

Vatican Paper

Czech Reds Violate Own Charter To Shackle Church

Vatican City—(NC)—The Czechoslovak Communist regime has violated its own constitution to shackle the Catholic Church in that country.

This answer was given by Osservatore Romano, Vatican City daily, to a Prague broadcast asserting that the Church and the clergy enjoyed religious freedom in that communist-ruled land.

THE PRAGUE broadcast tried to prove its point by having a "patriotic priest" cite the fact that the regime pays a salary to the clergy.

The salaries do not constitute freedom, Osservatore shot back. And they do not stem from any benevolence of the regime, but are rather "weapons of pressure and extortion."

The communist-adopted constitution of February 1948, Osservatore recalled, states that the Church and State are separate. But the regime has violated its very own constitution to bring the Church and the clergy under its domination.

THE VATICAN PAPER listed these violations:

The regime issued a decree making all parish priests government employees.

The regime set up a "government office for church affairs" as a supervisory body over all religious organizations.

The regime placed government-appointed commissioners in all diocesan offices, the administrative offices of the bishops.

The regime banned catechists' instructions to children in churches.

The regime threw the country's religious life into concentration camps.

The regime closed all the seminaries but two, which it placed under strict control.

The regime is forcing the clergy to support the Communist economic program and political objectives through public assemblies and even from the pulpit.

Osservatore also mentioned the imprisonment of members of the Czechoslovak hierarchy headed by Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague.

Returning to the question of the state salaries to the priests, Osservatore noted that the regime paid these only after it had seized the properties through which the Church traditionally supported itself.

HELPS MARYKNOLL ORPHANS



NEW YORK — Miss Lilian Shapiro, Jewish advertising executive, is helping the Maryknoll Sisters clinic in Korea to help Maryknoll Sisters general of the order here. Miss Shapiro was moved to help after she had read a letter in the New York Times from Ex-Ambassador William Bullitt, who praised the work of the Sisters whose clinic he had visited in Korea. Miss Shapiro enlisted the aid of her coreligionists as well as Catholics and Protestants to financially assist the work of the nuns. She and her friends also have "adopted" a Korean family of four and collect funds to maintain them. (BNS Photo)

3,500 GI's Attend Korean Field Mass

With the 25th U. S. Division Korea — (NC) — Some 3,500 American soldiers formed the outdoor congregation for a field Mass celebrated at the headquarters of this division on Easter Sunday forenoon.

It was the first field Mass that is Mass accompanied by full military ceremonial in the forward area since the beginning of the Korean war.

Father (Colonel) John J. Rafferty, Boise, Ida., was celebrant, with Father (Captain) Owen Connaughton of Mobile as deacon and Father Patrick Dawson, Columbian missionary, as sub-celebrant.

Six four-man color guards bearing the colors of the 14th, 7th and 35th regiments, and other units including tanks and engineers of this division led the procession of vested priests and soldier Mass servers from a hillside chapel on to the parade ground.

Behind the celebrant came a venerable but vigorous figure in purple vestments. It was 77-year-old Bishop Germalin Mousset, retired Vicar Apostolic of Tagbu and now superior of the Paris foreign missionaries in Korea. He has spent 54 active years in Korea now and is the oldest foreign missionary in the country.

Spring sunshine lit up a brilliant scene. The altar and sanctuary were on a white platform surrounded by flags. Thousands of bareheaded men knelt in front of it. On one side a long queue of soldiers waited to go to confession to white-robed Father (Major) Edward Dorsey, Dominican from Washington, D. C. An honor guard with gleaming helmets flanked the altar.

A choir of 35 voices, Korean Sisters and orphan girls from St. Paul's orphanage, Seoul, sang, accompanied by the 25th division band.

First U. S. Mass — Los Angeles — (NC) — Accompanied by their Superior General, five Sisters of the Pious Schools have arrived here from Cuba to establish the first community of The Sisterhood in this country. They will join the administrative staff of the new Our Lady Queen of Angels Junior Seminary at San Fernando.

