

Chaplains Protest

Red Vietminh Ban On Care Of P. W.'s

Hanoi, North Vietnam (NC)—Three French chaplains—two Catholics and one Protestant, and all captured at Dien Bien Phu—made a joint protest to Vietminh prison camp authorities against measures blocking them from ministering to other prisoners.

THE CHAPLAINS—Father Yvan Heinrich of Rheims, Father Michel Trinquand of Meaux, and Protestant Father Flavius Tissot—presented a signed protest to the Vietminh officials on the eve of their liberation. They had made fruitless requests and protests earlier in their captivity, they told this correspondent.

In their protest, the text of which was released here, the chaplains said they "felt bound to express their regrets and their protests because they were put into cells and cut-off from the other prison camps and thus it was impossible for them to exercise their ministry."

The protest quoted the Geneva Convention of 1949 which provides that military chaplains in detention should have every liberty to discharge their spiritual functions for the prisoners of their side.

When Father Heinrich quoted this provision of the Geneva Convention to his captors, he was told that the Vietminh would accept such international conventions only if it suited their political objectives.

A thousand men died without the Sacraments in prison camps through the Vietminh held priests, both army chaplains and missionaries whom they would not allow to give spiritual care to the prisoners.

TWO DAYS before releasing the chaplains in the prisoner exchange, the Vietminh asked them to write their impressions. The result was the chaplains' joint protest. It was definitely not what the Vietminh wanted.

260,000 At Marian Year Rally



Chicago—A huge living cross is formed during a procession at a Marian Year rally in Soldier Field here. All previous attendance records in the 25-year history of the arena were shattered as an estimated 260,000 persons tried to jam into the stadium. Police officials said 150,000 crowded into the lakefront arena, while another 110,000 were jammed outside. Participating in the procession were Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, and half a dozen bishops, 100 monks and some 1,000 priests. It was believed to be one of the largest religious processions in Chicago history. Cardinal Stritch celebrated Mass on a 48-foot altar in the field and led the thousands of faithful in a recitation of the Marian prayer composed by Pope Pius XII. (ENS Photo)

260,000 See Chicago Rites

Chicago (NC)—The greatest crowd in the history of huge Soldier Field stadium, 260,000 strong, took part in a Marian Year tribute on the Feast of Mary's nativity.

The arena became a vast cathedral as His Eminence Samuel Cardinal Stritch, Archbishop of Chicago, celebrated a pontifical Mass, the first outdoor evening Mass in the history of the archdiocese.

AT LEAST half of the immense crowd had to stand outside the stadium with many kneeling on the pavement, joining in with the 130,000 who squeezed into the stadium in the recitation of the rosary. Loud speakers outside the arena carried the ceremonies to them.

The Marian tribute smashed all crowd records according to police. The previous record of crowd was 200,000 people for Holy Name night at the World Eucharistic Congress in 1926. The recent World Council of Churches meeting drew 125,000. "Tonight," said Cardinal Stritch in his sermon, "we have part of our celebration at Mary's year."

Attendance Tops Roosevelt Rally

Chicago (ENS)—An previous attendance record in the 25-year history of Soldier Field here were shattered as an estimated 260,000 Roman Catholics attended a Marian Year rally at the stadium.

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Cardinal Mindszenty Will Be Released Soon, Report Says

Vienna (NC)—His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, imprisoned Primate of Hungary, will be released soon, according to a report which circulated here among delegates to the 43rd Congress of the Interparliamentary Union.

AT A RECEPTION in the Hungarian legation here, Sator Ronal, speaker of the Hungarian national assembly, is quoted as saying that the official announcement of Cardinal Mindszenty may be expected soon.

Other Hungarian delegates stated privately that the decision to release the Cardinal had been made, but the conditions of his release have not yet been worked out.

It is understood that the regime would like to handle the Cardinal's release in such a way that it will favorably influence the country's farmers and spur the lagging food production program.

ARRESTED IN December 1948, Cardinal Mindszenty was "tried" and sentenced to life imprisonment in February 1949 for alleged treason. He has frequently been reported in ill health.

Informal conversations between Polish and other foreign delegates at the meeting threw no light on the fate of another imprisoned Cardinal behind the Iron Curtain. He is His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, arrested a year ago.

The impression gathered from conversations with Polish delegates is that Cardinal Wyszynski's place of confinement is a closely guarded secret known by only the highest Red officials.

Adult Converts Reported In South Korea

Seoul, Korea (NC)—A total of 14,449 adult converts were baptized in South Korea during the past twelve months. Meanwhile, another 22,776 men and women are receiving instruction in preparation for baptism.

These facts were disclosed in the annual report of the South Korean hierarchy which stressed the comparatively high percentage of conversions in a country where Catholics at present number 389,301 out of a total population of 24,000,000.

