China Reds Expel Maryknoll Priest

Hong Kong — (RNS) — The Rev. Joseph Lavin, M.M., 46-year old Maryknoll missioner from Framingham, Mass., arrived here following his expulsion by Chinese Communists.

Father Lavin said that he had been kept under house arrest for more than a year at his Hoi Nyan orphanage home in Kwant Tung province.

He asserted that Communist officials questioned him daily while he was in custody and that he lost 40 pounds during that period.

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Education Leaders Pledge Loyalty To God and Nation

Atlantic City, N. J.—(NC)—Catholic educators ended a four-day convention with a renewed pledge of loyalty to the United States and resolved to treat constructively the "challenges of our time." These include the fight to keep the control of the education of Catholic children in the hands of their parents and of the Church, and "the challenge to find a leading place for the laity in our growing educational pattern."

In a set of resolutions, more than 9,000 delegates to the National Catholic Educational Association's golden jubilee convention, also looked back "over fifty years of ordered, sustained and healthy growth."

Converting in a final session, educational leaders from throughout the nation elected Archbishop Edward F. Hoban, Bishop of Cleveland, as President General of NCEA, succeeding Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis.

THE RESOLUTIONS listed other "challenges of our time" with which NCEA finds itself confronted as:

"The fight against Godlessness and secularism, the challenge to produce more religious teachers in an expanding educational scene and the challenge for national and regional planning to make the best use of our resources and to avoid unnecessary and selfish duplication."

The resolutions also paid tribute to religious and lay teachers, to parents and laity, to the United States and "our parent countries" and to the President of the U. S.

"The United States, our Country, by its very genius of freedom for education and education for freedom, has made a home for the Catholic school, the Catholic college, thus fostering through the expansion of the Catholic educational system a most vital moral and spiritual factor in our national life," the educators stated.

THE NCEA, "corporately and in the name of its thousands of individual members," pledged allegiance to His Holiness Pope Pius XII and to the Church as represented officially by Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the U. S., noting that the association has "enjoyed the alert interest of our successive pontiffs, has been guided by their magnificent encyclicals . . ., has been encouraged by the unfailing advice and counsel of the Sacred Congregations, and has been faithfully supported by our great and good Apostolic Delegate."

The association also resolved on the occasion of its golden jubilee to "rededicate itself to the more . . . complete fulfillment of its name: Education, the communication of knowledge, which is Catholic, embracing all truth, (and) which is national, ministering to our entire nation; thus realizing its best services to God and country."

Speakers At Education Meeting

Atlantic City, N. J.—Three main speakers at the 50th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association are caught informally by the camera. Left to right are: Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis, retiring president-general of the association; Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the U. S.; and Dr. Arthur S. Adams, president of the American Council on Education. The meeting was attended by some 8,000 delegates representing 9,000 elementary schools, 2,500 secondary schools and 250 colleges and universities.

Rockhurst College

Kansas City—(NC)—His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, will assist in ceremonies marking the official opening of the 1953 Rockhurst College development program here, April 20.

Poor Sermons Cure Insomnia

Memphis, Tenn. —(RNS)— "Poor preaching is the greatest cure for insomnia ever discovered," a Kentucky Court of Appeals judge told the Memphis Ministers Association.

Judge Osso W. Stanley said clergymen should strive for simplicity in sermons.

"No matter how good the subject matter, a sermon may be so smothered in words as to be wholly without effect," he said.

"Many sermons are like some of the opinions of the Court of Appeals: You have to read a gallon of opinion to get a pint of law."

Los Angeles — Catholic hospitals in the Archdiocese of Los Angeles served free care to 305 patients during 1952 at a total cost of $17,774.00.

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Black Robes Dot Board Walk As 4,000 Nuns Hit Atlantic City

Atlantic City, N. J.—(NC)—. You haven't seen nuns in action until you've seen them at an Atlantic City convention.

Their black-robed figures took over the famous board walk, the lobbies of elegant hotels and the prairie-size floor of Convention Hall, as the Sisters from all over the nation gathered for the 50th annual convention of the National Catholic Educational Association.

Whether sitting around a shore dinner, peering in shop windows of hurrying by some raucous penny arcade, the Sisters took in the rare glamor with beaming faces, bright eyes and plenty of dignity.

When the sun shone over the Atlantic, they walked with sprightly strides along the board walk, the sea breeze nipping at their veils. And when the fog and rain came rolling in, thousands of black umbrellas appeared from nowhere and the Sisters strolled in pairs through the fog.

But it was among the hundreds of exhibits in convention hall that the Sisters really went to work. With shopping bags and studious glances they wandered through more than 300 exhibits—classroom furniture, school busses, statues, holy cards, film projectors, visual aids for education. Into the shopping bags they stuffed the samples, advertisements, literature. And when a product caught their eye, the Sisters quizzed its salesman with all the experience of teachers probing for facts.

Under cross-examination many a veteran school-supplies salesman stood like a parochial school fourth grader who had not done his homework.

