

Gordon Bill Seen Aid To Easy Divorce

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Vatican Radio Urges Prayers For Stalin

London — (RNS) — The soul of Premier Josef Stalin should be the "object of prayers which Catholics raise to our infinitely merciful God." The Vatican Radio declared in a comment on the dying Soviet ruler.

THE STATION said it was the duty of all Catholics to see in Premier Stalin a soul "which like all souls was redeemed by Christ" and to pray for him out of "a feeling of universal and supernatural christian charity."

In its comment, The Vatican Radio also said: "The office of Marshall Stalin and the power he represented for thirty years have been closely bound with world events, while his more recent acts have often been connected with them in a decisive way."

"We also know that in his person is more or less centered the present-day phenomenon of world communism, a thing of no light responsibility. The attitude of this doctrine on religion also is known to everybody."

"If it is lawful for all to judge the facts and perhaps also the man, we are not in a position to say if it is likewise permissible to condemn man's responsibility at certain times of their life."

Eisenhower Asks Blessing of God On Godless Russia

Washington — (NC) — Two references to God were made by President Eisenhower in his statement Wednesday on the illness of Josef Stalin, leader of Godless Soviet Russia.

The President's statement released by the White House said the thoughts of America go out to the people of the USSR, anxiously concerned with the illness of their ruler. "They are children of the same God who is Father of all peoples everywhere," the statement said. "And like all peoples, Russia's millions share our longing for a friendly and peaceful world."

"Regardless of the identity of government personalities the prayer of us Americans continues to be that the Almighty will watch over the people of that vast country and bring them, in His wisdom, the opportunity to live their lives in a world where all men and women and children dwell in peace and comradeship."

Courier-Journal Nears Goal of 40,000 In Circulation Drive

Reports received to date on the current COURIER-JOURNAL subscription campaign show that over half of the 8,000 new subscriptions needed to reach the 40,000 goal have been received.

Pastors of the following churches have reported that their parishes will subscribe to the 100 per cent campaign for the first time: Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rochester; St. Michael, Rochester; St. Philip, Rochester; St. Mary of the Lake, Watkins Glen; St. Mary, Elmira and Immaculate Conception, Ithaca.

Subscriptions from these parishes account for approximately 2,700 new subscribers, Elmer Grapenstetter, circulation manager of the COURIER-JOURNAL, also reports the following renewals of complete parochial coverage: St. Bernard, Seipie Center; St. Hilary, Hamilton; Omega, Eulova, Longfellow; William S. Thorne, Jewell; St. 318 Main St. East, E.A. — Adv.

Guns Blessed For "Common Good"



Chicago—Father Donald G. Sherry, O.P., chaplain of the St. Joseph Guild of Policemen in Chicago blesses guns of new police members in St. Pius church here. The ceremony is conducted to ask "the blessing of our Lord on this instrument for the protection and guardianship of the common good." (Religious News Service Photo).

Catholics Answer Rabbis Rap Anglican Prelate's Statement On Tito In Schools

London — (RNS) — Catholics here have sharply attacked a statement by Dr. Cyril Garbett, Anglican Archbishop of York, which expressed the hope that President Tito of Yugoslavia would receive a "cordial welcome" when he visits Britain this month.

Answering the Anglican prelate, two leading English Catholic priests described the statement as "amazing" and "grotesque."

Ever since the British government announced the invitation to Marshal Tito, Catholics here have protested on the ground that there was persecution of their co-religionists in Yugoslavia.

THE CATHOLIC protest was somewhat quieted when Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, expressed the hope that Foreign Secretary Anthony Eden would inform President Tito of British opposition to religious persecution.

These sentiments found support from Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, Archbishop of Canterbury, who told the annual meeting of the British Council of Christians and Jews in December that Marshal Tito should be made aware that the feeling against religious persecution "is very strong, and very widespread here."

The Anglican primate said that goodwill between Britain

and Yugoslavia "can hardly be maintained" so long as the Yugoslav people's Christian traditions are "subjected to severe attack by governmental action."

DR. GARRETT SAID in his statement that although he regarded religious persecution anywhere as "hateful," those who objected to President Tito's visit to Britain because of his anti-Catholic policies had forgotten the "severe persecution" of Greek Orthodox Christians in Yugoslavia by Roman Catholics during the last war.

"Popular anger and reasons of national security," the prelate said, "made it necessary for the Marshall's government to take steps against those Roman Catholics who in the war collaborated with the invaders and who in some cases had been guilty of grave crimes against the non-Catholic population."

He added that welcoming the Yugoslav leader "would not imply approval of his religious, social or economic views and policies," but would show sympathy "for this defiance of the aggressive totalitarianism of Russia."

REPLYING TO Dr. Garbett, the Very Rev. George Dwyer, superior of the English Catholic Missionary Society, asserted that "Tito's attack is an attack on all religion. He is a Marxist and, consequently, a materialist, an enemy of religion."

New York — (RNS) — A resolution registering "string disapproval" of the practice in some New York state schools of holding daily prayers was adopted by the New York Board of Rabbis at its annual meeting here.

