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Blessing For Hospital Tot



ON THE DAY before Christmas, after celebrating Mass in St. Mary's Hospital, His Excellency Bishop Kearney visited the patients. Here the Bishop blesses little Theresa Lafler in the children's ward with Nurse Eileen Trabold watching.

Communist Victim Describes Red 'Confession' Technique

(N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE)

Washington — (NC) — Not torture but feigned kindness is the potent weapon which draws "confessions" from Communist victims.

This testimony was given here by a young Belgian Immaculate Heart of Mary missionary who had himself signed a proposterous confession after 13 months of conditioning in a Peking prison.

"How do the Communists obtain those fantastic confessions?" he was asked.

The lines in Father Albert Van Lierde's youthful face hardened in an expression of pain and mortification. He was silent for several moments and then spoke slowly:

"THERE IS NO such thing as a breaking point, after which a man is willing to sign anything. These confessions — and there are hundreds of them before the final one is arrived at — are drawn from the victim, phrase by phrase, adjective by adjective, distorted incident by distorted incident.

"These confessions are extorted over long periods of time and through innumerable sessions with Communist interrogators. Single phrases are twisted from the victim in the terror of torture and more often by the feigned kindness of the interrogator.

"The occasional kind word or expression of concern by the Red 'judge' is a far more effective weapon than torture in breaking down a lonely, confused and weary prisoner."

The strange thing is that in his confused state the prisoner actually believes that the Red judge is his friend, as he claims to be, and is really trying to help him out of the entanglements in which he finds himself, Father Van Lierde stated.

The priest related that his most resistant moments were the actual moments of torture. At that point the victim is least inclined to yield to the Red interpretation of the "crimes" charged against him, he said.

Expelled from Red China more than a year ago, Father Van Lierde still has scars on his arms and legs as cruel reminders of the tortures he suffered. He was forced to kneel for hours on a sharp stick. During the questioning he had to squat with bricks stuck in the bend of the knees and digging into the flesh of the calf and thigh. His wrists were handcuffed behind his back and he was then hung from the wall by the rope around his wrists. When he screamed with pain and old sores were shoved down his throat with a stick.

He was kept without sleep for periods up to 14 days. When he fell from exhaustion he was pulled upright by his hair. In his delirium he saw and spoke

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THE PRIEST was asked here

to describe the successive psychological stages a victim goes through until he finally consents to "confess."

"I'm not sure there are successive psychological stages," he replied. "You never really want to confess. You are confused. You fight with your conscience, with yourself. You worry over what you have been pressured into admitting. You become resentful and retract your confession. But then the painful process starts all over again and you re-confess."

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Army Colonel Embraces Faith

Arlington, Texas — (NC) — Lt. Col. W. E. Gough, head of the Military Department of Arlington State College and professor of Military Science and Tactics, recently became a convert to Catholicism.

Asked what drew him to the Church, the colonel said he had been "deeply inspired by the heroic and Christian example" of the Catholic chaplains in the Pacific Theater during World War II, and by the truly Catholic life of his wife and daughter.

"After more than a year of interrogation, torture, fatigue, terror, and wrangling, the priest's confession finally emerged. A pained blush of shame crossed his face as he was asked the question.

It was a long chain of distorted incidents, he related. In essence he "confessed" that he had transmitted military and political information to an imperialist enemy power — the United States. The fantastic "confession" was twisted from these facts:

Father Van Lierde served as an N.C.W.C. correspondent before the Communists took over Peking. He wrote a by-line story about the mob trials in areas then taken over by the Reds and another about the works of mercy being carried on by Catholic groups in Peking while the city was under siege by the Reds.

The first story mentioned Communism, therefore it was something political, the Communist judge declared categorically. The second mentioned the siege which was something military. These stories were seen in the U.S. Catholic press by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, the Red judge argued. The Cardinal transmitted the information to President Truman, he stated. Father Van Lierde admitted this was possible, so in the end he "confessed" to the "crime" of transmitting illegal information.