NUNS VISIT U. S. CAPITOL



Washington, D. C. — Superiors of the Ursuline Nuns from various parts of the world are shown on the steps of the Capitol during a visit here as guests of Rep. Robert E. Workman (R-Ind.). The Sisters were in this country to attend the World Congress of Young Catholic Women at Manhattanville College, Purchase, N. Y. The delegation was headed by Mother Alfred Jombart and Mother Rafael Varnick, assistant Mother General of the order from Rome. Mrs. Elizabeth Warburton, wife of the Congressman, a graduate of the Ursuline Academy, Wilmington, Del., served as hostess to the nuns during their tour of the city. (BNS Photo)

Senate Gets Bill To Aid Card. Stepinac

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — A resolution calling upon President Eisenhower to intercede with the Yugoslav government for the release of Alojzius Cardinal Stepinac so that he may "go to the United States or elsewhere" for medical treatment was introduced in the Senate.

Sen. Paul H. Douglas (D-Ill.), sponsor of the measure, told the Senate that the treatment of the ailing prelate, who is confined to his native village of Krasno after serving five of a 16-year prison sentence on political charges, is and will continue to be detrimental to relations with the United States.

He recalled that the United States has given "extensive aid in food and military supplies" to Yugoslavia.

The Senator described as a "political move" the 1946 trial and sentencing of Cardinal Stepinac by a Yugoslav Communist court. The cardinal was released in 1951 and confined to Krasno on condition that he did not carry out any Church administrative functions.

"I do not believe you can find a worse case of persecution, of abuse of principles of justice, of trumped-up charges, phony witnesses and denial of even a minimum of civil rights than that contained in the record of Cardinal Stepinac's trial," Sen. Douglas added.

Cardinals Going To Rio Congress

Rio De Janeiro, Brazil — (NC) — Their Eminences Maurice Cardinal Feilin, Archbishop of Paris, and Teodosio Clemente Cardinal de Gouveia, Archbishop of Lourenco-Marques, have announced that they will take part in the 36th International Excharistic Congress to be held here in July, 1953.

Catholic Schools Facing Big Financial Problems

Chicago — (RNS) — Tremendous financial problems for Catholic schools were predicted by Sister Mary Josetta, R.S.M., dean of St. Xavier College here.

The burden will come when Catholic parishes in the United States find they have to add lay teachers, at regular teachers' salaries, to parish-school faculties, she said in an interview.

"SISTERS WHO teach in the city's Catholic schools receive \$30 to \$60 a month and their shelter," the nun-educator said. "Lay teachers will have to be paid about \$250 a month—and at that they are making a financial sacrifice, considering what public schools are paying."

Sister Mary Josetta is vice-chairman of an educational conference of the Sisters of Mercy in the United States.

One new Chicago school has six sister and four lay teachers on its faculty, she pointed out. The sisters cost the parish \$300 to \$360 a month, while the lay teachers cost \$1,000 a month.

"IT IS NOT that fewer women are entering religious vocations, but that we must draw from the generation when the birth rate was at its lowest to try to serve a peak birth rate," she said. "As a result, parish schools must use more lay teachers. But they find it hard to afford them."

Public hearings on the proposals in the near future have been promised by Rep. Edgar A. Jones (R, Ill.) of the House Judiciary Committee.

Tokyo Parish Wins 1,000 Converts

Tokyo — (NC) — Over 1,000 Japanese converts in seven years is the record growth of the young St. Anne's parish conducted here by three Benedictine nuns from St. John's Abbey, Collegeville, Minn.

Fr. Peter of St. Anne's, Father Hillsborough, O.S.A., reports that a highly successful avenue for their work is winning the friendship of the Japanese children. Father Hillsborough's letters, sent from his home at Sofia University, have attracted many educational requests.

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