

Hope Seen For Russians Return To Catholic Church

Vatican City (NC)—There is real hope that Russia will return to the Church, according to His Eminence Gregory Peter XV, Cardinal Agagianian, Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians.

The prominent Eastern Rite Cardinal bases his opinion on three things: the truly Christian character of the Russian peoples, Our Lady's expressed desire for their conversion, and the fact that the entire church — under the leadership of the Pope himself — implores daily in the prayers after Mass.

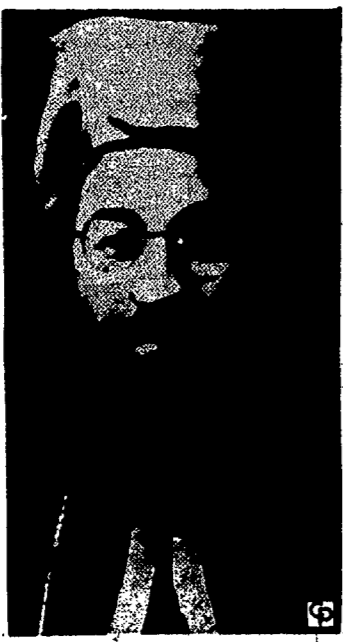
CARDINAL AGAGIANIAN expressed his views in an article in the magazine, (Missionary Union of the Clergy), which was reprinted in the Vatican City daily (Osservatore Romano). The prelate, who was once a parish priest in what is now Soviet Armenia, is responsible for many thousands of Armenian Catholics isolated behind the Iron Curtain.

He expressed the conviction that millions of Orthodox Christians will follow Rumanian Orthodox Patriarch Puiu Vissarion of Chisinau in their admiration for the Catholic Church. The Cardinal recalled that the Rumanian churchman expressed his opinions in a letter to Patriarch Alexis of Moscow, written from Paris in November of 1951.

Patriarch Vissarion told the Muscovite that his Russian Orthodox Church should have repudiated the alleged peace movement of the Russians in view of their ceaseless persecutions of the Church. He said also that the Church of Rome should be admired and favored, not persecuted, for its fidelity to Christ.

ANOTHER REASON given by the Armenian Patriarch for his hope is that "we can be certain . . . there are still in Russia millions thirsting for God, attached to the Christian traditions of their ancestors and particularly to the filial veneration of the great Mother of God . . ."

Pointing out that in her revelations at Fatima, the Blessed Virgin had asked for prayers for the conversion of Russia, and that constant prayer is offered in the Church for this purpose, Cardinal Agagianian said there is not only hope for Russia's return to religion, but to the true unity of the Church under the visible head of the Vicar of Christ.



CARDINAL AGAGIANIAN

Former Teachers To Consecrate Bishop-Elect

Hartford, Conn. — (NC) — When Msgr. John F. Hackett is consecrated to serve as Auxiliary Bishop of Hartford on March 19 in St. Joseph's Cathedral here, two of his former teachers will take part in the ceremonies.

They are Bishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford, who will officiate as the consecrator and Bishop Matthew F. Brady of Manchester, who will be one of the co-consecrators. Both Bishops O'Brien and Brady taught at St. Thomas Seminary here when the Bishop-designate was a student.

Archbishop Francis F. Keough of Baltimore, former primate of the Hartford diocese, will be the other co-consecrator. Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston — whose province includes all of New England — will preach the sermon. Msgr. Hackett was named to be Titular Bishop of Hebronopolis in Palaestina and Auxiliary of Hartford.

'BACK TO GOD' PROGRAM



New York—The American Legion's 1953 "Back to God" campaign was opened at a rally here at which Father John E. Duffy of New London, O., national chaplain of the Legion (center), presided. Vice President Richard M. Nixon (left) and Lewis K. Gough, national commander of the Legion (right), addressed the gathering which included religious and civic leaders. The program which was broadcast and televised, also marked the 10th anniversary of the death of the four Catholic, Protestant and Jewish Army chaplains who gave up their lives to soldiers and went down with the troopship Dorchester in the North Atlantic during World War II. President Eisenhower delivered a message to the observance which had been recorded earlier at the White House. (Religious News Service Photo)

Priest Defends Negro Right To Housing

Toledo, O. — (NC) — Monsignor M. J. Doyle spoke up in favor of the recently-announced non-segregation policy of the Toledo Metropolitan Housing Authority.