We passed one such salesman being questioned on his product by two nuns and heard a Sister say:

"Young man, I wouldn't accept an answer like that from one of my pupils!"

Then she grimaced, patted the cowed businessman's sleeve, and said: "But never fear — I won't thank you."

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NO ONE LIKE HER

Feebly we try to pour into one day a year the tremendous love we owe to that one and only, our Lady of Ladies. MOTHER'S DAY IS MAY 10TH. If you're wondering how to think of her best, remember that, whether on earth or in Heaven, you honor her best when you honor God and His Blessed Mother. No better way than in His missions. Our GIFT CARD—if you write in time—will be sent to her. If she's with God, she'll bless you from there for your gifts. Have Masses offered or give a sacred article to a mission chapel in her name. With the gift card will go another bearing pressed flowers from NAZARETH, home of Mary, Mother of Jesus.

GIFT CARD SUGGESTIONS

Vestments	$50	Sanctuary Lamp	$15	Mass Book	$25
Mass bell	5	Chalice	40	Altar stone	10
Altar	75	Crucifix	25	Picture	15

Our tiny First Communicants in the Near East lands are hoping kind friends will give them new FIRST COMMUNION OUTFITS for their "great day." $10 will provide one child with an outfit.

LIKE TAKING CANDY FROM A BABY'S MOUTH

One of the most pathetic stories to come from our missionaries in a long time is from the Superior of Holy Family Convent in Chembookavu, India, with its 50 orphans. Now the tots have class in rooms in the convent. Government officials suddenly gave notice to shift classes to another building OR CLOSE. The other building doesn't exist yet. To buy land and build the school will cost $2500. The lot alone costs $500. The chapel was bathed in the tears of the children and Sisters when the Superior offered as a solution that they give up the little chapel and convert it for school use. The other will be cheaper in the long run. Will some kind soul help? S O S !

FLIGHT INTO EGYPT

We hope you have in mind the little CHAPEL-SCHOOL for the village in Upper Egypt, for the poor of Bishop Scander's flock. Your Monica Guild dollars are for this chapel.

ETHIOPIA FOR FATIMA

We are still trying to complete the funds needed for the Fatima Chapel in the hills of far-off Ethiopia. Slowly but surely the dollars mount. Have you bought a $10 block?

Ghattas just began his six years at the seminary in Charfe, Lebanon. He must have $100 each year for the costs of his training. Can you give him that much yearly in any payments? Sisters Nohad and Souad are novices with the Nazareth Sisters in Beirut, Lebanon. Each has one more year and needs the $150 it takes to train her. Each will be eternally grateful for help.

The world goes on but Fr. Tuohy's gigantic problems in helping our countless REFUGEES in seven countries never leave him. Have you forgotten those hopless and homeless outcasts? You will be eternally blessed by the family to whom you send a FOOD PACKAGE, costing $10. Helpless souls await your hand. Father Tuohy assists Monsignor McMahon in the Holy Father's Mission for Palestine.

Our missionary work in southern India will be seriously handicapped without the valuable assistance of our Brothers. If we can't support them we will be forced to turn them back home. We need $200 for each for the year's training. URGENT!

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BOOK REVIEWS

Parish Priest

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

(Professor of Literature, Nazareth College, Rochester, N. Y.)

PARISH PRIEST: A Man of God Tells His Story, by Father LeRoy McWilliams. McGraw-Hill, 1953.

There is one human being who cares what we do — one person outside our family who is never indifferent to our actions or our problems. He has elected and has been elected to keep us on the road to God.

He is the parish priest—for the first twenty-five years the assistant, for the next twenty-five and more the pastor, but always the same about us, wanting us to keep going and to keep going straight, bidding his time when he must, but alert for his chance to move us through to God—his chief matters. Catholics know this; if ever they keep out of the priest's way, it's because they fear his interest, not his lack of it.

"THERE HAVE BEEN books by young Catholics that, as John Cogley said, take the parish priest over the coals — J. F. Powers' **Prince of Darkness,** for instance, in which the author "particularizes to universalize." Cogley points to Powers' "artistic equipment, spirit-awareness, mature Catholicism, humor, human insight."

Granting Powers all this, we may still be permitted to point out that in order to show the white soul of one priest he seems to need a setting of four or five worldly priests. His art is not big enough yet for the truth. The proportion is wrong—the thing is the other way round, the startling fact is the daily transcendence of grace, the incurable Christliness of our priests.

Powers is to be praised in that his excellence cuts into the sale of such bitter, destructive, ugly work as Harry Sylvester's — and with time will come further knowledge of the priesthood and artistic power that does not depend on Gustav-Dore shadows to show truth.

BUT HOW WELCOME is the truth! The interior life as Father Leo Trese told it in **Vessel of Clay,** the exterior life as it is told in **Parish Priest,** has instant appeal. We want to know how it is with them really, from the inside, as they live it.

