

Stigmatic Priest Marks Golden Jubilee

San Giovanni Rotondo, Italy. (UPI)—A priest described as a "living Calvary" has observed his golden jubilee as a religious.

He is Padre Pio, a friar of the Capuchin monastery here and the only priest in the history of the Church known to bear the stigmata of Christ's passion.

The famed but humble priest observed his golden jubilee as a Capuchin religious with a special Mass in the monastery church. Every effort was made to keep the ceremony private. This is in accord with the practice of his own superiors and the direction of the Rome authorities, who insist on keeping the entire matter as well within the bounds of restraint and discretion as possible.



Padre Pio, friar of the Capuchin Monastery at San Giovanni Rotondo in Italy, has suffered the stigmata (wounds like Christ's) for 35 years. Here he is seen holding a crucifix while fingerless gloves cover his hand-wounds. Lower photo is close-up of the priest's pierced, blood-incrusted hand.

THIS YEAR will also mark the 35th anniversary of the visible stigmata in Padre Pio's feet, hands and side.

It was while making his thanksgiving after Mass in the monastery chapel here on September 20, 1918, that blood suddenly began to flow from his hands, feet and side. Embarrassed, the priest tried to hide the phenomenon at first. But his superiors found out and ordered a doctor for Padre Pio. When medical treatments only served to irritate the wounds they were stopped.

The Italian priest spends most of his day hearing confessions. Such a great number of people from all parts of the world flock here to become his penitents that a special system has been devised to have them go to confession in proper turn.

Those desiring to go to confession to Padre Pio are given a number by the Brother porter. Then they must wait until their turn comes. At the present time this often means a wait of three to four days.

LARGE CROWDS flock to the early morning Mass offered by Padre Pio. The priest is in ecstasy from the Communion of the Mass. This part of the Mass usually lasts from an hour to an hour and a half. During the ecstasy the priest suffers deeply from the stigmatic wounds.

A native of Pietrelcina, central Italy, Padre Pio has spent almost all of his priestly life at the monastery here. His main occupation has been that of a confessor. Shortly after ordination he served for a brief time at the Capuchin parish in Foggia, the principal city near here.

FATHER PIO's father, Horatio, a farmer, was deceased, worked for some years in New York in order to get more money to send young Francesco, as the priest

was then called, to the seminary. Padre Pio ate only one meal a day and that is a relatively light one. He drinks a lot of water and juice, also wine and beer occasionally.

Doctors estimate that the priest loses up to a cup of blood each day from the bleeding of his wounds. His feet and side bleed constantly though slowly. There is only slight loss of blood from the wounds in his hands.

UP TO 500 people from various parts of the world come to the monastery here each day to see the priest. So great has been the number of suffering pilgrims seeking his aid that a unique hospital has been built near here. Since last summer it has provided expert medical care for all who applied, regardless of their circumstances.

Called the House of Relief of Suffering (Casa Sollievo della Sofferenza), it was conceived by Padre Pio himself in early 1940.

Quebec Police Guard Priest Against Reds

Quebec City (RNS)—The Rev. Pierre Gravel of suburban Boischatel parish, a longtime foe of Communist labor leaders in this province, has been given police protection following a threat that his church might be blown up.

PREMIER MAURICE Duplessis of Quebec said that the police who guard Father Gravel also will watch over one of his parishioners, Pat Walsh, a former Communist who recently returned to the Catholic Church and said he would expose Communist methods in the province.

In announcing the police protection, Premier Duplessis said the government has reason to believe that Communists have lately tried to recover the priceless Polish art treasures stored under guard in the provincial museum.

THE TREASURES, brought to Canada at the outbreak of World War II, are being kept in the Dominion despite demands by Poland's Communist regime that they be returned.

A tunnel leading to within 75 feet of the underground vault housing the treasures was discovered recently. Premier Duplessis said that recent visits to the treasures by Communist leaders and their careful photographing of the surrounding area points to a plot to recover them.

Floods Reduce Parish From 700 to 11

London (UPI)—The recent floods along the English coast have swept away almost the whole Catholic population of Canvey Island, low-lying channel community at the mouth of the River Thames.

Of the originally 700 members of the parish of Our Lady of Canvey and the English Martyrs only 11 are still living in the district.

But as the land dries out and houses are rebuilt Father Bernard Manning, Canvey's pastor, is confident that most of those obliged to evacuate to other areas will be back. He expects them back by Easter.

Canada Red Agents Ordered To Pose As 'Good Catholics', Says Ex-Commie

Quebec (UPI)—In an effort to build an effective sabotage machine in Canada's lumber camps, communist agents have been instructed to pose as "good Catholics" and be among the first in attendance at Mass and reception of the Sacraments, Pat Walsh who has abandoned his position as top Quebec communist labor organizer, disclosed here.

Communism's all-out Moscow-first attitude in the Rosenberg case led him to renounce his ties with all communist and fellow traveler organizations, Mr. Walsh declared.

"NEITHER I nor my friends had any objection to invoking clemency for these spies of the Red regime," Mr. Walsh said in describing the last straw episode. "But they insisted that they must be saved at all costs in order to protect the communist espionage."