The TMHA announcement brought public protests from East Toledoans seeking the prevent Negroes from occupying units in three East Toledo public housing projects which heretofore have been rented only to whites.

MONSIGNOR DOYLE, director of the Toledo Catholic Charities, said: "There's only one position that a Catholic can take . . . in the interest of social justice Catholics should recognize the right of non-white peoples to enjoy all the privileges of citizenship."

These privileges, he added, include decent housing as well as a just wage and equal economic opportunities. And these are more than privileges, said Monsignor Doyle, calling them rights under God and the state.

"As Catholics we must hold to the principle and hold to it strictly — let the chips fall where they may," Monsignor Doyle said.

MONSIGNOR DOYLE spoke at a meeting of men of an East Toledo parish following the protest which reached the City Council chambers. He was asked some pointed questions, most of them concerning property values. The Monsignor said he had no statistics but added that the TMHA has denied that property devaluation follows necessarily when segregation ends.

Monsignor Doyle said white families could help the situation by not moving from a neighborhood just because a Negro family moves in. Another stabilizing influence on property values, he said, would be moving the Negroes into all neighborhoods of the city.

Ireland Welcomes Cardinal D'Alton

Dublin — (NC) — A tumultuous "road mile fall" (hundred thousand welcomes) was given here to His Eminence John Cardinal D'Alton, Archbishop of Armagh, on his arrival from Rome where he received the Red Hat.

Alighting at the Dublin airport, the Primate of All-Ireland was greeted by a huge crowd which included many high Church and State dignitaries. In the official welcoming group were Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Papal Nuncio to Ireland and Bishop of Savannah-Atlanta, and Archbishop John C. McQuaid of Dublin.

WHILE IRELAND'S new Primate of the Church was being escorted to a waiting car, a military guard presented arms and an army band rendered a musical salute. As he paused to review the troops, a Civic Guard played "Faith of Our Fathers," a favorite hymn of the Irish, which the crowd immediately began to sing.

Escorted by a military motorcycle guard, Cardinal D'Alton paid official calls on President Sean T. O'Kelly, Archbishop McQuaid, and Prime Minister Eamon de Valera. He also visited the Mansion House, where he was greeted by the Mayor and the City Councillors, who expressed congratulations on behalf of the citizens of Dublin.

In his reply, Cardinal D'Alton said that on his parting visit to the Holy Father, the Pontiff had expressed his "wonderful love" for Ireland and his deep appreciation of all that this country had done for the Faith.

CHEERING CROWDS waited in the streets to salute Ireland's Primate, the first to be elevated to the College of Cardinals since the Red Hat was conferred in 1929 upon his predecessor in the Armagh See, Cardinal MacRory, who died in 1945. Public buildings along the Cardinal's itinerary were bedecked with the Irish tricolor and the Papal flag.

Proceeding northward, Cardinal D'Alton stopped in Drogheda, where enthusiastic crowds cheered and waved as the Primate entered St. Peter's Church to pray before the shrine of Blessed Oliver Plunket, martyred 16th century Archbishop of Armagh.

From this point he proceeded

German Protestant Eyed For Envoy To Vatican

Bonn, Germany — (RNS) — The Vatican has no objections to the appointment of a Protestant as West German ambassador to the Holy See.

The Vatican feels Bavaria is entitled to its own envoy because of a special concordat between the two, Dr. Schubert explained. Until 1934, direct diplomatic relations were maintained between Bavaria and the Holy See. At the recent Consistory, Bavaria was represented by its Minister of Cults, Dr. Joseph Schwalber.

THE Christian Social Union, leading party in the Bavarian government, is supporting a proposal to name a Bavarian envoy as soon as a federal ambassador is appointed.

Meanwhile, German Catholic criticism has increased over the Bonn government's delay in naming an ambassador to the Vatican. Government circles feel, however, that no appointment will be made before the election of a new West German parliament next fall.

