

Cardinal Asks Prayers, Aid For Vietnamese Refugees

New York — (NC) — In a pastoral letter read at all Masses in the Archdiocese of New York Sunday, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman asked for fervent prayers and material help for the "solely afflicted" Vietnamese refugees who are clogging the roads trying to escape Red domination.

"WORD COMES to me from my brother-Bishops in Viet-Nam," said the New York prelate's pastoral, "that the tragic story of Poland, Hungary, Czechoslovakia, Korea and China is presently being re-enacted in South East Asia. Hundreds of thousands who prize freedom above the security their new Red masters hold out to them, have left their homes and field in the North to find asylum in South Viet Nam.

"Already the roads of that unhappily-divided country," continued the letter, "are clogged with refugees whose plight should elicit not only our sympathy but all the material help we can send as a people.

"Happily, our government, which has so generously come to the aid of other afflicted peoples, has taken swift steps to assist in the evacuation and resettlement of the Vietnamese by providing them with transportation, clothing and food.

"IN ADDITION it is consoling to know that through your generous response to the recent Bishop's Appeal we have been able to supplement American governmental subsidies by shipments of food and clothing which are already on the high seas.

"May I ask you," concluded Cardinal Spellman's letter to his flock, "to fervently pray for these sorely-afflicted people so that they will cooperate with God's grace and not succumb to despair as they face martyrdom. Let us pray that in their hour of trial they may be worthy of the most glorious traditions of the Christian faith.

Sees TV In All Parochial Schools Within Five Years

Chicago — (NC) — Within five years every parochial school will have a television set, two educators predicted here.

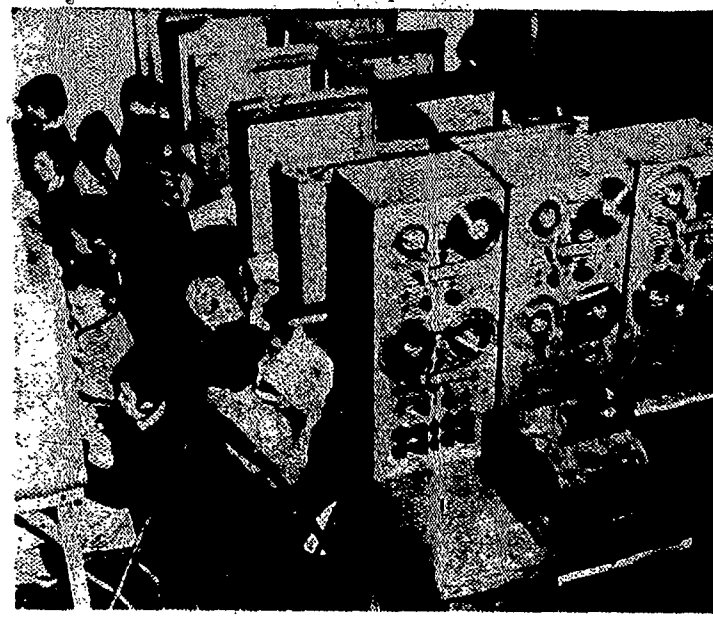
TV will relieve the strain on teachers of oversized classes and will enable hard-pressed school systems to do a better job, Father Louis Gales of St. Paul, Minn., told a meeting of Catholic Audio-Visual Educators here.

Father Michael Mullen of St. John's University, Brooklyn, also saw a growing role for TV in parochial schools but both priests warned that before TV achieves wide use in the classroom, more educational programs must be developed. Establishment of educational television stations will bring this about, they said.

Students In 'Electronic Classroom'



Chicago — Benedictine Sisters who teach at St. Chastity's Academy in Covington, La., show (Top Photo) how they make tape recordings of individual lessons for use by their pupils in the school's new "Electronic classroom." The experiment in audio-visual teaching, believed to be the first of its kind in the nation, was described at the third annual convention of the Catholic Audio-Visual Educators Association here. The "Electronic classroom" (shown in photo right) consists of wooden-paneled booths in which pupils with individual earphones listen to tape-recordings of their lessons previously prepared. Sister Mary Therese Brentano, O.S.B., principal of St. Chastity's and originator of the teaching method, describes it as "probably the greatest aid now available for taking care of individual differences in the classroom." (RNS photos).



Cardinal To Attend Labor Day Mass

Los Angeles — (NC) — His Eminence James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, will preside at the eighth annual Labor Day Mass on September 6, sponsored by the Catholic Labor Institute.

Later he will be guest of honor and will make closing remarks at a Labor Day breakfast at which Joseph A. Beirne, president, Communications Workers of America-CIO, and vice-president of the CIO will give the principal address.

Ancient Romans Saw 'Flying Saucers,' Magazine States

Vatican City — (NC) — The phenomenon of "flying saucers" which steals headlines today is really nothing new. The ancient Romans saw them at least 2,000 years ago.

That's the contention of an article appearing in the latest issue of *Latinitas*, a Latin-language quarterly published here. The article is written by Jacques Villella, a French scholar who delves into the writings of Pliny and Seneca to prove his point.

The writer says that the ancient Romans referred to the phenomena as "flying shields". He relates that Pliny the Elder took note of these "flying shields" in his encyclopedia "Natural History" and stated that a large number of eyewitnesses had seen them.

Seneca the Latinist writer states, referred to the phenomena as flashing shields which move through space.

Latinitas is dedicated to promoting and encouraging the study of Latin.

Keep Public Advised, Prelate Tells Nuns

Cincinnati — (NC) — Nuns engaged in teaching and nursing should keep the public informed about their work because it is "public business," Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati said here.

"In many instances," the Archbishop said, "operation of the Catholic school system saves the community considerable tax money, and local leaders of industry should be appraised of this."

