

Pope To Proclaim 'Marian Jubilee Year'

Year Observance in 1954 Planned For Centenary Of Immaculate Conception

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'I Was Prisoner Of Korean Reds'

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**Clothes From Rochester
Outfit Freed Missioner**

By REV. WILLIAM R. BOOTH, M.M.

(This is the last of a series of articles by Father Booth written exclusively for NC Features, recounting his experiences as a prisoner of the Reds in North Korea.)

Little is left of the Catholic Church in North Korea. Cities and towns lie in ruins, churches have been destroyed, Christians driven from their homes, and clergy imprisoned or put to death.

On my way from Koeston, Siberia and freedom, I traveled over a very familiar route. It was an area I had covered frequently as a missionary. The towns I passed through were towns I had formerly worked.

Once again I went through Sopo, where Maryknoll had its large center house. I watched carefully as we approached



Father Booth, after almost three years of imprisonment by Korean Reds, reaches Berlin where he is outfitted with clerical garb sent by American priests to the War Relief Services of the National Catholic Welfare Conference in the Berlin area. Father Booth (left) shown here with Father Wilson E. Kaiser, WRS-NCWCF director in Berlin, is wearing a shirt donated by Father Richard Torney of Rochester. Father Torney recently donated some of his old clothes in response to an appeal for clerical attire made by Father Kaiser. (NC Photo.)

Sopo for the cross atop the church. I was happy when we passed directly in front of the mission. The church and rectory, still standing, appeared to be undamaged. The mission appeared desolate and unoccupied.

IN YENGYOU, where I had lived a couple of years when I first came to Korea, I found the city 95% destroyed.

It was in Yengyou that John Chang, who was to become ambassador to the United States and then premier of Korea, taught me the Korean language. The church was gone but the old rectory, which later became the convent, was standing amid the ruins.

In Suchon the chapel built by Father Thomas Plunkett of Fall River, Mass., was completely destroyed, but here too the rectory was standing. In Anju the rectory built for Father Edward Barron of Detroit was still there, but I couldn't see the church. Since the town had been practically wiped out, I concluded

We have the ability. We have that the church does not exist. In Sinju, the church is standing but considerably damaged, although here the city has not been too badly hit. Pyongyang is over 50% destroyed, so I imagine the churches there have either been wrecked or badly damaged.

That is what has happened to the physical property of the Church in North Korea.

THERE ARE NOT many people left in North Korea. The war and the Communists have driven them from their homes. Most of the Catholics have made their way south to freedom. Many of them died along the way, others made their goal.

Congress Gets New Clergy Security Bill

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Eleven senators have joined in sponsoring a bill that would extend Social Security coverage on a voluntary basis to clergymen and other religious employed in the service of any religious, charitable, educational, or other tax-exempt organization.

THE MEASURE (S2260) has been introduced by Sen. Herbert H. Lehman (D-N.Y.) and 10 other members of the so-called "liberal bloc" in the Senate, and is designed to broaden Social Security coverage generally and increase benefit payments.

It would provide that ordained ministers and members of religious orders could become eligible for coverage by signing a statement that they desire such coverage, in the same way that it is already extended to lay employees of religious organizations.

A companion bill is being sponsored by the House of Representatives.

SEVERAL OTHER bills to extend Social Security coverage to clergymen have been introduced in Congress this session—each employing a slightly different formula—but no action has been taken on any. Technically, as tax legislation they have to pass under the purview of the House Ways and Means Committee and the widely publicized feud over tax legislation has stymied action on other bills before that committee. The Senate cannot act on such measures until the House does, and the House will not act until next session.

There is therefore little prospect that members of the clergy will come under Social Security before January 1, 1955, at the earliest, although sentiment in Congress for inclusion of clergymen on a voluntary basis is growing.

New Jersey Cancels Taxes Against Nuns

Trenton, N.J. (NC) — The New Jersey Division of Tax Appeals has cancelled taxes amounting to \$26,250 levied by the town of Summit, N.J., against the properties of the Catholic Sisterhoods.

The taxes were levied through the town's interpretation of a law which limits to five acres the amount of land that may be exempt. The tax division acted under a provision of the law which provides exemption for property which is in actual use by religious and other designated groups.

The tax levies were made against the Dominican Sisters of the Perpetual Rosary, who occupy slightly more than nine acres of property, and the Sisters of the Holy Child Jesus, who occupy more than ten acres. All the property was found to be in use by the Religious.

Stenographers Saint Named

Rome — (RNS) — An Apostolic Letter by Pope Pius XII proclaiming St. Cassian of Imola, patron saint of Italian stenographers has been made public here.

The letter, dated Dec. 23, 1952, and published in the current issue of Acta Apostolicae Sedis, official Vatican organ, said that the Papal decision on St. Cassian was made on the petition of stenographers from all over Italy.