Former KKK Chaplain Tells Conversion Story

Notre Dame, Ind. — (NC) — A former national chaplain of the Ku Klux Klan is one of the forty converts who tell how they found their way into the Catholic Church in "Paths of Christ," a new book edited by Father John A. O'Brien of the University of Notre Dame.

He is Joseph A. Young of New York, a former Baptist minister, who died about a year ago. He was received into the Church in 1948 by Father John P. Sullivan, of St. Aedan's Church, Jersey City, N. J., and took the baptismal name of Joseph at that time. Previously he had been known as Dr. Alton M. Young.

His story is included in Father O'Brien's collection of accounts of the conversions of people from all walks of life.

In addition to Mr. Young's story the book, published by Our Sunday Visitor Press, Huntington, Ind., shows what credentials of the Church impress a cab driver, an American diplomat, and an all-American football player.

Father O'Brien has published two other books of conversion stories, "The Road to Damascus" and "Where I Found Christ," featuring the accounts of noted writers, artists and scholars.

Scores Divorce Melbourne, Australia — (NC) — Archbishop Daniel Mannix of Melbourne, in a public address here, criticized what he said were proposals being made to extend facilities for divorce in Australia.

British Government Asked To Repudiate Tito Policy

London — (NC) — Bishop John E. Petit of Menevia has demanded that the British government publicly dissociate itself from Marshal Tito's policy of repression and persecution.

Bishop Petit, one of the most outspoken churchmen in Britain today, told Knights of St. Columba at Colwyn Bay, North Wales, that the Churchill government should take this action before the Yugoslav dictator comes to Britain in March as an official guest. If it does not do so, the result will be very bad for Britain and very bad for the world, he added.

"IT WILL BE VERY bad for this country because it will look as if we could not care less what happened in Yugoslavia," the Bishop said. "If someone speaking for the government does not make such a public statement the world will be still more convinced of the cynicism and opportunism of politics."

"The ordinary men and women of this world have suffered intolerably and unspeakably in these last years because major issues involving their lives and families have been settled by expediency and opportunism and not by the application of fixed principles."

THERE IS NO doubt in my own mind that the Russian policy of expansion and the retreat of the West before the advance of the East has been made possible chiefly because the policies pur-

sued by the West have been based not on principles but on expediency."

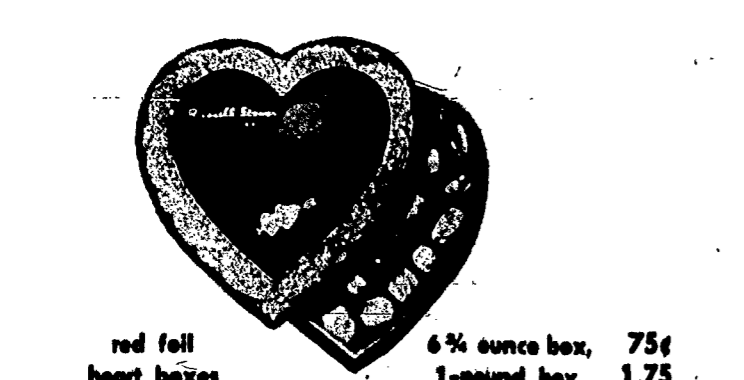
Bishop Petit pointed out that His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster; Dr. Geoffrey Fisher, Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury, and the Rev. S. M. Watts, Moderator of the Free Church Federal Council—the three principal church leaders in Britain—have all now appealed to the British government regarding Tito's attitude to religion.

Convert-Prisoners Growing In Korea

Pusan, Korea — "A single American priest has a total of 733 Catholics in his prisoner of war compounds, and another 900 prisoners taking instructions," reports Father Joseph W. Connors, Maryknoll Missioner from Pittsfield, Mass.

"He is Father Roy D. Petipren, also a Maryknoller from Detroit. Instead of a regular staff of catechists, he uses the services of newly baptized prisoners in the camps at Kwangju and Nonsan to instruct their comrades."

