

Faith Behind Barbed Wire Reds Punished Yanks Who Refused To Change 'Lord's Prayer' Wording

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Seoul, Korea — (NC) — The Chinese communists wanted to change the Lord's Prayer, but their prisoner, Sgt. Arthur O'Keefe from Brooklyn wouldn't agree.

That was one of his offenses, for which he spent 28 days in solitary confinement and 15 days at hard labor.

It happened last November. The communists announced that they would allow religious services in the prison camp on Thanksgiving Day. Apparently they intended to take propaganda photos, as they had at Easter.

They wanted to know who led the Catholic service. Sergeant O'Keefe was named. They told him to submit the wording of the prayers for approval.

HE WROTE out the prayers of the rosary. The communists read them and summoned him. He would have to change one of the prayers, they said.

"I'm not the Pope," he replied. "I can't do that."

They attacked his position from another angle. "How can you conduct services?" they demanded. "You're not an ordained priest. You're not an ordained priest to lead the rosary," he answered.

He asked what prayer they objected to. It was the Lord's Prayer, they said. In particular, the petition, "Give us this day our daily bread."

The communist company commander wanted to correct that. "It's the Chinese People's Volunteers who give us our daily bread, not God," he maintained.

"FORGET IT," said Sgt. Arthur O'Keefe, briefly. He told him that each man would say the rosary by himself and the Reds couldn't stop them.

Later, he was accused of "sabotaging the Thanksgiving religious services."

He was one of the first American soldiers in the Korean war and was captured in July, 1950. The prisoners taken that year went through terrible hardships, including the death march of November, 1950. They had Catholic

missionaries, including Bishop Patrick J. Byrne, M.M., the Apostolic Delegate, and Magr. Thomas Quinlan, of St. Columban's as Yellow prisoners.

"For a long time, the communists wouldn't allow us any religious services," said Sgt. O'Keefe, after his release. Monsignor Quinlan managed to sneak in a few rosary services in 1951. The civilians were moved to another camp, afterwards.

"AT EASTER, 1952, the Chinese announced that a non-denominational religious service would be held," the sergeant related. "Some of the men wanted to write up texts of scripture, but a communist interpreter insisted on substituting his own. The communists were out with their cameras for the occasion."

"That evening, a few of the fellows asked me to lead the rosary. We met after the evening meal, under the shelter of a wall. After that, we had the rosary every Sunday and Wednesday for about a month. About 50 or 60 men, including eight or ten non-Catholics, crowded into a small building for it. We had no permission."

"Last Christmas, the communists permitted a public service, without interference."

But they hadn't forgotten Arthur O'Keefe's refusal to change the Our Father.

"I got picked up last May 15," he said. "They gave as reason that I had cursed the company commander. They made me read my 'crimes' back to 1951."

He was charged with planning escape, disrupting studies (of communist teachings), preaching against them, under guise of religious services, and sabotaging the administration of the camp.

"THEY KEPT me in solitary for 28 days and then gave me 15 days' hard labor. After eight days they put me in the hole again," he said. "On July 27, the day the armistice was signed, they read out my sentence — two years in jail."

Like others sentenced at the same time, he was taken away but was brought to Kaesong later and repatriated.

IRELAND GREETS CARDINAL



Dublin—His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, was the guest of honor at a reception here given him by President Sean T. O'Kelly of Ireland (center) and attended by Church, State and civic leaders. Photo shows the cardinal being introduced to Ireland's Prime Minister Eamon de Valera during the reception. Cardinal Spellman presented Mr. O'Kelly with a gift of \$10,000 pounds sterling (\$28,100) to be distributed to Ireland's poor through the St. Vincent de Paul Society. (RNS Photo)

Nuns Educating Pygmy Children

Rome (RNS) — Pygmy children in two areas of the Belgian Congo are getting some formal school education for the first time, thanks to the efforts of the Little Sisters of Jesus.

In Beni and Mboma groups of pygmy youngsters, who hitherto have been unresponsive to methodical instruction, take an hour and a half of organized school work each day. It is felt that longer periods of instruction would be undesirable in view of the newness of the experience for the pygmies. For this same reason, discipline is not too rigid. This accomplishment is regarded as especially significant since the children are genuine pygmies, not "pygmoids," who are a mixture of pygmies with other races.

The Little Sisters of Jesus order was founded by Father Charles de Foucauld, desert monk whose manner of life is said to have inspired the pygmies with confidence.

Church Blessed — Taipei, Formosa — (NC) — A new church dedicated to the Holy Family was solemnly blessed here by Archbishop Joseph Kuo of Taipei in the presence of an overflow congregation.