"If these unfortunates were executed, according to the Canadian spokesman for Moscow, we would indeed have much greater difficulty in maintaining our spies and recruiting new ones. That made me realize what often had shocked me: the interests of Moscow come first and to a point which the ordinary person cannot even suspect."

MR. WALSH said a Canadian communist leader returned recently from Moscow with orders that Julius and Ethel Rosenberg, sentenced to death for treason in the United States for passing atomic secrets to the Soviets, must be saved at all costs. Mr. Walsh said the Moscow directive was not so much in concern for the Rosenbergs themselves, as it was a move to protect the communist spy system.

When he made up his mind to break with the Reds, Mr. Walsh went to the office of L'Action Catholique, French-language Catholic daily, and gave a statement of some 3,000 words explaining his break with communism to Dr. Louis Philippe Roy, editor-in-chief. After it appeared in L'Action Catholique, Mr. Walsh's story was given front-page prominence in papers throughout Canada. As expected, his charges of Red tie-ups drew prompt denials from the communists.

Mr. Walsh said that the Red leader who recently visited Moscow had brought back orders that in case of war all hydro plants in Canada were to be blown up and all pulp and paper mills and forests set afire.

Mr. Walsh listed the communists and fellow traveler organizations "as well as others organized by the communist Labor Progressive Party and used by it as 'front' organizations," from which he was resigning. These included:

THE CANADIAN Peace Congress, of which he was a member of the national executive committee; League of Democratic Rights, of which he was a founder and member of the national executive committee; Canadian Union of Woodworkers, of which he was a founder, an officer of the executive committee

Free Bus Rides To Churchgoers Given During Lent

Buffalo, N. Y. (RNS)—Buffalo churchgoers get free rides to and from church on Sundays during Lent. All they have to do is to tell the bus operator they are going to church or have just been to a service and they pay no fare.

The hours worshippers are permitted to ride free are between 5 a.m. and 2 p.m. This makes it possible for persons to attend any Sunday morning services, including early Roman Catholic Masses. The free rides are a goodwill gesture of the Niagara Frontier Transit System, which operates all city buses and most of the suburban bus services.

Roswell F. Thoma, NFT president, said 239,832 free rides were provided during Lent last year. He declared that any financial loss to his company is offset by the public goodwill and a knowledge that religion is being strengthened.

"We are conscious of America's need for a strong and confident faith in the spiritual principles on which our freedom is based," he said.

Vocation Institute Slates Archbishop

Notre Dame, Ind. (UPI)—Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston will be keynote speaker at the Seventh Annual Convocation of the Vocation Institute at Notre Dame, July 23 to 26.

Two hundred priests, religious and laymen in religious vocation work are expected to attend the institute. Father John H. Wren, C.S.C. director, has announced they will hear papers and talks by experts in the field of vocation promotion.

Three Faiths Protest Against Sex Movies

Harrisburg, Pa. (RNS)—Protestant, Roman Catholic and Jewish groups took a five-column ad in a local daily paper to protest the showing of four so-called "sex education" films at movie houses here.

The protest was signed by the department of community relations and social action, United Churches of Greater Harrisburg and Dauphin County; the Catholic Pastors of Harrisburg; the Harrisburg Rabbinate, the Harrisburg post of the American Legion; Catholic-War Veterans, and Jewish War Veterans.

"NO ONE CAN deny the fundamental need for sex instruction," the statement said. "Our objection is to the manner in which such sacred matters are being presented for public consideration. We insist that the motion picture theatre is not the proper forum for the imparting of an understanding of such intimate and important matters, nor is profit the proper motive."

"We therefore appeal to representatives of the radio and television industry, the press, the motion picture exhibitors, the Board of Motion Picture Censors of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania and to the courts. We urge them to be on guard, to make a concentrated effort to prevent the recurrence of such incidents."

"WE CALL UPON them to see to it that the people of our community will not further be exposed to nor their morals endangered by lurid and unrealistic advertising and a commercialized endeavor to usurp privileges and obligations which belong elsewhere by Divine plan."

The protested films are "Mom and Dad," "Because of Eve," "Street Corner" and "Devil in the Flesh."

Earlier, Catholics of the Philadelphia Archdiocese were asked to boycott showings of the movies at 20 picture houses in that city. Theatres booking the films were listed in the Philadelphia Catholic Standard and Times, weekly newspaper of the archdiocese, under a "Roll of Dishonor" heading.

Latin By Mail
Bellefonte, Pa. (RNS)—A correspondence course in Latin is being offered by St. Henry's Seminary here to servicemen who plan to study for the priesthood after their tour of duty ends.

OBSCENE MATERIAL BURNED



Newark, N. J. (RNS)—Films, photographs and books seized by Newark police during the last two years and ruled obscene by the courts were burned publicly at the municipal dock here. Catholic and Protestant clergymen were among 60 guests who attended the burning, which was conducted by, left to right: Police Inspector Eugene O'Malley; Police Commissioner Arthur A. Walker; Public Safety Director John E. Keenan; and Deputy Fire Chief John P. Weeks. Included in the destroyed material were more than 80,000 feet of film, 60,000 low-angle photographs, 750 colored still negatives for screen projection, 157 pornographic illustrated books and 80 decks of cards with lascivious pictures on the back. (Belgian News Service Photo).

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Chin Chowder or Chin Broth
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Browned Little Neck Clams

Choice of:
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