

Red China Days Mission Nuns Diary

By SISTER PAULITA of Maryknoll

Down With The Church!

At the convent in Ming Chang, the Sisters had just come up from the cellar where they had spent the last week. Soon they would be locked up in a small hallway upstairs where they would spend the next six months.

The night we were there was just in between those two periods of arrest. We had a nice visit and exchanged news of the past few months' happenings.

For several hours the next day, we were grilled individually by the police at Ming Chang. An "Investigation Team" of four conducted it.

In charge was a Northern officer who spoke Mandarin, also perfect English which he would not condescend to use. Others present were an officer who spoke the local dialect, our guard from the Wee Chao police, and a secretary who recorded all the answers.

THE SECRETARY wrote in "grass characters" which is a type of Chinese shorthand. His speed was terrific. Typewriters are not practical in Chinese; the tremendous number of characters makes any keyboard too complicated. Secretaries attain such proficiency that the typewriter is hardly missed.

It was a long grilling — all about my personal attitude toward Communism, about our means of support, and whether we approved of the government's actions.

Sisters Marion Cordis was out in the hall praying for me, so I answered with a little confidence. Later, I took her place out in the hall and said my rosary over and over again for her. At last, the officer said, "Cleared!" and we returned to Wee Chao.

OUR FIRST visit in Wee Chao, naturally, was to the police — to check in again. On the way home we met our house girl carrying two empty baskets.

"Father Ching was arrested yesterday," she told us. "He is in jail now. I just carried his bedding and clothes to him."

While you were gone, the chief of police and four men searched the convent from top to bottom. They took some paper and books.

But we were not too worried. We had destroyed everything of any value long before.

The two Chinese Sisters gave us a grand welcome. The convent had shrunk, by this time, to just a few rooms upstairs. The entire bottom floor was given to the

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Bill Widens Drive Against Obscene Books

Albany, N. Y. — (NC) — The New York Assembly has unanimously approved a bill broadening police powers dealing with obscene or immoral publications.

The measure, which was sent to the state Senate, extends to all police chiefs and sheriffs the power to seek an injunction against persons selling, distributing or possessing such publications. Under present law, only the mayor of a city, town or village can take such action.

The pending bill would authorize mayors, sheriffs or police chiefs to obtain temporary orders for seizure of such printed matter, and also empower them to search suspected buildings.

Youth Corps for their meetings. In this way, we certainly had box seats at preparations for our own trial!

LIVING RIGHT over the Youth Corps' meeting had all its advantages. While the accusations were not formulated there, they were discussed. And boys, Chinese or otherwise, were never noted for their soft voices!

These things we knew: The trial would be public. We would be forced to attend. I might be accused of having spoken against Communism. Father Ching was to be accused of 40 "crimes," each more preposterous than the next.

A former pastor, ten years before, had accidentally shot a buffalo belonging to a neighbor. The matter was settled satisfactorily when full restitution was paid. At that time Father Ching was not even in China; he was a student in Singapore. But this did not lessen his guilt.

Father's dog had bitten a woman five years ago. Father had bought medicine and taken care of her until the leg healed. Nevertheless, he had committed a "crime" in that he had not continued to buy her tonics for the past five years.

A BASKET for rice contributions was placed at the church door. In this way he had "extorted money from the poor."

He permitted one man to take a pagan wife but refused a dispensation to another.

There would have been another in this odd assortment of crimes but for the bravery of a woman. Father was to be accused of having forced himself upon her. But she went to the Police Chief and had the Christian fortitude to say, "If you accuse him of that, I will stand up and deny it."

On January 6 our "barbaric wireless" informed us that the trial was ready. The Youth Corps downstairs was busy making banners and posters. Next day the village was rehearsed for the trial. After Father's arrest the church had become a meeting hall. We could overhear everything that was said.

MR. LI presided. "This will be a big affair," he told them. "Everybody is to come to the ball field tomorrow. Everybody!"

He announced time, place, route of march, seating arrangements and so on. Then he got down to details.

"Along the way of march you are to throw dust, small stones, pebbles or rocks. Do not throw large rocks. When the signal is given, rush at the foreign women and tear off their veils."

"Shall we pull off their glasses?" someone asked. Mr. Li was undecided, but we decided for him. We resolved not to wear glasses the next day.

Then the villagers practiced songs and yells to fill in the boring sessions of the trial. They were filthy songs, using Father Ching's name.

WHEN THE CROWDS had shouted themselves hoarse and had gone home, Mr. Li mounted the steps to our few rooms. Leaning out the window he posted three banners across the house: DOWN WITH THE CHURCH, ARM OF THE IMPERIALIST COUNTRIES; OPPRESSOR OF THE POOR — DOWN WITH THE CHURCH; OPIATE OF THE PEOPLE! — DOWN WITH FATHER CHING, RUNNING DOG OF THE AMERICANS!