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U. S. Priest Held As 'Spy' By Reds

Hong Kong — (NC) — An American priest imprisoned without explanation by the Chinese Communists two and a half years ago is being held on "spy" charges, it was learned here.

The information was brought here by an Austrian Jesuit, who was expelled from Peking, China, and was one of 12 foreign missionaries forced out of China in 1953 drew to a close. Another of the 12 is Bishop Joseph Oste, C.I.C.M., of Jehol, who was also formally expelled.

Father Charles Steinmetz, the Austrian Jesuit, revealed that one of the reasons given for his expulsion was that he had "collaborated with the American spy Rigney."

Impelled in July, 1951, Father Harold Rigney, a 33-year-old Divine Word priest from Chicago, was not heard of for almost two years. Many of his fellow-missionaries believed he had died in his Red prison.

However in June of this year Father Rigney was able to send a note out of prison asking for food and clothing. For several months the officials at Tsao lao Tzu prison in Peking accepted food for the priest. But since September they have refused to accept food for him, though they recently accepted clothing.

A former U.S. army chaplain, Father Rigney served as rector after World War II of the now suppressed Catholic University of Peking.

BISHOP OSTE, a 61-year-old native of Flanders, Belgium, was consecrated Bishop of Jehol, Mongolia, in October, 1948. But he was never permitted by the Communists to take up residence in his See. The formal expulsion charges against him were: promoting the Legion of Mary and carrying on "anti-revolutionary activity" against the Communist government. The Bishop was sent to Tientsin after his expulsion and then sent here by ship.

Arriving with the Bishop from Tientsin were Father Steinmetz, Father Valer Albers, a Belgian Immaculate Heart of Mary priest; Father Stephen Koch, Jesuit born at Zagreb, Yugoslavia; Father Julian Ghysels, Jesuit born at Lille, France, and Father Alexis Stelthove, Jesuit from Everswinkel, Westphalia, Germany. All were expelled from Peking.

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300 Japanese Baptized In Colony

Buenos Aires, Argentina (NC)—Three hundred children and adults of the Japanese colony were baptized here in the Church of the Immaculate Conception. The church preserves an ancient chest filled with soil from Okinawa, Japan, in appreciation of a shipment of foodstuffs sent by Eva Peron, deceased wife of the President of Argentina.

With the 1st Marine Division, Korea—(NC)—Six of the nine Marines for whom Master Sergeant Edward E. Murray, USMC, was sponsor at a Confirmation ceremony in Seoul became converts through his influence.

Sergeant Murray, now nine months in Korea, made his converts on the ship coming over and after he arrived here. A little information at the right time to the right man may start a conversion to the Church, he found.

Six converts were seen enough to him. "Why, Father Ernst received 18 into the Church on the way over here," he said.

Father (Lt.) Elmer F. Ernst, C.P.P.S., of Fort Wayne, is currently serving as a Marine chaplain in Korea.

Sergeant Murray, born in Boston, now of Oceanside, Calif., is in a Marine tank battalion here.

Ottawa Auxiliary Given New Post

Ottawa, Ontario, Canada (NC)—Auxiliary Bishop Maxime Tessier of Ottawa has been named Coadjutor to the Bishop of Timmins, 80-year-old Bishop Louis Rheame, O.M.I.

Announcement of the appointment was made here by Msgr. Luigi Dadaglio, charge d'affaires at the Apostolic Delegation. Bishop Rheame, a prominent member of the Oblate Order, has been Bishop of Timmins, Ont., which includes parishes in both Northern Ontario and Northern Quebec, since 1923.

Pontiff Urges Statesmen Work For Lasting Peace

Vatican City — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in his new materialism that peace could be attained through technological progress, told mankind to resist "certain busy peace agents" who think that the whole peace problem can be solved by increased production and higher living standards.

Europe. He targeted them to get away from "a material approach to the problem of peace" and to resist "certain busy peace agents" who think that the whole peace problem can be solved by increased production and higher living standards.