Released-time religious instruction programs and "sectarian religious holiday observances" in public schools also were condemned as threats to "the non-sectarian character" of our educational institutions.

MANY SCHOOL boards in the state have accepted the recommendation made by the State Board of Regents in 1951 that public school classes be opened each day with a prayer.

The resolution reaffirmed the Board of Rabbis' belief that "religious training is indispensable to a complete educational experience" but said that "the teaching of religion is the proper responsibility of the church, synagogue and home, not of the public school."

WE DEPRECATE the introduction of studies or exercises, the resolution said, "that would involve formal religion in any way as a move that must lead inevitably to sectarian strife and to the deprivation of the protection of youthful pupils from seduction from their parental beliefs."

"We urge that all possible avenues be explored by church and synagogue, as well as civic, school, parent and other community bodies, to effectuate the elimination of such programs where they exist."

Pro-Red Priest Forced On Polish Bishop

London — (NC) — Bishop Francis Jop, acting Vicar Capitular of Cracow, Poland, has been forced to name two pro-communist priests as vicars general of the archdiocese.

Under a new Polish decree the regime can exercise a veto power over all church appointments.

THE NEW VICARS general are Fathers Boniface Wozny and Stanislaus Huet. Both are under ecclesiastical censure for disobedience to their spiritual authorities and communist activities.

Father Wozny was formerly the provincial of the Augustinian Fathers at Wroclaw (Breslau). Because of the public scandal occasioned by Father Wozny's notorious collaboration with the communists, the late Cardinal Adam Sapieha disbanded the Congregation of Augustinian Fathers in Poland and suspended Father Wozny, the Provincial Superior.

Father Wozny did not heed the

admonitions of the Cardinal and continued his political activities in the communist camp, appealing to the civil authorities for

Austria Suffers Clergy Shortage

Vienna — (NC) — Not only the Austria archdiocese, but all Austria, is threatened with an extremely critical shortage of priests unless a remedy can be found in the very near future.

This warning was sounded by His Eminence, Theodor Cardinal Innitzer, Archbishop of Vienna, in a Lenten pastoral letter read in all the churches of the See.

The Cardinal disclosed that since the end of the war, the Vienna Archdiocese has lost 300 priests through death, while only 76 priests have been ordained during that period.

Bishops' Relief Distributed To Korea Victims

New York — (NC) — Wounded veterans and families of slain Korean servicemen at Pusan, Korea, were recipients of an entire shipment of relief materials from the American Bishops' Committee for Victims of War.

Business Firm Assists Bishops' Relief Program

Washington — (NC) — Sawyers Incorporated, a firm in Portland, Ore., has made a contribution of \$2,000 to what it calls the "most urgent and charitable work" of the Bishops' Welfare and Emergency Relief Committee.

The Bishops' Welfare and Emergency Relief Committee is one of two agencies through which the Catholic Bishops of the United States channel relief and assistance to needy persons in this country and abroad. It finances War Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference.

According to advices received here, a report from Magr. George Carroll, M.M., War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference delegate in Korea, was received here at the agency's headquarters. The report said:

"EVERY BIT of relief clothing, food and medicines received aboard the USS Green Mountain State was distributed to needy men and families. In fact this is the first aid given them by any organization. We held quite an impressive ceremony at the dockside warehouse."

The operations of WRS-N.C.W.C., which is a relief agency of the American Hierarchy, are financed through the Bishops' Fund for Victims of War. The 1953 Fund has a goal of \$5,000,000 and will be conducted in thousands of parishes across the nation on Lenten Sunday, March 15.

The Monsignor's report said that Bishop Paul R. Vicar, Apostolic of Seoul, Korean government officials and high ranking U. S. Army officers took part in the ceremonies.

THE MONSIGNOR also reported that U. S. Ambassador to Korea Ellis O. Briggs paid a warm tribute to the generosity of American Catholics for their contributions of 2,000,000 pounds of relief supplies which have reached Korea since last November. The Ambassador said he was "gratified by their contributing efforts to ease the burden of the suffering natives," according to the Monsignor's report.

Crowd Cheers Light In Pope's Study

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has recuperated sufficiently from his recent illness to appear at the window of his study and wave to well-wishers in St. Peter's Square.

The incident occurred, according to *Observatore Romano*, Vatican newspaper, when pedestrians in the Square noticed that the lights were on in the Pope's study. Interpreting this as a sign that the Holy Father's health had greatly improved, they raised cheers.

It was in answer to this greeting that the Pontiff opened the window and waved to the people.

Catholic Committee Opposes Legal Move To Liberalize Divorce Law In N. Y. State

Albany — (Special) — Representing the Catholic people of the State of New York at the Assembly Ways and Means Committee public hearing on the Gordon Bill, George W. Wanamaker of Kenmore, Erie County, yesterday voiced strong opposition to the proposed legislation. The Gordon Bill would establish a 23-man commission to survey all laws relative to family, marriage and divorce with a view to future changes in the existing law.

The Kenmore attorney, analyzing the bill, pointed out that as written it would leave the way open for the liberalization of divorce laws of the state and would militate against the alleged objective of Assemblywoman Gordon's Bill, which cites "the preservation of the marital relationship and family unit" as its aim.

