of a firm which prints Bible stories, testified that "the harm being done to children and young people by comic books, stressing sex, crime and sadism is incalculable." Mr. Cook suggested that unless the publishing industry can regulate itself there is "no alternative to a strong national law with effective teeth in it, banning such books."

Testifying on magazines available to youth, Margaret Cullin Banning, authoress, said that of 1,000 magazines currently being published, all but about 100 are "vicious and provocative." From research done for an article, "Filth On the Newsstands," published in Reader's Digest, Mrs. Banning revealed that at least 80 American cities have taken action to drive indecent literature from these places.

Mrs. Banning stated that American newsstands "carry a display of sex provocation to be found nowhere else in the world."

The authoress suggested three "conclusions"—self censorship by the publishing industry, stricter enforcement of laws against obscene material, and aroused community opinion.

OTHER TESTIMONY revealed that complaints against American books have been received from foreign countries including Australia, Canada and Peru. Father Fitzgerald reported that a list of disapproved books compiled by the National Organization for Decent Literature has been requested from Hawaii, France, British Honduras, Guam, the Philippines and 39 States in America. All publications on the list are printed in the United States.

Customs official Irving Fishman of New York reported that attempts to import obscene material are also on the increase.

'Serious Evil'



Spokesmen for religious groups, publishers, parents' organizations and other groups testified before the Congressional committee headed by Congressman E. C. Gathings of Arkansas, investigating the spread of low literature.

Speaking for the National Council of Catholic Men, Rev. Thomas J. Fitzgerald (above) of Chicago suggested to the committee a six-point program to combat what he termed "one of the most serious evils affecting our national life."

He said that about 200 pornographic items are set each month in the Port of New York. Mr. Fishman asked for improvements in regulations enabling customs men to stop the flow of such material into the country.

On a national plane, retail dealers reported that lurid books are included in "black" shipments and that they often have no choice as to the type of book they will sell. Some distributors, however, said they have refused to eliminate books from their stock when objections are made by local civic and church organizations.

PUBLISHERS WHO testified at the request of the Congressional committee included representatives of two New York firms dealing in "medical" and "eugenic" books. Cross examination revealed that more than ninety per cent of the firm's business was through the mails, using addresses supplied by "list brokers." The publishers said they had no sure means of checking whether the lists include persons under the age of 21.

Titles of the cheaply-banned books exhibited included "The Technique of Birth Control" and "Love, The Science of Sex Attraction."

In defending the publication of fiction works, concerned with sex matters, publisher Ralph Daigh of New York said that such books "add materially to the education . . . of all walks of life in this country." Mr. Daigh said that "sex is a subject that interests many people."

MEMBERS OF the committee classified a number of pocket-size books as dealing with "sex, perversion, lust, prostitution and narcotics."

In his testimony Mr. Daigh said the responsibility for good books rests with the publisher. Asked his definition of a "good book," he stated that "the fact the public will buy a book is a sincere, honest decision that it is a good book." Mrs. Roscoe then asked if it was therefore right to sell dope because some people are willing to take it.

As the hearing came to a close, another woman member of the special House Committee, Rep. Katherine St. George of New York, said she has been appalled to learn that the publishing of questionable books "is very big business."

"I think there are a great many mothers who are going to take a very strong and biased stand," she said, "and they will be heard."

Soviets Demand Church Treasures

London—(RNS)—The Soviet government has "demanded" that the Czech Communist authorities hand over to them the numerous religious treasures in the Benedictine Abbey of Sazava, near Prague, according to the Vatican Radio.

The Station said that the Russians wanted the treasures—historical documents, church vessels and ornaments—to be preserved in the Museum of the Orthodox Church in Moscow.

Agreement to send the valuables to Moscow has been reached with the Czech Office for Church Affairs, the Vatican Radio added.

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PLEDGE OF THE LEGION OF DECENCY

In the Name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Ghost. Amen.

I condemn indecent and immoral motion pictures, and those which glorify crime or criminals.

I promise to do all that I can to strengthen public opinion against the production of indecent and immoral films, and to unite with all those who protest against them.

I acknowledge my obligation to form a right conscience about pictures that are dangerous to my moral life. As a member of the Legion of Decency, I pledge myself to remain away from them. I promise, further, to stay away altogether from places of amusement which allow them as a matter of policy.

(This pledge will be renewed in the churches of the Diocese of Rochester Sunday, December 14.)

Chaplain Ward in Papal Audience



RECEIVED IN AUDIENCE by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, a group of ROT officers and men of the aircraft carrier U. S. S. Leyte (CVA-32) posed with the Holy Father for above picture. To the left of the Supreme Pontiff (right in the photo) is Chaplain Leo D. Ward, USN, a priest of Rochester diocese who introduced the group to His Holiness and was in charge of the tour party. (U. S. Navy Photo.)

Canadians Fight Indecent Literature

Ottawa—(RNS)—A drive will be made at the present session of the Canadian parliament for legislation to ban the distribution of indecent literature. The campaign is backed by the Roman Catholic Church and Protestant bodies.

Last Minute Gift Tip: Give him a new wrist watch from "The Watch Store," 215 Main St., Hamilton 2611—Adv.