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Priests From India Begin Work For Anti-Red PW's

Seoul, Korea — (NC) — Four priests of Bombay archdiocese, believed to be the first Indian priests to come to Korea, have arrived here to serve as chaplains to Catholics among Korean and Chinese prisoners of war held by the Indian custodial force.

Hunger Haunts Millions, Pope Tells FAO

Rome — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII told members of the United Nations Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) that "the eventuality of hunger is still haunting millions of human beings."

Receiving delegates to the world organization's conference here, Pope Pius said the food problem remained "crucial" in spite of increases in agricultural production.

"The civilized world," he said, "looks with deep sorrow on pitiable victims of hunger who exist despite the capability of the world to feed all human beings. To definitely suppress such a scourge well deserves some sacrifices and well justifies austere living."

"Wasn't Christ anxious to feed the flocks following Him? Didn't He teach His Disciples to pray to God for their daily bread?"

"Pursuing the aims you have fixed for yourselves," the Pope said, "you are no doubt realizing the intention dear to Him Who consecrated Himself to the salvation of humanity."

"That is why we wish you may untriflingly continue your task."

Pope Pius said the work of the FAO was only at its beginning, "but already your experience has taught you a lot. Your tools are better, your reputation stronger among governments who more and more appreciate the usefulness and fruits of your action."

"If the aim is not yet in view," he said, "you can at least hope that a deeper understanding and a more active collaboration will strengthen and multiply the results already obtained and guarantee a further more rapid evolution."

Chaplains For Anti-Red POW's



Seoul, South Korea—Four Indian Catholic priests acting as chaplains for the anti-Communist Chinese and North Korean prisoners of war here are interviewed by an American newspaperman (center). Left to right are: Msgr. Joseph A. Lobo, Father Frank Lobo, Father Fred Britto, and Father Aloysius. The anti-Red POW's are in the custody of the Neutral Nations Repatriation Commission, under the chairmanship of India. (RNS Photo)

India Promises Hands Off On Mission Work

New Delhi, India — (NC) — The Indian Home Ministry has given an assurance that it will not "interfere in the internal working" of foreign Christian missionaries in this country.

Deputy Home Minister B. N. Datar told the House of the People, the lower chamber of parliament, that the policy of the Indian government is "not to interfere in the internal working of foreign missionary organizations already in India, so long as they act in a peaceful and unobjectionable manner."

A HINDU member asked whether missionaries already here as well as those coming for the first time received instructions from the government that they should keep out of politics.

Home Minister Kailash Nath Katju intervened and replied: "They know it very well."

"The home ministry's assurance is regarded here as veering to the original Catholic position that the evangelic activities of foreign missionaries were in keeping with the provisions of the Indian Constitution which gives absolute freedom to all persons to propagate their religion in India."

The assurance comes in the wake of unconfirmed reports that a reconsideration of the home ministry's attitude toward foreign missionaries was likely. Mr. Katju stated last April in the Council of States, the upper chamber of parliament, that the Indian government disapproved of the "proselytizing efforts" of foreign Christian missionaries who should confine their activities to educational and social fields.

Christmas Mass Slated Underground

Zapala, Colombia — (NC) — A Christmas midnight Mass will be held in an "underground cathedral" for the second year in a row.

The "cathedral," 2,600 feet underground, is a former salt mine.

U. S. Unduly Fears Russian Know-How, Says Father Braun

Washington — (NC) — Americans are "unduly afraid" of Soviet Russia's ability to produce, Father Leopold Braun, A. A., who served as pastor of St. Louis of the French Church in Moscow from 1934 to 1946, declared in an address here.

Addressing the National Conference for Freedom and Peace Through Liberation at the Sheraton-Park Hotel here, the Assumptionist priest declared:

"One third of Soviet industrial production consists of goods which even according to their own standards, are rejected before they leave the factory."

Father Braun said that the Communist governments greatly fear outside radio broadcasts. He said they erected 174 transmitters and operated them solely for the purpose of jamming those broadcasts — principally those of the Voice of America and of Radio Free Europe.

The priest sternly criticized the Yalta and Potsdam agreements, and also denounced the Nuremberg trials.

"The Russian people were hoping to be liberated from Communist tyranny during the war, as they had been led to believe by our pledges in the Atlantic Charter," Father Braun said.

"The peoples of Russia could not understand how we could agree to forcing 2,000,000 persons who had escaped Communist tyranny back to slavery. Yet American Army Officers took part in this shameful act of forcible repatriation. I was ashamed that I was an American when I faced the Russian mothers who complained about this action of allied nations."

He said that the Nuremberg trials were "a shameful betrayal of humanitarian principles." Father Braun declared that one of the accusers at the trials was "Kruglov, right arm and first deputy of Lavrenti P. Beria, and whose body is bathed in the blood of thousands of Russian victims."

THE PRIEST declared that despite Kruglov's past record "as a murderer, he was decorated with honors by the American and British governments, presumably as part of our appeasement policy



FATHER BRAUN

at that time — a perfect example of utilitarian expediency."

Father Braun said that in the Russian invasion, the German Wehrmacht was not defeated by the Soviet Army but by "General Winter."

"The peoples of Russia had refused to support their Communist enslavers in the first months of the war," Father Braun said. "They were unwilling to fight for liberties and freedoms which did not exist. In certain remote areas the mobilization could never be carried out, especially in the Mohammedan districts of the Far Eastern Republics. In those areas the people took to the hills rather than serve in the Soviet Army. Beria's punitive division of the Red Army, armed from head to foot with American equipment, was kept busy throughout the duration of the war, suppressing organized rebellion."

Father Braun said that the German Wehrmacht was defeated primarily by the cold Russian winter. He said the invading Germans were prepared only for a customary European winter, not 70-below-zero cold.

Rome Enters Spirit Of Marian Year

Rome — (NC) — The people of Rome, responding to the call of His Holiness Pope Pius XII, have entered into the spirit of the Marian Year with enthusiastic devotion.

The Basilica of St. Mary Major, Rome's most central and oldest Marian shrine, continues to attract thousands daily in morning Mass and evening devotion.

Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament has had to be repeated more than once in the evening to accommodate the numbers attending.

PARISHES ARE planning pro-

grams that will continue throughout the year of special devotion to the Mother of God. All the 142 parishes will have pilgrimages. In turn, to St. Mary Major's where special ceremonies ushered in the Marian Year, Saturdays which are dedicated to Mary throughout the Year, will see special devotions in each of the parishes.

Marian shrines and images throughout the city are being cleaned and refurbished and attended with more than ordinary care. Means pilgrimages have been announced to the great di-

ocesan shrine of the Madonna of Divine Love just outside the city. Universities, academies and institutes have scheduled conferences and other special events in honor of the Virgin. The Pontifical Academy of St. Thomas devoted its December meeting to the topic of Mary's Immaculate Conception. The Pontifical Institute "Angelicum," which is under the Dominicans, has inaugurated a series of Marian lectures, as also has the Pontifical Academy of the Immaculate Concep-

tion.

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