Dealer Makes \$300 Choice, Clears Out Magazine Racks

Cleveland — (NC) — It represented a loss of about \$300 a month, but George Heaney has closed out the book racks in his local delicatessen. He was tired of the job of "censoring" the books and magazines, which poured into his store.

With his wife he had been doing the job he thinks the publishers and distributors ought to be doing — weeding out the fill. He found that at least one out of four publications, delivered to his store wasn't fit even for adults.

So Mr. Heaney decided the money from the book racks just wasn't worth the headaches. His book stock is now limited to six paperback books by Father James Keller, Founder of the Christophers — books that will do people good.

Flight From Red Vietnam

Exhausted Nuns Reach Hanoi Safely After 8 Days Journey By Rowboat

By REV. PATRICK O'CONNOR (Hanoi By Airmail) — Seven exhausted nuns arrived here after eight days journey by rowboat from Communist-held territory and eight years under Communist rule.

There were eight when they started from Thanh Hoa, some 80 miles south, on July 20. One of their number, Mother Marie Sainte Catherine, nee Emma Harris, from Albany, Australia, of the Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions, died on the way. She was superior of their Thanh Hoa convent.

Four were French Carmelites from the Carmel of the Holy Family in Thanh Hoa. The 72-year-old prioress, Mother Marguerite Marie de l'Enfant Jesus was in the group.

THE SISTERS of Notre Dame des Missions included the provincial for Indochina, Mother Marie Jean-Theophane, native of Chabons, Isere, France, and Sister Marie Sainte Floride McCarthy, native of Auckland, N.Z.

Their great concern was for their Vietnamese Sisters whom they had to leave behind 16 Carmelites and 11 Sisters of Notre Dame des Missions. They hope that the Vietnam authorities will allow these Sisters to leave now, in accordance with the cease-fire agreement. (It provides that each side must permit and aid persons who wish to leave its zone to do so.)

In Thanh Hoa, the Notre Dame des Missions Sisters conducted a school for girls (more than 300 pupils), a hospital (40 beds) and a dispensary that treated several hundred patients daily.

THE FOREIGN Sisters never went out, they said, and had little direct contact with the Vietnam officials for a long time. The fact that they are an international community was a safeguard, they said.

They had no serious difficulties until the beginning of 1953, when the Vietnam insisted on having Marxist-materialism taught in the school. This the Sisters refused, with the result that their school had to close down.

The Sisters had no chaplain since October 21, 1953. Neither had the Carmelites.

As they were deprived of Mass and the Sacraments, could not teach and several were in falling health, the nuns asked last March for permission to leave. On July 19 they

were told to be ready next day. They had hoped to leave from Samson, on the coast, with the French prisoners of war, July 14. Then their journey would be only a matter of hours by sea. This request was refused.

THEY WERE PUT on a small boat with a curved piece of thin matting as the only shelter, and sent by river. They traveled by night and spent the day moored under the blazing sun. They had no room to lie down. They could only kneel under the matting. Heat and fatigue made it hard for them to take food.

Mother M. Ste Catherine, who was recovering from serious illness, became worse on the stifling journey. She died on the morning of July 26 as the boat halted some miles below Hung Yen, the beginning of the area

then held by French-Vietnamese forces.

"She offered all her sufferings for her Sister in Thanh Hoa," said Mother M. Jean-Theophane. "She had a very peaceful death."

The Christians in a nearby village gave a coffin for her.

NEXT DAY THE Sisters walked into Hung Yen. Here they found priest, Vietnamese Sisters of St. Dominic and many Catholics.

On July 28, after a Solemn Requiem Mass, Mother M. Ste Catherine was buried in the garden of the Sisters' orphanage in Hung Yen.

The surviving Sisters were flown by French army plane to Hanoi.

Mother M. Ste Catherine's three other sisters in the Notre Dame des Missions community,

No Tickets To Home

Carmelite Nuns, Refugees From Vietnam, Stranded

Saigon — (NC) — Two refugee communities of Carmelite nuns from north Vietnam face the problem of reaching new homes, in France and Canada.

Thirteen Carmelites from Hanoi and six from Bulchu — already occupied by the communist Vietnam — are here, crowded in with the 21 Carmelites of Saigon. French army planes flew them here.

The new home awaiting the Hanoi nuns is the Carmel of Fontenay-le-Comte in La Vendee, France. The Bulchu nuns will take refuge in Montreal.

That is, if they can go.

CARMELES HAVE no travel budgets. These nuns, foreign and Vietnamese, expected to live and die in their austere monasteries in Indochina. All the charity they needed was enough to let them live in poverty in Vietnam.

Some of them came to this country 30, 40, even 50 years ago, and never intended to leave it. The only passports they ever bothered about were spiritual passports to Heaven.

Now the communist victory in north Vietnam and Geneva obliges them to set off halfway across the world as refugees.

All the Carmelite convents in Indochina trace their origin to the Carmel of Lisieux, to which St. Therese, the Little Flower,

belonged. Saigon Carmel, founded from Lisieux in 1861, was the first in the Far East. St. Therese volunteered for Hanoi.

THE HANOI NUNS here are six Vietnamese and seven foreigners. One is a U.S. citizen, Mother Alice of the Child Jesus, from Lowell, Mass.

These six had been sent to Hanoi before the communists occupied Bulchu. Sixteen were still in the Bulchu Carmel when the communists took the town. One is the prioress, Mother Mary of the Rosary, Canadian; the others are Vietnamese.

UNDER THE GENEVA agreement, these 16 nuns should be free to leave the communist zone. A Vietnamese postulant is joining the Hanoi group.

So the total should be 22 refugee Carmelites for Montreal and 14 for France. That makes 36 international travel problems for two communities that sought only to live in prayer and penance within the cloisters of their mission Carmels.

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