ACCORDING to the report, there are 142 parishes in South Korea with an average of 190 catechumens in each. It said that the large numbers of converts and prospective converts clearly indicated the great opportunities for the Catholic Church in this country, if only enough missionaries were made available to spread the Faith.

Declaring that missionary work at present is in the hands of 56 missionaries and 189 Korean priests, the report said this number is too few to care for the present Catholic population, much less to spread the Gospel among the 99 per cent of Koreans who are still outside the Church.

THE PRINCIPAL errors listed by the editorial were: erroneous concepts of the priesthood and of matrimony; of the Mystical Body; of the nature of the Church's teaching authority; and of her competence in the social and political field.

This movement appears even more dangerous, the article said, in so far as its patrons' present teachings under a seductive garb, teaching has been dictated by the necessity of calling problems of the day to the attention of the hierarchical authorities.

The editorial recalled the fact that Pope Pius XII voiced concern over the matter in a special allocution to the Cardinals, Archbishops and Bishops at the time of the canonization of St. Pius X, last May.

DECLARING THAT recently what is called lay theology has sprung up and spread to various places, and a new class of lay theologian has emerged which claims to be 'sui juris' the Pope warned that "there has never been, there is not now, and there never will be in the Church, a legitimate teaching authority of the laity withdrawn by God from the authority, guidance and watchfulness of the sacred teaching authority (of the Church)."

The Holy Father went on to say: "Everyone can see how great a danger of confusion and error there is in this 'lay theology' and how it will begin to be taught by men clearly unqualified for the task, or even by deceitful and fraudulent men, whom St. Paul described: 'They will come when men... always itching to hear something fresh, will provide themselves with a continuous succession of new teachers, as the whirl takes them, turning a deaf ear to the truth, bestowing their attention on fables instead' (cf. II Tim. 4, 3-4).

MORE ACTIVE participation of the laity in the life and work of the Church is a phenomenon peculiar to these times, the Observatore editorial said. It is mainly due to Catholic Action and to the impetus of the Pope's theme which has repeatedly emphasized the importance of the laity's collaboration in the work of the hierarchy.

However, dangerous exaggerations have developed, the editorial continues, "which have transformed zeal into excesses at times filled with elements prejudicial to the very life of the Church."

Marriage, the editorial said, in giving examples of some of these errors, is made to "appear in a light of insane mysticism, as an almost indispensable complement of human personality." The Mystical Body is considered merely a gathering of the faithful for the liturgical co-offering of the Sac-

Vatican Newspaper Scores Errors Of Lay Theologians

Vatican City (NC)—Lay theologians have taught the point of "dangerous exaggerations" and fallen into serious errors injurious to the very life of the Church, a front-page editorial in Observatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, warned.

The article was not signed, but it occupied a prominent place usually reserved for important comments, and it was described by the Vatican press office as "authoritative."

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rific, which means limiting the action of the Church to a strictly sacred place only.

ANOTHER ERROR is that, whether in dogmatic or disciplinary questions, the Church cannot take any definite action without long and profound discussion between the laity as well as the clergy. This, said the editorial, made itself felt at the time of the definition of the Dogma of the Assumption.

Others, Observatore pointed out, have drawn a sharp distinction between the temporal and the spiritual, and recognize subjection to the Church only in the purely spiritual field, while insisting on the independence of the laity in other fields. "No account is taken of doctrinal implications that concern the competence of the Church also in not a few political and social problems," the editorial declared.

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Red Terror Bared In Polish Decree

Warsaw (NC)—The brutal coldness with which the Polish Communist regime is taking over the establishments of religious communities is seen in a decree published in the official gazette teaching here.

THE DECREE, disseminated the Sisters of St. Joseph's Hospital at Kamieniec, Zabkowice, and took over all their belongings there. It made no provision for the nuns, nor did it provide any compensation.

Signed by Premier Boleslaw Bierut, the decree read: "The State will take over the social, health and establishment known as St. Joseph's Hospital at Kamieniec, Zabkowice, the property of the Sisters of Charles Borromeo.

"THE WHOLE movable property is to become state property without compensation. Immovable property will be used by the state free of charge.

"The state is to take over all assets and liabilities of the Sisters. "The Hospital will be transferred to the National People's Council of the county of Zabkowice.

"The government's decree comes into force on the day of its promulgation."

Shrimp Trawlers Blessed At Festival

Morgantown, La. (RNS)—Twenty shrimp trawlers were blessed by the Rev. Henry Holloman, pastor of Sacred Heart church, as the highlight of the 18th annual shrimp festival here. The ceremony was conducted from the deck of the flagship, Miss Liberty. Some 10,000 persons witnessed the event.

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