

80,000 AT CONGRESS

Huge Crowds Thrill To Rites Closing Eucharistic Congress

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — Half a million persons lined the streets here to watch a vast, colorful procession that wound its way toward St. Mary's Cathedral for the closing ceremonies of the National Eucharistic Congress...

Six Native Chaplains Join Korea Air Force

Taeju, Korea — (RNS) — Six native Korean clergymen making up the new chaplains corps of the South Korean Air Force were given crosses and stoles at a solemn ceremony at the Air Force headquarters here.

Stalin Continues 'Divine' Powers In Red Nurseries

London — (NC) — Stalin may be dead but he continues to exercise "divine" powers in the communist-run nursery schools in Poland. Reports reaching here from that Red-dominated land state that the teachers in the state nursery schools are continuing their traditional "proof" that there is no God and that Stalin is "divine."

Polish Reds Demand Oath From Priests

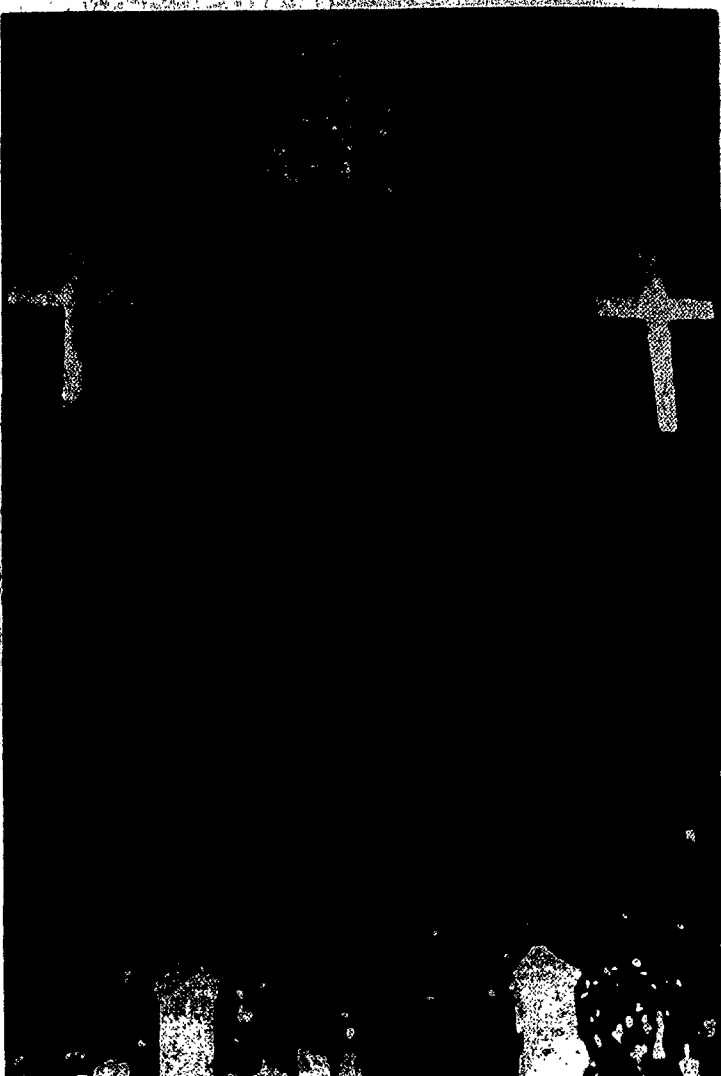
London — (RNS) — Polish Communists apparently have started a campaign to force all Catholic priests in Poland to take an oath of loyalty to the regime. The Warsaw Radio announced that several hundred clergymen already had been "persuaded" by "patriotic priests" to take such an oath.

Mother And Eight Children Join Church Father On Way

Philadelphia — (NC) — When 14-year-old Russell Meade told his mother he'd like to join about the Catholic Church, Mrs. Meade decided it wasn't a bad idea. And it might not be a bad idea for herself, her husband and seven other children, either.

Huge Fashion Show Spots Modesty

Chicago — (NC) — Chicago's Catholic teen-agers sparked their modesty-in-dress crusade with a fashion show that drew a crowd of 2,000.



Sydney, Australia—An estimated 80,000 persons overflowed St. Mary's Basilica here for the opening ceremony of the National Eucharistic Congress, presided over by Norman Cardinal Gilroy, Archbishop of Sydney, as Papal Legate. Present also were two other Cardinals and some 40 bishops. Congress theme was "Christian Charity." (Religious News Service Photo.)

BOOK REVIEWS

The World Rebuilt

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA

Professor of Literature, Nazareth College

THE WORLD REBUILT. The True Story of Frank Buchman and the Achievements of Moral Re-Armament. By Peter Howard. Duell-Sloan, 1953. 256 p.p. \$1.50.

So influential has the Buchman movement, MRA, become, and so completely different are the views of European Catholics on it from those of American Catholics, that some inquiry into it is warranted.

We look on a program devoted to absolutes, to the practice of Christian virtues as such, with considerable hope, being only too sharply aware that influential leaders of American opinion have been often enough deniers of the absolute—Holmes, for instance, and Vinson, and others.