Such books are the perfect answer to the semi-comprehension of the story-teller, who understands man, but does not sufficiently understand what Thomas Merton meant in **Where I Found Christ:**

"The grace of the priesthood sinks a man deep into the very depths of the Christ-life, places him at the heart of all that is real and vital, and arms him with the power which has secretly shaped all history . . . . Prayer used to rise out of my soul as a desire that raised me up to God . . . Now prayer is an earthquake . . . it throws me to the living the way the early Christians were thrown to the lions . . . Jesus in the host is alone . . . because He is given to everybody, given utterly."

FATHER LeRoy McWilliams, assistant and later pastor of St. Michael's in Jersey City, is without pretension. His interest is people, from the first page of his priesthood to the end of the book. He puts his whole self into every assignment, every emergency. "St. Michael's is not a quiet parish," he says. "As I told you, it is full of Irish and Poles and Italians—all people of great vibrance—and a priest never knew what awaited him when he answered the call of the bell."

You meet the children, the quarreling couples (with whom he is adroit), the Monsignors, the altar-boys, the needy and the "phony," the politicians—and the politicians of Jersey City are an education. Frank Hague himself was one of his boys.

There are the sorrows of a lifetime and the laughs: the taking of the parish census is good for both. There is the story of the man who arrived at the rectory with his apartment door upon his back, just to prove to the pastor that the assistant had gone too far in his zeal to get in.

THERE ARE the Sisters, who since 1870 had presented to each incoming pastor a memorandum begging for a chapel of their own, however small. Father McWilliams was the first to take it seriously, understood what it meant to them to live under the same roof with Christ. There are the "holy helpers," his wizard carpenters John Tiedemann and Billy Connors, worth more to him than millionaires.

With increasing frequency as the years passed, Father McWilliams was called to serve on important civic committees such as the wartime OPA Board. He never refused, and he never played figurehead. He was the first priest ever to be appointed head of the Community Chest. I like his honest sermon on the part Catholics should play:

"The sooner that we gentlemen of the cloth realize that an old era has died and that a new one has taken its place, the better off we'll be. Too many people are outside our faith, groping for answers. Too many people fear the Church in its ever-growing numbers.

"A PRIESTLY PRIEST who will concern himself with the problems of his community and is willing to become a party to their solution does an excellent public-relations job, and by his example shows to others that the Church is a great house of mercy and understanding. As the editor of the **Catholic World** once wrote, 'Eventually, why not now? We are a minority with a role to play, not a battle to fight.'"

Today Father McWilliams is, among other things, chaplain to the city's firemen. That means service: dining out too often, preaching, attending all funerals, answering second and third alarm fires, donning boots and fire-hat and clambering with the firemen to the top stories of smoking tenements to give the last rites to victims.

HE IS IN HIS late fifties; yet he says, "I marvel at the mystery of my vocation; I am amazed still at my ordination, now in its thirty-fifth year . . . How many times have I said to myself, 'Oh, dear God, give me the chance to start once more as Thy servant!'"

You will like Father McWilliams. He is what you have always known a priest to be.

Club Organized

Erie, Pa.— (NC) —A new-type Greek letter organization dedicated to Christ has been organized here by Bishop John Mark Gannon of Erie to promote activities for Catholic students enrolled in this city's public high schools.

Pope Praises Charity Theme Of Congress

Sydney, Australia — (RNS) — Three Cardinals and some 40 Bishops were among the 80,000 persons who attended the opening ceremony of the National Eucharistic Congress here.

Persiding as Papal Legate was Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney. In addition, Gregory Cardinal Agagianian, Patriarch of Armenia, and Valerian Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay, were present.

THE THEME of the congress, "Christian Charity," was praised by Pope Pius XII in a special message read to the throng.

"We are exceedingly glad," Pope Pius said, "to know that the theme which is to be developed in the solemn sessions of the Congress is the new Commandment of Christ which he delivered to us in the words: 'By this all men shall know that ye are my disciples that ye have love for one another (John, 13: 35)'.

"THIS INDEED is what the Redeemer of mankind willed when he instituted the august Sacrament by stimulating charity towards God to foster mutual charity among men."

New Jersey Stops Bingo

Trenton, N. J. — (RNS) — A state-wide crackdown on bingo games run by church, fraternal and and charitable groups was pledged here by the 21 county prosecutors following a meeting with Attorney General Theodore Parsons.

The action followed a ruling by the State Supreme Court that a prosecutor can be indicted for failing to enforce anti-gambling laws.

Mercer County prosecutor Mario H. Volpe, spokesman for the county prosecutors, put bingo sponsors on notice that they will have to give up the games.

"The games are illegal," he said, "and each county prosecutor will have to handle the stopping of bingo. We say this is the court's opinion and it is up to us to do our jobs.

"In Mercer County I will notify each organization holding such games as soon as possible. I will contact all police chiefs and tell them they have the authority to stop gambling and we expect them to act within a reasonable time."

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