

# Pontiff Deplores Persecution Of Eastern-Rite Catholics

By REV. JOSEPH J. SULLIVAN  
Vatican City (NC)—Pope Pius XII has again scored the communist persecution of the Church and has begged for prayers that God may send "comforting angels" to those imprisoned for their religion.

The Pontiff's action came in the form of an Encyclical Letter, entitled "Orientalis Ecclesiae" (Eastern Churches), which he addressed to the Hierarchy of the Eastern-Rite Churches.

**THE HOLY FATHER** places the scenes of these persecutions as Bulgaria, Rumania and particularly the Ukraine. He condemned the Bulgarian Rite for the death sentences handed Bishop Eugene Bossilkoff of Nikolop and three Bulgarian priests. He termed this action "a terrible catastrophe" which "has caused profound mourning in the Church."

The Pope suggested the Chair of Unity Octave, January 18 to 25, as a proper time for increased prayer and penance everywhere for the persecuted. He said:

"By our prayers and works most merciful God to send of penance ye can beseech the comforting angels to those our suffering brothers and sons . . ."

"All priests who are able to offer the Eucharistic Sacrifice everyday should make a remembrance of those Bishops and priests who, far from their churches and their faithful, have not the possibility of ascending the altar to offer the Divine Sacrifice and nourish themselves and their faithful with that Divine Food from which souls obtain that sweetness surpassing all desire and receive that strength which leads to victory."

"IN MANY regions where the Oriental Rite particularly flourish, there has been unleashed a new temper which seeks to overthrow, devastate and destroy in misery the flourishing Christian communities. In past centuries some particular dogma of Catholic doctrine was impugned, today on the contrary, they rush to go overboard."

"They seek to banish from public life the dominant force, from the universities, from schools and from the life of whole populations the sacred rights, institutions and laws, indeed all that is divine or has relation to divinity, placing as if nothing with matters of psychology and civil laws."

"They have taken from the Catholic Church the right to own property and to administer the same, and thus have deprived her of the means of her own defense and of her own development."

## Jewish War Vets Give Award To Catholic Bishop

Springfield, Mass. — (RNS) — Roman Catholic Bishop Christopher J. Weldon of Springfield has been named to receive the "outstanding citizen" award of a Jewish group here.

He was the unanimous choice for the 1952 Harry Brown Outstanding Citizen Award sponsored by the Springfield Post 26 of the Jewish War Veterans of America. The Bishop will be given the award at a reception in March.

Joseph J. Nader, chairman of the selection committee, said that since his consecration in March, 1950 "Bishop Weldon has contributed spiritually and materially to the well-being of all the residents of Greater Springfield, even though those who benefited from the Catholic leader's efforts frequently were not of the same religious faith."

The award is a memorial to the Harry Brown, a past commander of Post 26 who died in 1949.

## Cardinal-Elect Stepinac Recovers After Operation

Kratic, Yugoslavia — (RNS) — Cardinal-elect Alojzije Stepinac, Archbishop of Zagreb, was reported here to be well on the way to recovery after his recent operation for thrombosis of the left leg.

The Cardinal-elect, who is confined to his native village here by the Yugoslav government which released him from prison in 1951 after he had served five years of a 16-year sentence, was operated on secretly by Zagreb specialists.

For a while after the operation no one was allowed to see him without a special pass from the Communist authorities. However, shortly after Christmas, the Cardinal-elect was able to get out of bed for short periods and is now said to have considerably improved.

**School Libraries**  
Scranton, Pa. — (NC) — The 1953 Catholic Supplement to the Standard Catalog for High School Libraries, compiled by the Catholic Library Association, has been published by the E. W. Wilson Company, New York.

## NEW ORDER FOR NATIVES



Postulants of the new order for natives in New Guinea, Sisters of the Holy Spirit, are shown. Their new habits are blue, with white collar, white veil, white gloves. Sisters, Servants of the Holy Ghost, are introducing the natives to the religious life. Bishop Leo Arched, S.V.D., of Paganu, Java, is Bishop of West, Territory of New Guinea. (NC Photos).

**Archbishop D'Alton**  
Dublin — (NC) — Archbishop John D'Alton of Armagh was bid "goodspeed" by throng well-wishers on his departure for Rome from Dublin Airport to receive the Red Hat.

The question of Christ is the plith and center, not only of the spiritual life of Europe, but also of the whole world and of each individual man. — Arnold Toynbee, great contemporary philosopher of history.

## Decoration Work Enhances Old Redemptorist Church

(Continued from Page 1)  
altars are enclosed by new railings and the confessionals have been sound-proofed and draped in brown velvet.

Lighting fixtures throughout the church are new, of a simple modern-gothic and designed especially for St. Joseph's.

The four principal panels in the nave of the church have been redone in a gold pattern with large paintings superimposed of St. Patrick, the Apostle of Ireland; St. Boniface, the Apostle of Germany; St. Alphonsus, Founder of the Redemptorist Order; and St. Ambrose, Doctor of the Church.

THE CEILING of the body of the church formerly covered by a mural of the Transfiguration, now shows a simple patterned cross in keeping with the general motif.

Panel of angels which border the ceiling have been redone in color-toned to harmonize with the whole scheme.

**Rites Filmed**  
Goa, Portuguese India — (NC) — A documentary film depicting the ceremonies marking the 400th anniversary of the death of St. Francis Xavier has been produced here by director Ricardo Malheiro.

The familiar picture of Our Lady of Perpetual Help has been placed in a permanent position in the wall panel next to the pulpit. Heretofore the picture was moved into the sanctuary on a portable rack during novena services. In its new place, it will be spot-lighted during the novena services.

ART WORK ON the statue of St. Gerard in the side chapel is unique in that the garb of the Redemptorist saint has been treated to give the effect of real cloth.

The complete job of renovation, painting, refinishing and fine art work was done by R. Antinasi and Sons.

St. Joseph's Parish was founded in 1836, thirty-two years before the creation of the Diocese of Rochester. First Mass was said in the original church structure on July 26, 1846, which was a far cry from the beautiful edifice of today.

THE ORIGINAL church, built of Lockport stone in Corinthian style, measured 125 feet in length. There were two side chapels of about 40 feet each. Subsequent additions and a 167-foot tower added in 1909 resulted in the present Franklin

Street edifice which is a well-known landmark on the Rochester skyline. Wednesday novena services in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help were inaugurated in June 1927 and have continued unbroken through the years, drawing thousands of the faithful to devotions each week.

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