MRS. GORDON has been a longtime proponent in the New York Legislature for the liberalization of the grounds for divorce. Presently divorce is granted in New York State on the sole ground of adultery.

Exponents of liberalized divorce laws claim that the present widespread contempt for the law through fraud, perjury and collusion in matrimonial actions would be eliminated.

Mr. Wanamaker, president of the Catholic Lawyers' Guild of the Buffalo Diocese and director of the Erie County Sales Tax Bureau, in his statement prepared by the New York State Catholic Welfare Committee, deplored the prevalence of fraud, perjury and collusion in civil matrimonial actions, but pointed out that increasing the number of grounds for divorce would only multiply opportunities for such practices.

He said, "The well known history of divorce mills in liberal divorce States indicates that there is just as much perjury when there are numerous grounds as when there is the sole ground of adultery."

"The bill," Mr. Wanamaker said, "could have been drawn to invest the temporary commission with powers expressly limited to seeking means to preserve the family, reunite broken homes, reduce our rapidly climbing divorce rate, and explicitly excluding from those objectives the increase of grounds for divorce, that would have been a much different bill than the one now under discussion."

RECOMMENDED the appointment of special assistant district attorneys in localities to cooperate with the justices of the Supreme Court in uncovering violations of the present divorce law or the establishment of a "proctor whose office would be that of a defender of the marriage bond" and whose main object would be to protect the public interest in preserving marital relationships and the family unit.

The chairman William H. Mackenzie of the assembly's Ways and Means Committee presided at the public hearing. The Gordon Bill was supported by the State Council of Protestant Churches and the Board of Rabbis of the State of New York.

State Department Rejects Blanshard Plea On Nuncio

Washington — (NC) — Demand for revocation of American citizenship of Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara, Papal Nuncio to Ireland, will be turned down, it has been disclosed by the State Department.

The demand was made by Paul Blanshard, author-lecturer and frequent critic of the Catholic Church.

BLANSHARD contended that Archbishop O'Hara, who is also Bishop of the Diocese of Savannah-Atlanta, was acting as political representative of a foreign state by serving as the Pope's envoy to Ireland.

Blanshard's demand was made in a five-page petition given to the American Embassy in Dublin on Feb. 16. It asked that Archbishop O'Hara's passport be recalled and that he be stripped of American citizenship.

Ruth Shipley, Director of the State Department's Passport Division, said that she knew of no law "under which petition of this kind could be considered the basis for revoking citizenship."

DEPARTMENT PRESS Officer Joseph Reap, pointed out that as Papal Nuncio, Archbishop O'Hara is the representative of the Holy See but "it is my understanding that no oath of allegiance to any foreign state is required for that position."

It is understood that the State Department has not acknowledged formally the Blanshard petition.



Don't Forget Your Prayers!

This youngster is following his parents' advice by saying his prayers before hopping into bed. He's asking God to bless "my mommy, my daddy, sis, baby Susan and, of course me!"

Feeneyites Come To Rochester

Representatives of the Rev. Leonard Feeney, excommunicated priest, were reported selling literature this week in downtown Rochester. As a result of his stubborn disobedience to the Holy See, Father Feeney was publicly excommunicated by the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office on February 13, 1953.

In view of this fact, the Courier-Journal feels sure that its readers will wisely ignore any approaches on the part of Father Feeney's followers or agents.

An unidentified man was visiting this week to be reported homes in Rochester and seeking funds to send students to St. Andrew's Seminary. The seminary authorities warn that nobody has been authorized to make such solicitation of funds and advise that the police should be called if such a solicitor appears.

Giants, Red Sox To Play For Parish Benefit

New York — (NC) — When the New York Giants and the Boston Red Sox tie up in a benefit baseball game at the Polo Grounds here May 11 one of the sure winners will be the St. Charles School and Community Center Fund. It has been announced.

Before leaving for the Giants' spring training base, Horace Ham, club president, announced that the game will be played. Msgr. Cornelius Drew is in charge of the St. Charles Borromeo School and Community Center project, which entails a \$1,000,000 campaign to build a parochial school and an interracial community center for all creeds.

Before leaving Epworth, Mr. Murphy ran another ad: "Children are wonderful. We rented our house to a family with four children. Thanks, good luck to the 105 replies we received."

'Children Welcome' Rent Ad Draws 105 Applications

Epworth, Iowa — (NC) — "Children Welcome." That's how the ad read in the Houses For Rent column. It brought not only 105 applications, but William J. Murphy, the landlord, who wanted to rent his home to a family with children.

HIS DECISION came from experience. The Murphys with their two children had been unable to rent a home when they first arrived in Dubuque, Iowa. To provide a home for their children they had to buy a house in the town of Epworth, 14 miles from Dubuque. Mr. Murphy drove those 14 miles daily to his job.

When Mr. Murphy accepted a new job in Boston and planned to move his family, he knew what children are wonderful. We rented our house to a family with four children. Thanks, good luck to the 105 replies we received."

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