

FREED FROM RED JAIL

Ousted Priests Collapse Crossing China Border; Victims Of Red Abuse

Hong Kong — (NC) — Four Columbian Fathers newly expelled from Red China have told a story here that shows how Communist mistreatment can reduce even the sturdiest to a state of physical collapse.

They are Fathers Patrick Roman, Owen O'Kane, Patrick Riley and John Casey, all from Ireland and ranging in age from 31 to 33, who spent 17 trying months in the jails of Chekiang province.

Fathers Riley and Casey "passed out" upon crossing the border, and Father Roman fainted later at the Maryknoll Mission House in Hong Kong.

Now hospitalized for rest and observation, the Irish priests, stationed in the mission district of Huchow, near Hangchow, said that their troubles began when they were accused of promoting the Legion of Mary, which the Reds considered to be a dangerous, "reactionary" organization.

THEY RECALLED that they were seized by the police in June, 1952, and carried off to jail. At first they were put in with other prisoners who attempted to persuade them to confess their "crimes." A cell 18 by 16 feet held 15 prisoners with one having an assigned place from which he could not move.

Morning and afternoon discussion and confession periods, questionings, two meals a day, one basin of wash water for four, and hours of silent squatting made up the order of the day.

The priests later were moved to the jail at Klashan, where they were put in individual cells six feet by three. Father Casey was put in a cell with a spy who tried to worm out a "confession" that the officials could not wring from him. When he made it clear how much he hated the questionings of the officials, he was given overcharges of such proceedings.

As one of the priests was led out for interrogation, he would blow his nose twice. This meant he was asking his fellow-prisoners for absolution. A loud cough on the part of the other meant that the absolution had been given.

ALL FOUR OF the priests agreed that prayer had been their greatest consolation during the tedious months of imprisonment. They said they formed rosaries

out of dough held together with pieces of thread pulled from prison clothes.

Starting in June, 1953, the captives revealed, food was reduced to one meal a day, with a bowl of very thin rice gruel served morning and evening. All the priests weakened noticeably on these meagre rations, and Father O'Kane developed a bad case of dysentery.

When, finally, it was decided that the priests should be expelled, they were each allowed to take a bath. This was followed by a shave, and then each was photographed. On November 24, they were assembled together and sent under armed guard by train to the Hong Kong border.

The expulsion of the four priests has left only two Columbian priests in Red China. They are Father Edward McElroy, who is in Shanghai, and Father Aidan McGrath, formerly national director of the Legion of Mary in China, who is in prison.

Girl Convert Joins Carmelites At Salt Lake City

Salt Lake City, Utah — (NC) — For the first time in the city's history, a resident has taken a religious garb of a Carmelite nun. She is also a convert.

Lurline Romney Cheyney received the habit of the strict, cloistered order and her name in religion—Sister Mary Catherine of the Most Holy Trinity—at ceremonies here in the Carmel of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Sister Catherine, who entered the Church six years ago in Los Angeles, joined the Carmelite community here last year as a postulant. Reception of the brown habit, scapular and mantle marks the start of a two-year novitiate, at the end of which she will make her vows.



Hong Kong—Two of four young Irish priests who arrived here weak and broken from ordeals suffered at the hands of the Chinese Communists are shown under the care of a medical missionary. The priests, who were jailed for 17 months at Huchow, Chekiang Province, before being expelled, are: Father Owen O'Kane, 33, of Antrim (center), who passed out from exhaustion four hours after this picture was taken; and Father Patrick Roman, 31, of Kilkenny, who was hospitalized as a precaution. Since June 1953, the four priests lived on one meal a day. This diet, they said, plus the daily interrogations to which they were subjected as well as conditions in the prison where they were held, accounted for their poor health.

Cardinals Sign Bid To Free Polish Primate

London — (NC) — A resolution protesting in the name of 58 million Catholics in the British Commonwealth and the English-speaking world against the arrest of His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, Primate of Poland, and demanding his immediate release, was adopted at a mass meeting in London's famed Albert Hall.

SEVEN THOUSAND priests and laymen, among them many European exiles, cheered the passing of the resolution, which bore the signatures of six Cardinals, representing the hierarchies of England and Wales, Australia, Canada, Ireland, and India. Also signing the resolutions were representatives of the Bishops of Scotland, New Zealand, South Africa, the Gold Coast, and East Africa.

Among those who also signed the resolution, but in an individual capacity, were His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York; Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles; and Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston. It was pointed out that the American hierarchy had previously issued its own protest against the arrest of Cardinal Wyszyński.

The resolution, which was put to the meeting by His Eminence Bernard Cardinal Griffin, Archbishop of Westminster, declared that "this unjustifiable and sacrilegious assault upon a great religious leader, who has performed outstanding services for the Polish nation, has outraged the conscience of the freedom-loving peoples of the world, Catholic and non-Catholic alike."

"WE THEREFORE," the resolution concluded, "demand that full liberty for the exercise of his office be restored to the Cardinal Primate, and that the Warsaw government take immediate steps to grant religious freedom to the people of Poland."

It was announced that the resolution would be sent directly to the Warsaw government.