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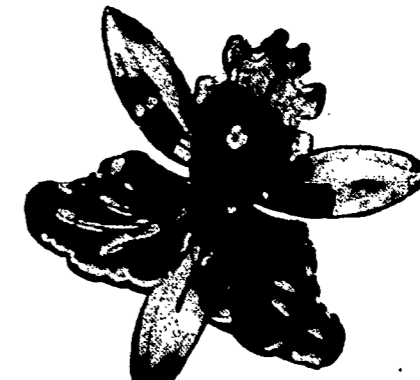
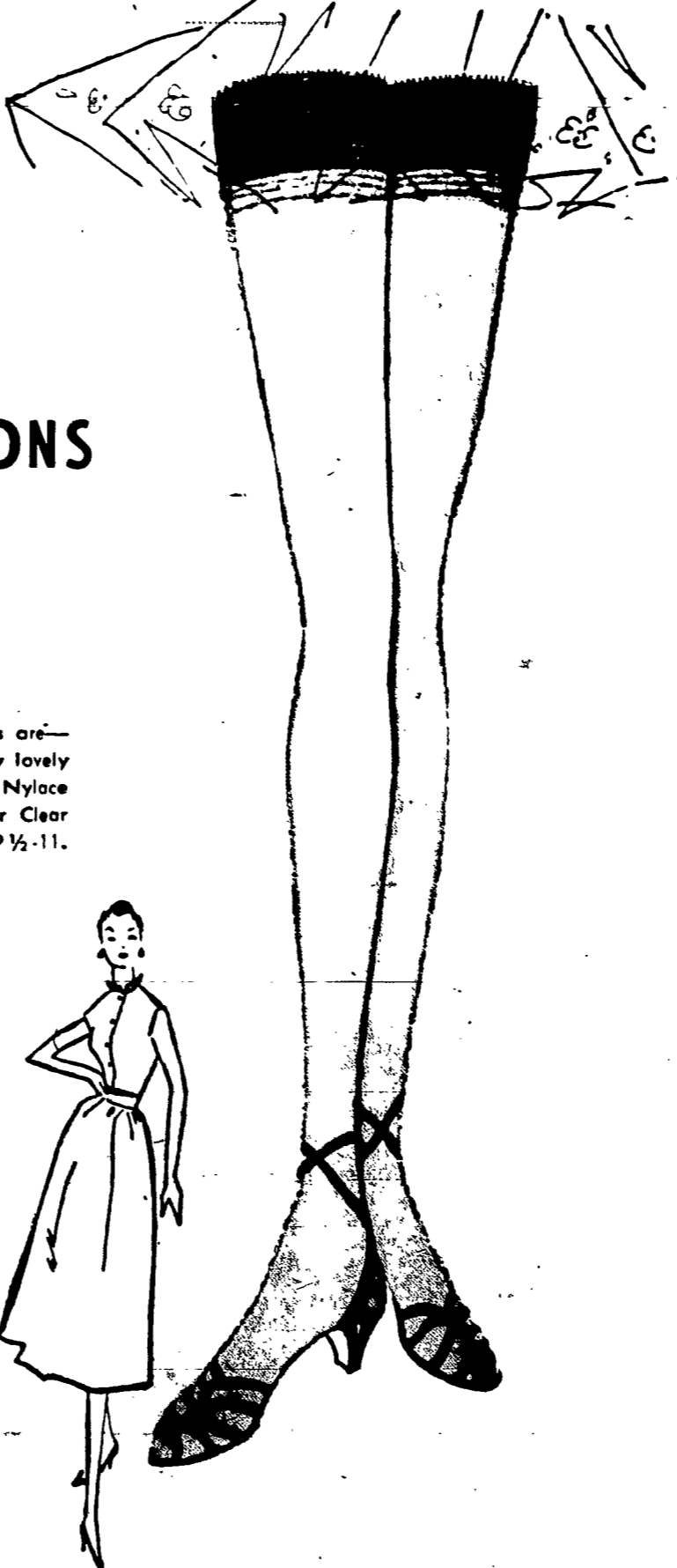
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