In a moving appeal to Christian statesmen, the Holy Father asked them to take "reasonable risks" in striving for the continental union of Europe's peoples. He exhorted them not to "aggravate social tensions" in their own countries "by dramatically emphasizing them." To those who call for "a so-called revolution in Christian consciences," he pointed out that it is not Christianity that has failed in the social field but that the failure is "in the minds of her accusers."

The greater part of the Holy Father's address was devoted to setting forth the grave spiritual dangers arising from the false dream of expecting a solution of all of mankind's problems from what he termed the "technological spirit" and the "technological concept of life."

THE POPE made clear that his criticism should not be understood as a condemnation of the technological progress in itself, which "comes from God and so it can and ought to lead to God."

However, unless technology is given no more than its proper place in the hierarchy of values, the Pope warned, "this era of technological progress will achieve its monstrous masterpiece, making man into a giant of the physical world, at the expense of his soul, reduced to a pygmy in the realm of the supernatural and eternal."

In leading up to his appeal for a union of the countries of Europe, the Holy Father warned against "a peace based on fear" arising from a more or less equal distribution of technical and economic forces between two parties.

Urging the discard of "that false autonomy of the material forces which today are hardly different from war materials," the Pope said:

"Secure and lasting peace is above all a question of spiritual unity and of moral dispositions... The present state of affairs will not improve, unless all nations recognize common spiritual and moral ends of humanity... and mutually agree to oppose the cause of division reigning among them in the disorganization of the standard of living and of productivity."

THE WORK for a union of Europe is strongly encouraged, the Pope said, by the manifest of the contrary policy and by the fact that the ordinary people in these countries expect it and consider it necessary and possible.

"Why continue to hesitate?" the Pope asked. "The end is clear, the needs of nations are obvious to all." Turning to those who, in advance, ask for "an absolute guarantee of success," the Pontiff said:

"The supreme incitement to action is the gravity of the moment through which Europe is struggling. There is no security for her without risk. To demand (Continued on Page 6)

Slender By Rome Reds Challenged By Holy Father

Rome — (NC) — His Holiness Pope Pius XII has challenged the Communist-inspired slanders being whispered against him here in the Eternal City.

The Roman-born Pontiff took note of these slanders as he received in audience at the Vatican a group of Catholics from the Tor di Quinto quarter of the city. He wished the group a "happy and holy feast," complimented them on their zealous spiritual life and then expressed regret that some people in the Roman quarter "could but would not come" to him.

"WE CANNOT keep from thinking with heartfelt sadness," the Pope said, "of others who are not with you because they did not want to come. For some time, perhaps they have abandoned God, strayed from Jesus, the Church and the priest."

"Some are indifferent. Others, it seems incredible, have become enemies of the Lord. They live in profound sadness without ever imagining that by turning to the house of the Father they could find their lost peace and serenity."

"They do not know what they are doing. They twist the discourses of the Pope and interpret his every action with malevolent intent. This is a great crime."

"Can you believe that the Pope and the Church are against the poor? Can the Pope be against the workers? Can the Pope desire war?"

THE PONTIFF then asked his audience to wish "a happy and holy feast day" in his name "even to these unhappy ones" the victims of perverse propaganda. "With it to them he said, 'in the name of the Pope who loves all and would like to see all serene, at peace and in proper well-being.'"