'Red Rasputin' Seen Guiding Moscow's Attack On Religion

London — (NC) — Metropolitan Nikolai of Krutitsky — the high dignitary of the Russian Orthodox Church who has become known as the "Red Rasputin" — is continuing to guide

Acting Prime Minister Walter Ulbricht of the East German Communist regime had accused West German Protestant and Catholic leaders of being "war mongers" and "reactionaries" because of their support of the Adenauer government. The Bonn government is on record as favoring West German rearmament and has prepared to enroll German soldiers in the European Defense Army.

This was amply demonstrated at the recent meeting of the Communist-dominated World Peace Council in Vienna at which the 61-year-old, dark-bearded Lithuanian-born prelate emerged as a dominant figure to raise a rallying cry against the Christian leaders of Western Europe with the laque of German rearmament as an excuse.

There is no doubt that Metropolitan Nikolai holds a whip hand over those protestant Churches of Eastern Europe that have pledged loyalty to their Red masters. He has made them active propagandists for a "neutralized Germany" — a Germany, in other words that would have no opportunity to defend itself. If occasion arose, against the militant power of the Soviet dictatorship.

Emerging from the shadows which have hitherto concealed his maneuvers, the Red Rasputin appeared openly before the Vienna Peace Council meeting to exhort Christians of the world "not to rearm Germany."

Canadian Nuns Expelled By Chinese Reds

Hong Kong — (NC) — Four Canadian nuns belonging to the Order of the Immaculate Conception arrived here after having been expelled by Communist authorities in Szechingkal, Manchuria. They had been the last foreign missionaries left in that area.

One of the nuns was Mother Superior Mary Josephine (Elaine Gravel), sister of Sister Ste. Germaine, who was sentenced to five years' imprisonment at the infamous Canton 'trial' of December, 1951, at which she and another Canadian nun, Sister Alphonse du Redempteur (Antoniette Couvrette) were charged with atrocities against orphans. Both were released from jail and ordered expelled from China at the end of 1952.

Mother Mary Josephine who is 50, hails from Champlain, Quebec. Her companions, also from Quebec Province, were Sister Ste. Emergentienne (Berthe Fleurent), 46, of Nicolet; Sister Marie de la Charite (Corinne Bourassa), 45, St. Maurice; and Sister Marie Medatrice (Aline Maboulin), 40, of Levis. All four appeared to be in good health.

Irish Trumpet Call Hails Marian Year

Dublin — (RNS) — Ireland's military camps ushered in the Marian Year with a new trumpet call entitled "Salute to Our Lady."

The call, composed by the director of the Irish Army School of Music, was sounded for the first time at special Marian ceremonies held in all the churches of military installations throughout the country.

All over Ireland the crowds flocked to their churches to attend ceremonies marking the opening day of the Marian year.

In Galway City, a life-size statue of the Blessed Virgin was erected over the entrance to the Franciscan Abbey church, where 100 Franciscan Tertiaries carried lighted candles to symbolize the 100th anniversary of the proclamation of the Dogma of the Immaculate Conception.

Chinese Catholics Braved Red Guns To Save Him, Ousted Bishop Reveals

Hong Kong — (NC) — When Bishop Ferdinando Pasini, O.F.M., of Sanayana crossed the border here after having been expelled from Red China he took with him memories of loyal Chinese Catholics ready to defy Communist guns for his sake.

A missionary in China since 1922, Bishop Pasini, 56 year-old native of San Dona di Piave, near Venice, Italy, was ordered out of the country together with his Vicar General, Father Giovanni Sinigaglia, O.F.M., 55.

BISHOP PASINI said that he had been left unprotected until mid-November although foreign missionaries in his diocese had been publicly branded as imperialistic spies. On November 13, he reported, he was put in jail, and Father Sinigaglia placed under house arrest.

Two days after his imprisonment the Bishop said, the Catholics of the city gathered in a crowd before the jail and shouted that they wanted him set free. Two Chinese priests were summoned by the authorities to quell the disturbance, but without success. Finally, the local magistrate told the crowd he would settle the matter the next day.

THE CATHOLIC demonstrators left to go to a body the church for prayer. But they returned to the jail the same evening and forced their way inside, pushing aside armed guards who tried to stop them. However, the Reds had meanwhile taken the precaution of removing the Bishop to another jail.

During the next few days, the Communists conducted a vigorous propaganda drive against the missionaries through newspapers and loudspeakers. Convinced that they

Women Aid New St. Jude Church

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — A church dedicated to the "Forgotten Apostle," St. Jude, will be erected soon in this suburb of the nation's capital as a result of the generosity of three women. It was announced by Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington.

Mrs. Charles W. Allen, widow of a government physician, and her two daughters, donated \$25,000 to the archbishop to purchase 10 acres of land on which a church, school, convent, parsonage, parish house, and other buildings will be constructed.

"There are very few churches in the United States named in honor of St. Jude, so we felt this was the best way to make him better known," Mrs. Allen said. Prayers for St. Jude, the patron of desperate cases, she said, aided in her recovery from a critical illness and also that of a close friend.

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