St. Cassian, who is believed to have lived in either the third or fourth centuries, is known as one of the first exponents of the art of shorthand.

He was martyred by his pupils with the very styluses with which he had taught them, after he had refused to worship pagan idols.

the stock. We guarantee our flowers. We give immediate service for all occasions. Perry's Flower Shops Inc., 441 Hill Ave., G.E. 4189, Hotel Geneva Arcade, R.A. 2940.—Adv.



Jacksonville, N. C. — Five Southern adult converts are baptized into the Catholic Church by the Rev. John A. O'Brien of the University of Notre Dame and Courier-Journal Columnist (see editorial page) during his nine-day preaching mission at the Infant of Prague Mission here. Father O'Brien, noted author and lecturer, usually spends most of his summer "vacation" street-preaching in the South. Many of his listeners, who include both whites and Negroes, have never seen a Catholic priest. (RNS Photo.)

Convert-Maker In Action

Father O'Brien's Street-Preaching Attracts 2,000 In North Carolina

Jacksonville, N. C. — Maybe it doesn't sound newsworthy to record that 2,000 persons turned out here for an address by Father John A. O'Brien, convert-maker, author and professor at the University of Notre Dame. But when it is emphasized that he spoke on the truths of the Church and his talks were under the auspices of Infant of Prague mission parish which covers an area populated by some 129,000 persons, not an adult of whom is a native Catholic — well, that is something else again.

Coming to Jacksonville on this summer street-preaching mission in Dixie is getting to be a habit with Father O'Brien. He has been here three times in the last four years. He said he hopes to be back again and again.

ON HIS WEEK'S visit this year, Father O'Brien gave 24 lectures on the principles of the Catholic faith. He spoke on street corners, in vacant lots, alongside stores and in other places where he could draw a crowd, throughout the far-flung parish.

And young and old, rich and poor, Negro and White, and a goodly number of Marines from nearby Camp Lejeune, turned out for one or more of Father O'Brien's lectures. The mission parish here covers an area of some 775 square miles. Among the Marines there were several athletic greats from Notre Dame who renewed acquaintances with Father O'Brien.

His lectures were friendly, down-to-earth, patterned so a child could understand, and dealt with basic truths of the Church. Father O'Brien is the author of some 30 books and pamphlets, and his talks, in the main, were based on his best-sellers, "The Faith Of Millions" and "Truths Men Live By."

AT EACH OF his street-corner talks, Father O'Brien was peppered with questions from the audience. This was not unexpected since the genial priest impressed upon his listeners not to hold back on any question each wished to ask. His lectures usually ran about a half-hour, but the question period would sometimes last more than two hours. And Father O'Brien patiently tried to clear up the doubts assailing every questioner.

During his lectures, Father O'Brien would pick out friends and acquaintances made during a previous visit. He would ask them a question or two to review a point he previously had made. He explained that he liked to do this to make sure his talks



Jacksonville, N. C. — A bicyclist stops to hear Father John A. O'Brien of the University of Notre Dame explain highlights of the Catholic faith to an interracial group during his summer street-preaching mission here. In addition to his street talks, the noted author and scholar conducted a series of lectures in the Infant of Prague Mission here. Many of the more than 120,000 people in the mission area have never seen a Catholic priest. After the lectures, Father O'Brien answered questions from the audience pertaining to the Catholic Church. (RNS Photo.)

were being followed that his audience was not mind-wandering to former homelife in New York to the baseball situation in Milwaukee, or to some other place.

FATHER AMBROSE F. Rohrbacher, pastor of Infant of Prague Church, estimated that the lectures of Father O'Brien were equivalent to a three-month, two-hour-a-week course of instruction in the Catholic Faith.

Father Rohrbacher said the great majority of people in the 775-square miles of his parish adult converts into the Church.

Rome — (NC) — The whole Catholic world will be called upon to pay special honors to the Mother of God during 1954, which is to be observed as a Marian Year.

This prediction was made by Vatican circles who believe that an official proclamation will be issued by His Holiness Pope Pius XII probably on August 15, the Feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin Mary.

War II Major Offers First Solemn Mass

Washington — (NC) — A 1943 West Point graduate—a "service hero" who turned to the seminary following combat in World War II—offered his first Solemn Mass in St. Matthew's Cathedral here.

He is Father Joseph W. Hartman, who as an Army major was serving as aide to Lt. Gen. Robert L. Eichelberger in the occupation in Japan when he made up his mind his vocation was the priesthood rather than military life.