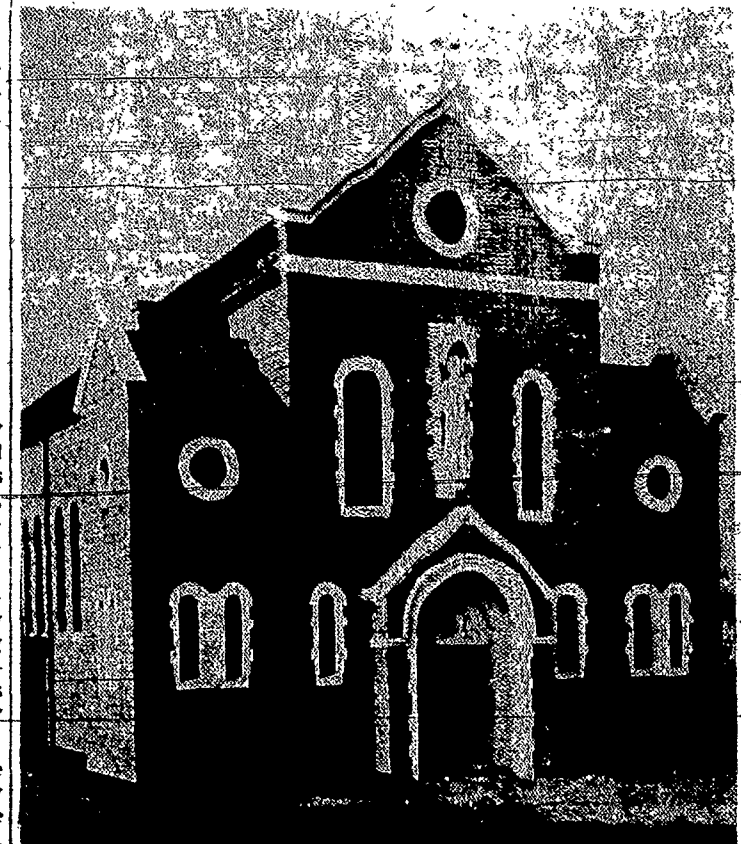
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"We know that in the month of May, 30 groups of faithful recited the Rosary in the streets and squares of your quarter, in front of a small statue of the Madonna. We know your little sons and daughters are like little apostles and that they call their companions to catechism and holy Mass on Sundays and Feast Days. All this has given us great happiness."

Portugal Honors Large Families

Liabon, Portugal — (NC) — The wife of the Portuguese president, Mrs. Bertha Craveira Lopes, distributed prizes to the parents of 120 large families to culminate Mother's Day observances here.

Ready For Mary's Year



ST. JOHN FISHER CHURCH—This is the latest picture of the new St. John Fisher Church now being erected in Rochester, England, through the generous gift of \$50,000 from Catholics of the Diocese of Rochester, N.Y. Note statue of St. John Fisher surmounting main entrance. Father Thomas O'Riordan, pastor of the Rochester, England, Church, has invited His Excellency Bishop Kearney to celebrate the dedication Mass in the new church next May 27. Joining the Bishop at the Mass will be pilgrims from the Rochester, N.Y. Diocese who will make a tour of Marian shrines in Europe next Spring under the direction of the Family Radio Rosary for Peace with the Rev. Joseph Cirrione as chaplain. The Rochester, N.Y. pilgrimage will end with Bishop Kearney's Mass in Rochester, England.

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Girl Donates Prize Money To Shrine Fund

Chicago — (NC) — Whipping up a collection called "Blueberry Boy Bait" has brought \$500 to the building fund for completion of the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception in Washington, D.C.

"Blueberry Boy Bait" is the creation of Adrienne L. Powell, a student at St. Scholastica High School here. She entered her cake in a nationwide baking contest sponsored by the Pillsbury Mills, Inc., at the Waldorf-Astoria Hotel in New York earlier this month and she came off with a \$2,000 prize.

BESIDES THE \$500 for the Shrine, "Renny" has insisted that \$1,000 will go toward buying a new house for her family, \$100 to her school for building a new gym and \$50 to a fund for freshmen killed in a hotel collapse here.

The prize-winner's mother, Mrs. Madelyn Powell, said her daughter's decision to donate the money for the various projects was a decision she made on her own. Mrs. Powell added: "We believe that what you give away you get back. She's very generous girl and I'm very proud of her." Incidentally, \$280 of "Renny's" prize money went to Uncle Sam — she didn't give it to him, he took it for taxes.

Flowers have a way of saying exactly what's in your heart, perfectly expressing your sympathy at a time of sorrow. Blended Florals, 55 Lake Ave. East. Free of Free Parking.—BAKER 644—Adv.