Pope Confers Red Hat On Cardinals

Castlegarden, Italy — (NC) — Five newly-created Italian and Spanish Cardinals who were absent from the public Consistory last January received their Red Hats, insignia of their high office, from His Holiness Pope Pius XII in a private ceremony at the papal summer palace here.

Only about 100 persons in all were present as the Cardinals received the hats, their cardinalial rings and assignments to their titular churches in Rome and to various congregations of the Roman Curia. On January 12, the Pontiff conferred the Red Hat on 17 of the 24 newly created Cardinals. Now there are only two Cardinals, both of them Communist prisoners, who have not yet received the insignia from the Pope.

THE ITALIANS among the five Cardinals at the ceremony here were Their Eminences Gaetano Cardinal Ciriaci, Pietro Cardinal Ciriaci, and Angelo Giuseppe Cardinal Ronchi. The Spaniards were Their Eminences Benjamin Cardinal de Arriba y Castro, Archbishop of Tarragona, and Fernando Cardinal Quiroga y Palacios, Archbishop of Santiago de Compostela.

The two Cardinals who have not yet received the Red Hat and the other insignia of their office are Their Eminences Aloysius Cardinal Stepinac, Archbishop of Zagreb, who is confined by the Communist regime of Yugoslavia to his native village of Krasie; and Stephan Cardinal Wyszyński, Archbishop of Gniezno and Warsaw, who was recently "deposed" by the Polish Communist government and is now reportedly confined to a monastery.

Catholics Gain 10,657 In Belfast — Belfast — (RNS) — This city's Roman Catholic population increased by 10,657, a nine percent gain, in the years from 1937 to 1951, according to census figures published here by the government of Northern Ireland.

Cardinal Wyszyński Whereabouts Secret

London — (NC) — The whereabouts of the Polish Cardinal Stefan Wyszyński, arrested Primate of Poland, still remains a mystery.

A thorough search for the Cardinal in the country's convents and monasteries has failed to locate him. The search was carried on in secret by Catholics and members of religious orders, anxious about their beloved Primate, it was learned here.

The regime announced that it had permitted the Cardinal to retire to a monastery. But the belief among Polish Catholics is that he has either been confined to a prison or spirited out of the country. An earlier rumor stated that the Cardinal was taken to Russia.

MEANWHILE there has been no response so far to the appeals sent by the Polish National Council here — Polish exile parliament — to the world's free parliaments asking a formal condemnation of the Cardinal's arrest. It was likewise not expected that the United Nations would take any action on the matter, despite the protests made to that international body by numerous Catholic organizations.

While the Primate's whereabouts remain a mystery, new light has been cast on the circumstances surrounding his arrest with the arrival here of the text of a protest to the regime written by the Cardinal just two days before he was seized.

The memorandum objected to the slanderous propaganda aimed by the Red prosecutor at the Pope, the Holy See and the Hierarchy during the "trial" of Bishop Czeslaw Kaczmarek of Kellce. The memorandum was signed by the Cardinal as chairman of the Polish Bishops' Conference and Bishop Zygmunt Choromanski as secretary. It stated:

"THE POLISH Episcopate considers it an obligation of conscience to set forth the following explanation which we submit to the Council of Ministers, in accordance with the provisions of the Constitution.

"The allegation that the Apostolic See, the Holy Father and the Vatican issued political directives to the Polish Episcopate does not correspond to the truth."

Irish Priests Draw Lots For Diocese

Wichita, Kansas — (NC) — A drawing has determined where seven newly ordained priests from Ireland will spend their lives in the United States.

The Priests who arrived here recently had been ordained for the Wichita diocese, but Bishop Mark H. Carroll felt that three should be assigned to the Dodge City diocese because of the shortage of priests there.

The drawing, done alphabetically, took place in the cathedral rectory with Bishop Carroll in charge. Each priest picked one of seven slips of paper put in a hat. Three of the slips were marked "Dodge City," four "Wichita."

Fathers John Kavanaugh, Thomas Kirby, Thomas McGread and Thomas McManus drew Wichita. Fathers Owen Dodge City.

Kenny, Andrew McGovern and Ultam Murphy picked the new priests will serve as assistants in various churches of the two dioceses.

Early In Sydney — Sydney, Australia — (RNS) — A record crowd of 110,000 persons jammed the cricket grounds here for a rally climaxing the Family Rosary Crusade conducted in New South Wales by Father Patrick Peyton, C.S.C., of Albany, N. Y.

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