

First Marines Chaplain Honored

Washington — (NC) — Father (Lt. j.g.) John B. Conlon, O.P., has been awarded the Commendation Medal for "outstanding ability and professional skill" as a chaplain with the First Marine Division in Korea. The Dominican priest of St. Joseph's Province was cited for his "constant attention" to his men and inspirational conduct during the period January 19 to June 15, 1953.

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Marian Year Enthusiasm High In Ireland

Dublin — (NC) — A stirring enthusiasm has been shown through the length and breadth of Ireland for the Marian Year since it was opened with special ceremonies in churches and cathedrals throughout the country.

Up and down the country there are many loving signs of affection for the Queen of Ireland—the Immaculate Mother of God. THERE ARE the more sensational marks of devotion such as foodlit churches, illuminated statues and ornately decorated shrines. But the most impressive thing is the deep love of the ordinary man in the street for the Blessed Virgin.

Irish workers can be seen visiting the churches on their way to and from work. Many kneel before the shrine of the Blessed Mother in the church to say the rosary. They light candles in honor of the Virgin when they leave.

The Pope's prayer for the Marian Year is so much in demand that it has become a "best seller" in Ireland.

Many Irish families have erected special shrines to Mary in their homes for the Marian Year. The family gathers there for daily prayers.

THE MARIAN Year enthusiasm is even evident in the shops and factories. At the end of the working day the personnel of many establishments kneel around a statue of the Virgin and recite the rosary or other prayers to Mary.

The Christmas displays in the store windows have also taken on the "Marian Year look." In addition to featuring the crib, many displays also give prominent attention to the Virgin Mother.

Villanova Maps Expansion Program

Philadelphia, Pa. — (NC) — A twenty-year development program for increased endowment and new buildings was estimated at \$21,150,000 by Villanova University. Father Francis X. N. McGuire, O.S.A., president of the university said the building project will include enlargement of the University Chapel in addition to new dormitories, department, administration and classroom buildings.

'Persecution 1953' Cardinal Dragged Into Night . . . 11 Bishops Beaten And Bloodied . . . 18 Others Exiled

A Cardinal dragged into the night to an unknown prison. A Bishop put through the mockery of a "trial" . . . Many other Bishops clapped into jail or place under house arrest . . .

Eleven Bishops and scores of priests repeatedly attacked by mobs of Red ruffians and kicked, beaten, bloodied and bruised . . .

Eighteen Bishops and 400 priests, Brothers and nuns booted out of the country to which they had together given more than a thousand years of selfless service . . .

Scores of priests and Religious chained, tortured and beaten to extort "confessions" of alleged crimes . . .

ALL THIS IS part of a grim, bloody picture which can be labeled: "Persecution 1953." It is a picture of violence, torture, brutality and satanic conspiracy which pales the savagery of Nero.

Through it all runs the thread of suffering for the common man. The tragic public actions that become known to the free world almost hide from attention the anguish, the pervasive fears, the tortured problems of prudence and the disheartening repetition of demands for heroic courage in daily life.

These are the things that lie heavy on the shoulders of Catholic laymen and women under the sign of the hammer and sickle. These are daily problems and experiences for fathers and mothers, for students, for workers, for professional people. For them — because they are loyal Catholics — safety is a thing of the past or the remote future and mere continued existence in honesty and faith is a struggle almost every moment.

POLAND
The 1953 spotlight on persecution must first swing to Communist-ruled Poland. During the night of September 25, a gang of Red police agents, carrying rifles and machineguns, invaded the residence of His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński in Warsaw. All members of the household were lined up against the wall at riflepoint and the Primate's residence was ransacked and searched far into the night. In the wee hours of the morning the police gave up their search, seized the Cardinal and dragged him away. He has not been seen or heard of since, despite the regime's claims that he has merely retired to a monastery.

Just a week earlier the same regime had dragged a jailed Bishop from its Warsaw dungeons and placed him before a military tribunal to answer charges of "espionage" and other "anti-state" activities. Conditioned for almost two years in a Red jail, Bishop Czeslaw Kaczmarek of Kielec "confessed." He was sentenced to 12 years in prison.

THESE OTHER savage blows were struck at the Church by the Polish Reds in 1953: — Two other Bishops and a Vic-

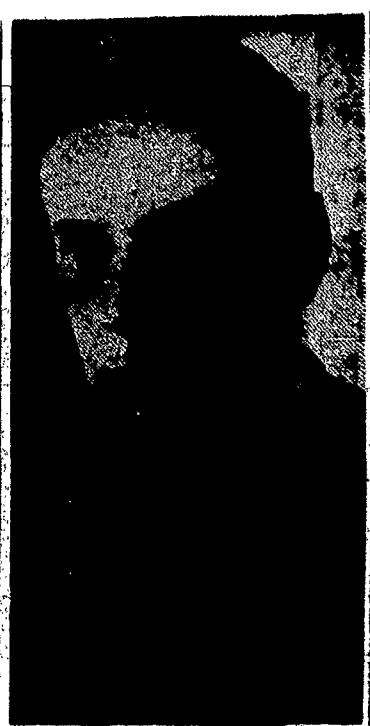
ar Capitular were placed under arrest. More than a hundred priests and several thousand leading Catholic laymen were herded into concentration camps.

A decree was passed making every Church appointment — from parish assistant to Archbishop — subject to the approval of the regime.

The last national Catholic weekly in Poland, Tygodnik Powszechny of Cracow, was forced to suspend publication and taken over by "progressive" Catholics to be fashioned into a propaganda organ for Communism.

YUGOSLAVIA
Next the spotlight of persecution must swing to Tito's Yugoslavia where at least 11 Bishops and scores of priests were given the roughing-up treatment by Communist ruffians.