Father Hartman is the son of a well-known military family—his father is Maj. Gen. Charles D. Hartman, U.S.A., ret., and a brother and a number of relatives have attained high Army rank—and the congregation at his first Mass was crowded with "Braves" in addition, the Archbishop of the Mass was his Godfather, Mgr. Edward J. Hickey of Detroit, while his longtime spiritual adviser—Mgr. George G. Murdock, former rector of Holy Trinity Chapel at West Point—and the Deputy Chief of Army Chaplains, Mgr. (Brig. Gen.) Patrick J. Ryan, were among the prelates assisting in the sanctuary.

Ordained for the Archdiocese of Washington last December in Rome, Father Hartman completed his studies at the North American College there before returning to the United States to take up his assignment on the staff of St. Matthews.

Monsignor Murdock, who came down from Mt. Vernon, N.Y., where he is now rector of the Church of the Sacred Heart has loomed large in Father Hartman's life. He had been instrumental in the conversion of General Hartman, the Army's first father.

And when the then Major Hartman told his boss, General Eichelberger, that he was thinking of quitting the Army so he could study for the priesthood, the general sent him flying to West Point to get Monsignor Murdock's advice before taking the step.

After some good long sessions with the "Padre," Major Hartman flew back to Japan, submitted his resignation, and subsequently entered St. Mary's Seminary in Baltimore. It was from St. Mary's that he was sent to the North American College in Rome.

Cleveland Chancellor Named Auxiliary

Washington — (NC) — Mgr. John J. Krol, Chancellor of the Diocese of Cleveland, has been named Titular Bishop of Cadi and Auxiliary to Archbishop Edward F. Hoban, Bishop of Cleveland.

This new appointment by His Holiness Pope Pius XII was announced here today by His Excellency Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

President Names Lutheran Pastor To Ethiopia Post

Washington — (NC) — Dr. Joseph Simonsen, a Lutheran pastor of Glen Cove, N.Y., has been named by President Eisenhower to be U.S. Ambassador to Ethiopia, a post vacant since January.

Dr. Simonsen is executive secretary of the division of public relations of the National Lutheran Council. He has held pastorates in Chicago and St. Paul. Between 1925 and 1928 he was secretary to Representative Andrew C. McNamara. He is 49 years old.

Sunbeam Toasters, Mixmasters and Shavers, William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 218 Main St. East, EA. 5481.—Adv.

VATICAN CIRCLES declare as erroneous various reports which speak of the expected celebration as an "Extraordinary Holy Year" somewhat along the lines of those marked in 1525 and 1583 under Pope Pius XI. It is pointed out that the next Holy Year will be held, in accordance with tradition, in 1975, twenty-five years after the last Holy Year in 1950. There has been speculation in various European capitals that

Vatican Office Clarifies Issue

Rome — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII will proclaim 1954 a Marian Jubilee Year (Anno Gloriarum Marianae) in honor of the 100th anniversary of the declaration of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception by Pope Pius IX in 1854, the Vatican Press Office announced.

Earlier reports emanating from the Vatican had suggested that Pope Pius would proclaim next year an "Extraordinary Holy Year."

In clarifying the issue, the Press Office said that the Pope was expected to proclaim 1954 as a Marian Year on the feast of the Assumption of the Blessed Virgin, Aug. 15.

The last Marian Year was celebrated in 1904 on the 50th anniversary of the Immaculate Conception Dogma proclamation.

the observance of the Marian Year in 1954 might coincide with the canonization of Blessed Pius X.

In connection with these rumors it is pointed out in Vatican City that the required procedures have not yet been fully completed in the case of Blessed Pius X. All speculation prior to the completion of the traditional routine is wholly unauthorized. It is pointed out.

VATICAN CIRCLES also discouraged speculation like that contained in various other stories making the rounds of Europe in connection with the Marian Year.

One of these reports predicted that the faithful would be enabled to gain spiritual benefits through pilgrimages to certain Marian shrines in various parts of the world. Another one claimed to have information on the special intentions of prayers to be said by the faithful during the Marian Year.

Public Housing Needed, Says Priest-Expert

Washington, D.C. — (NC) — Public housing for low income groups was called "essential" by a priest-expert as Housing Administrator Albert M. Cole began a series of important conferences that will determine the future of U.S. federal housing programs.

"If we are going to build one million houses a year, approximately ten per cent of this number of units should be public housing," Mgr. John O'Grady told the conference.

POINTING TO the need for low-rent public housing to provide for people who are displaced by local slum clearance programs, the secretary of the National Council of Catholic Bishops urged that the U.S. public housing program be integrated more closely with slum clearance programs.

The conference, first in a series of meetings with labor, industry and welfare representatives, was called upon by President Eisenhower in a special message to make "a thorough and practical review of the present housing programs of the Federal Government."

"The need for public housing has been very fully clarified since the war by the slum clearance programs that have been carried out in our cities," Mgr. O'Grady said. "We have about 30 to 50 per cent of the population who are displaced by slum clearance are not able to pay for which private housing