When he had finished, he left as he came — without a word.

WE HELD a general council, the four of us, and agreed that any sort of resistance would only make them wiser. The best thing would be to take it all quietly, showing neither fear nor anger. No reaction at all, we concluded, would be most disheartening to them.

And so to bed. But not to sleep . . .

Next Week: THE MARCH TO GLOWY — Catholics came at dawn, and got the best seats. Would they cause trouble? Call out the Home Guard!

May Day in Hawaii Honolulu — (NC) — A second annual May rally will be held here in honor of the Blessed Virgin with the approval of Bishop James J. Sweeney of Honolulu, it was announced.

March — St. Joseph's Month



The Church dedicates the month of March to St. Joseph, spouse of the Blessed Virgin Mary and Foster-Father of Our Lord. This is a nineteenth century artist's impression of St. Joseph caring for the infant Jesus in his humble carpenter's shop at Nazareth. (Religious News Service Photo).

Filipino Bishops Demand Ouster Of School Chiefs

Manila — (NC) — The Philippine hierarchy has taken full-page paid advertisements in seven Manila daily papers to publish its joint pastoral letter indicting three top education officials in the government.

THE PASTORAL, written to all members of Catholic Action in the Philippines, was entitled "A Time to Speak." It declared that the Bishops had "evidence of the most serious kind" that the Secretary of Education Cecilio Putong and the director and assistant director of public schools "have been since 1929 members of a secret committee for the Elimination of Religious Instruction in Public Schools, organized by the Grand Lodge of Free and Accepted Masons of the Philippine Islands."

The Sentinel, national Filipino Catholic weekly, recently published a photostatic copy of the masonic document showing the existence of the committee and the membership of the three top education chiefs on it.

THE BISHOPS' pastoral letter was an explanation of the stand of the Church in demanding that the trio be removed from office, declaring that such men could not faithfully discharge their

duties to the Catholic majority in the Philippines. The pastoral — the first published in such a way in the Philippines — ran as a full-page ad in the one Tagalog and six English dailies.

The campaign — aimed at arousing the public in behalf of an ordinance recently introduced in council — was sparked by five western Cleveland high school girls.

The Burning Flame

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA (Professor of Literature, Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y.)

THE BURNING FLAME: (and some day Life of Pope Plus X, by Francis Beauchene Thornton, Benziger, 1932, 216 pp., \$3.00.)

There have been good biographies of Blessed Plus X before now. The Pope who gave back to God's children the privilege of early and frequent Communion, and banned operatic display at the Holy Sacrifice, who saw World War approaching, and indignantly refused to impart his special blessing to the army of a Catholic — constant — "I — bless peace, not war!" — has always attracted writers, and their study of him has bred love. Love purely inspired Cardinal Merry Del Val's unique cameo portrait, "Memories of Plus X."

Yet The Burning Flame has a special distinction and a special strength. You seem to meet the saint head on; this is a book you can put down — because you find yourself praying. Don Giuseppe Sarto, Plus X, confronted his day-to-day world with power.

WITHOUT SHADING or emphasis borrowed from today's knowledge, Father Thornton envisions his man squarely, as in life, and achieves again what was so evident in his SEA OF GLORY, a shining integrity of view, in this instance gathering in through the saint's eyes the true human dignity of his colleagues and of the Italian people in each succeeding town and office.

The good that Don Beppo encountered and worked with — this is in focus, this advances. "What can I do for Holy Church?" asks a rich woman; and while she is meditating Carrara marbles — "Teach Catechism," comes the answer.

There are only two luminously self-evident beings, Newman used to say, himself and God; with this man — souls and God.

A SIMPLE miracle begins to happen, and is repeated from Mattins to Compline (the beautiful chapter-headings, "Mattins," "Lauds," and so on, the justly chosen adjectives for land and sky; the self-effacing style, are a secondary but real pleasure of this book); Don Beppo, loving and leading his people, can never imagine himself worthy of promotion; neither can those who know him only by reputation believe what they hear; he comes, in the spirit expressed on his very deathbed, "I resign myself to do His Will," the problems of the new office melt away before his lively doing, mouths gape in astonishment, and the pastor, the Rector, the Bishop, the Cardinal, the Pope, is still Don Beppo.

"Your Eminence . . ." they begin. "What Eminence? Where?" he says, lifting the cloth of the dining-table and peering under it. He bears insult with the same twinkling calm. Yet his eyes look out upon the diplomats of the world with the aristocracy of Christ.

AND CHRIST'S power is in his achievement. He saved Catholic France from continental Freemasonry and from herself, his concern being not for the "goods" of the Church but for her "good." "We have put out the lights in the sky, and they shall not be lit again," boasted M. Viviani in 1906; but the fu-

ture Blessed (and some day Saint?) Joseph Sarto is soon choosing his own French bishop, and France is made ready for the great religious revival of today.