In what appeared to be a systematic campaign of terror, the Bishops and priests were beaten, bloodied and bruised wherever and whenever organized Red mobs could catch up with them. These terror attacks erupted suddenly throughout the country at a time when Tito's officials were making a mighty effort to enroll all clergymen in the government-



CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI
"Dragged Into Night"

sponsored "priests' association." Among the members of the Hierarchy attacked was Archbishop Joseph Ujciec of Belgrade, the acting head of the Yugoslav hierarchy during the semi-imprisonment of His Eminence Aloysius Cardinal Stepinac, the Archbishop of Zagreb.

THE CHURCH in Yugoslavia suffered these other blows in 1953: — The Church had forced on her an enslaving "law on religious freedom." The law forbids the teaching of religion in schools. It abrogates the Church's right to operate her own schools. It fails to recognize the civil validity of Church marriages.

The Tito regime prepared a "documentary" film, entitled "Cardinal Criminal," in efforts to blacken the name of Cardinal Stepinac by associating him with various wartime crimes. The regime also stopped parcels sent the prelate by many of his faithful to his place of confinement at Krasie.

The regime drafted four Bishops and about four score priests into the army in an apparent effort to disrupt further Church administration in that country.

CHINA
Next the spotlight on persecution turns to the Communist-controlled China mainland.

During the past year Mao Tse-tung's Reds have ousted two Archbishops, 16 Bishops and six Monsignors serving as heads of Sees. In addition, the Communists booted out more than 400 priests, Brothers and nuns.

Many of the ousted missionaries brought with them hair-raising tales of the horror and torture to which they were subjected in efforts to have them sign "confessions" of crimes.

THE MISSIONARIES told of being stripped, beaten, lifted by their hair, hung by the thumbs, forced to stand for hours without moving. They told of endless questionings, hunger and exhaustion which drove them to the brink of insanity. They spoke of filth, cold and disease which surrounded them for years in prison.

The missionaries also brought stories of priests whose health broke completely under the maltreatment and who died in jail. They told of others who were driven into insanity under the Red program of torture.

waves of arrests in China in which scores of priests and Religious were tossed into jails in full swoops. These waves of arrests hit principally Shanghai, Tientsin and Hankow.

Among those expelled from China during the past year were two American-born Bishops: Bishop Philip Cote of Suichow and Rembert Kowalski of Wuchang.

OTHER LANDS
Directing the persecution spotlight to other parts of the world shows these 1953 developments: Three more Bishops ferribly removed from office by the Communists in Czechoslovakia. A tight ring of restrictions was kept around the Bishops still nominally free in order to keep them isolated from their priests and people. Meanwhile, every subtle pressure conceivable was used to keep the faithful from going to church and receiving the Sacraments.

A similar story of subtle pressure on the faithful and careful restrictions on the Bishops comes from Hungary. The regime continued to force "patriotic" priests into key offices in the Church and also arrested one Bishop — Bishop Joseph Fetey of Vas.

The Communist rebels in Indo-China arrested another Bishop — Bishop Joseph Van Thuan of Vinh. In the same year, a number of priests and nuns, including a nun, were expelled from Catholic countries in Indo-China.

In eastern Germany the Catholic Church passed through a year of "cold tolerance." While not openly persecuting the Church, the Red officials made no secret of the fact that they are intent on ultimately stamping out the "reactionary ideology" based on religion.

Ousted Priest Lauds Chinese Catholics

Hong Kong — (NC) — New tribute to the courage of Chinese Catholics in the face of Communist threat was paid by an Italian missionary priest who arrived here after having been expelled by Red authorities in Hankow.

He is Father Joseph Cairra, of the Pontifical Institute of Foreign Missions of St. Peter and Paul, who said he had been forced to request an exit visa after having refused to "confess" to "crimes" or to leave Red China of his own accord.

"The majority of the Catholics of Hankow are firm and constant in their religion," Father Cairra, 33-year-old native of Novara, Italy, reported. "They frequent the churches for Mass and the Sacraments in spite of all troubles and dangers. The Catholic young people, like their Shanghai counterparts, are well organized and most brave in the practice of their Faith."

Three other priest-expellees from Manchuria arrived in Hong Kong a few days before Father Cairra. They were Fathers Walter Frel, 51, Ernest Uebelmann, 42, and Konrad Bollhalder, all natives of Switzerland. They reported that they had been forced for two years to eke out a living weaving baskets before being ordered out.

AN EARLIER arrival was Mother Agnes Gruson, a Franciscan Missionary of Mary, whose expulsion brought to 64 the total of Catholic missionaries forced out of Red China during November. At the end of that month, there were 297 Catholic missionaries left in the country.

Sister Agnes, who was born in Lille, France, in 1904, said that she had served all but five months of a three-year prison sentence for "killing babies" in an orphanage outside Chungking when she was ordered banished from the country.

The nun stated that she was kept in a cell alone for eight months and not allowed to talk to others. Becoming ill, she was placed in the prison hospital and subsequently put to nursing work. She reported that she was frequently brought in to hear public accusations, but said that most of those summoned to denounce her defended her instead.

Russian Catholics To Have Chapel

San Francisco — (NC) — A project to build a chapel for Russian Catholics has been announced here. To be named in honor of Our Lady of Fatima, the chapel will be an extension of the apostolate to the Russians begun by Auxiliary Bishop Merlin J. Gullioyrie at the Mission Dolores Basilica last year.

In addition to serving the needs of Russian Catholics, the chapel will aim at winning the Orthodox Russians in the San Francisco area; its ultimate aim will be to play a proper part in the conversion of Russia.

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