YOU KNOW WHAT Buchmanism is: In the twenties the "Oxford Groups" were well enough known; they attempted the moral rehabilitation by discussion week-ends, Buchman retreats, which included public confession of personal faults. The appeal of the latter tactic to cracks and neurotics brought opprobrium on the movement.

MORAL REARMAMENT is hailed since World War II as the wonder drug for a sick world, the drug that makes real human beings out of people. How? By making them suddenly honest about themselves, so that they say to their deadly rival or their annoying subordinate, "I've been wrong about this in certain points. My thinking went off just here, and here, I'll square it."

To this honesty is deliberately added a further step—that of holding one's breath and mentioning no fault in the opponent; this gives the other fellow his chance to reciprocate, and he does.

THE FACTUAL RECORD of MRA in the use of this simple approach is amazing; bottle-necks in industry are broken, production rises, banks loan readily to formerly imperiled and about-to-be-disembled companies now infected with good will, dock strikes end, labor quarrels dwindle in the Ruhr, two thousand and Communists of all ranks

adopt MRA. These achievements have made headlines in the papers, and account for the respect accorded to MRA by the governments of the civilized world. The element of personal conversion and improvement is still there, still basic. Alcoholics Anonymous, it seems, owes much in inspiration and technique to Buchmanism. A sampling of advocates of MRA shows such names as Chancellor Adenauer, George Sokolaky, Eddie Rickenbacker, John Foster Dulles.

A QUICK LOOK at Catholic opinion brings to light the following: In America for April 21, '51, Father Duff, S. J., attacks the movement with the whole book of serious objections: theological superficiality, political primitiveness, sentimental emphasis on individual experience, dislike for dogma.

In "Correspondence" in the May 19, '51, America appears a mild defense, suggesting that what Europe finds useful America may not, and quoting an archbishop as saying, "MRA is not against anything or anyone. MRA can go where no one else can go, not even the Catholic Church." The sign for March '51 handles the problem in a "Question Box" answer, labeling MRA a pseudo-religion and declaring that Catholicity and Princeton-Oxford MRA are thoroughly incompatible.

THE DECEMBER '52 Social Justice Review, which I could not obtain, has two pages on it, whether favorable or not I do not know.

In The World Rebuilt, European Catholic opinion appears clearly favorable. Buchman's friend Adenauer is quoted several times; so is Rev. Hugo Lang, O.S.B., and the Bishop of Freiburg and Geneva, Mggr. Charriere, and Drs. Bernhard Kaas and Johannes Aufhauser, Catholic leaders.

Maritain has been gently pointing out for some years that since presently insoluble religious differences prevent men's meeting in perfect accord on the religious plane to plan world improvement, recourse may be had to another old recognized universal plane, the medieval basis of reason, knowledge, truth—and civilized men still believe in truth.

FRANK BUCHMAN'S plane of moral absolutes is the same plane, another area of it: absolute honesty, bringing in its train, unsurprisingly, absolute unselfishness, love, and purity.

Highlighting the closing ceremonies of the Congress was a broadcast by His Holiness Pope Pius XII, who declared that the way to peace in the world was through devotion to Christ in the Eucharist.

The procession, in which 18,000 participants joined, was the first one in the history of Australia in which nuns walked. The nuns, made up of contingents from every Sisterhood in the country, received ovations as they passed along a route lined by guard of honor of Children of Mary in cloaks and veils.

LEADING THE procession were altar boys and standard bearers carrying the Australian flag, the Papal flag and a banner of the Blessed Sacrament. Marching behind the nuns were groups of Brothers, seminarians, rows of Religious and diocesan clergy and hundreds of college graduates and students attired in colorful academic dress.

Behind the students walked a special group of Sydney diocesan clergy in albs and chasubles, followed by a guard of honor surrounding the Papal Legate.

He, in turn, was followed by members of the Australian Hierarchy, led by their Eminences Valerian Cardinal Gracian, Archbishop of Bombay, India, and Peter Gregory XV Cardinal Agagianian, Patriarch of Cilicia of the Armenians.

IN THE WAKE of the Cardinals came a large group of distinguished Catholic citizens, contingents of boys and girls from Catholic schools, national groups in picturesque attire, a marching unit of the Children of Mary, socialist, Catholic nurses, and squads of members of the Holy Name and other societies.

Hundreds of thousands had assembled in the environs of St. Mary's Cathedral and thousands more converged upon the surrounding area to receive the final blessing from the Papal Legate.

Crowds lined reverently on footpaths, roads, tramlines and patches of lawn as Australia's first Australian-born Prince of the Church raised his hand in benediction.

and he adds the daily habit of making God's help. May Catholics do more than respect such a movement? May they take part? There is the instruction "Ecclesia Catholica" of the Holy Office to consider: it expressly permits Catholics to participate in mixed confessional meetings for the defense of the fundamental principles of human rights and of religion against the enemies of the Church, or for rebuilding of the social order."

IS IT RATHER a basis of truth, of moral honesty, in which religion can grow? If you can make converts, you can make them out of Buchmanites, already committed to God and goodness. "He that is not with Me is against Me," said Christ of His enemies; but to the apostles, worried about strange preachers of Christ, He said, "He that is not against you is with you."

The Communists fight MRA. Its record is good—it is the great tool of labor conciliation. The record is very interesting reading.

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