The battle makes a great story. Plus X won many battles, made many reforms, of liturgy, church music, education of the clergy, instruction of the laity in doctrine; of Church government, of Canon law; he fought Modernism in every possible way, one being formal definition of sixty-five false doctrines in a new Syllabus of Errors.

ALWAYS HE gave alms and love, with both hands, with his whole self, to the poor, the loyal, the opinionated, the hostile. "Hell give away the Vatican," warned his friend Perotti the musician. And always his otherworldly perspective showed him the fun in things; accused of hostility to Italy's king, who lived in the Papal Palace, he had an answer: "They can't very well say that I'm against the King. I still pay his water-bills."

The whole story moves with the "unhurrying chase, and unperturbed pace, deliberate speed.

New Interest Cited In Saints Lives

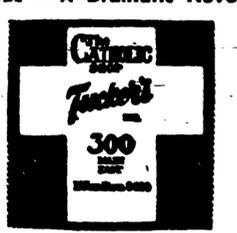
Aberdeen, S. D. — (NC) — A plastic-coated card bearing prayers for use of the sick has been devised by Father Thomas Sullivan, C.S.V., chaplain of St. Luke's Hospital here. The Confession Card, which has the imprimatur of Bishop William O. Brady of Sioux Falls, may be ordered from the Presentation Sisters, Aberdeen.

FOR MARCH 1933 The Book, "The Life of St. Joseph," by Rev. Fr. J. J. O'Connell, S.J., is now available. This book was written by a Novelist in Verse about Saint Joseph, by Robert Farrar, Head and Ward.

1800 Years of Irish Poetry, Hoagland, Devin-Adair. 1800 Years of Irish Poetry, Merrier and Greene. The Irish Constitution of 1871. Amazingly good reading, on actual harmony between Church and State, with freedom of religion, aid to public and to private schools, protection of the Home, etc. (There are selections from it in Connolly's Literature, (Classical of Culture, Harcourt-Bros.)



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MARY'S SPOUSE
Thursday, March 13, is the Feast Day of Good St. Joseph. Ever a devoted spouse, he is never more pleased than to see loving tribute paid to Mary, Your gift to Her FATHER CHING, in this issue will honor him on his feast.

Send three of these stamps, brings to mind the Sacrament of Penance. Thousands of Fatima pilgrims will use the special confessional there. Perhaps you'd like to give one. The cost of one is \$20.

EASTER

The PERFECT EASTER CARD is our GIFT CARD with the special HOLY LAND SOUVENIR and a chip of rock from Mt. Calvary enclosed. It will tell your friend or loved one of the PERFECT EASTER GIFT — that you have arranged for a missionary to say Mass for him or her, or that you have given a sacred article to a mission chapel in his name. A tabernacle, \$25; Mass bell, \$5; altar, \$75; sanctuary lamp, \$15; Chalice, \$40; stations, \$25.

Our poor missionaries depend entirely upon your Mass offerings for their support. Archbishop Geri of Jerusalem will offer a special Solemn Mass at the Holy Sepulchre on Easter for our benefactors. Several of his missionaries will do likewise.

THREE FUTURE PATRICKS
Three students, all Josephs, want to do for their peoples what great Patrick did for the Irish. Each has three more years training and needs \$100 for each year. You can adopt one by giving \$100 yearly in payments for three years.

THREE POPES
Clement, Leo and Celestine were three of the greatest popes. Sisters Clementine, Leonine and Celestine are named after them. Each sister needs the \$150 it costs for one year's training with the Franciscan Sisters. Can you give one of the sum she needs?

THE WEARING OF THE GREEN
When you wear it in honor of St. Patrick, remember that for many years in his youth Patrick was like one of our refugees, torn from his home and carried off to another part. Give to our REFUGEE FUND on Patrick's Day. \$10 will give a family a FOOD PACKAGE for Easter. LAYMAN'S CALL! We now have a COMPLETELY NEW APOSTOLATE — lay missionaries. Nurses, teachers, social workers — all well trained specialists give free professional service for the poor while hastening Christian Missions. A second "Team" in Jordan must furnish a new center camp. They need \$1,500. CAN YOU HELP THESE HEROIC GIRLS? They have no one here to plead for them.

We can still send the HOLY LAND FILM in time for a Holy Week showing of the scenes of the Passion. Rental \$6; sale price, \$45.

MONSIGNOR KIRK keeps pleading for Mass offerings for the many priests displaced from Romania for whom he is caring in Sasia.

Your STRINGLESS GIFTS are precious helps to our Holy Father. We have SEVEN MISSION CLUBS. Members give \$1 monthly. Join now!

Have you read BITTER OUR SORROW or MARY'S KREMLIN? Write today.

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Fr. Thomas A. Maloney, President
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