

Reds Seen Stifling Church In Slovakia

Vienna.—(RNS)—All of the 331 Roman Catholic monasteries in Slovakia have been confiscated by the Communist government, which also has closed down all of the Church's 1,800 elementary and 77 secondary schools in the province and taken over its 11 universities.

This was reported here by the Austrian Catholic Press Service in a survey of the Church situation in Slovakia.

Approximately half of the 4,000 members of religious orders attached to the monasteries

and educational institutions are working at slave labor camps or in government-operated hospitals, the report said. It added that 330 priests affiliated with various orders have been concentrated in several monasteries, set aside for the purpose, where they are closely confined.

The agency also said that 313 priests were presently in jail. Some 130 of the province's 1,245 parishes are entirely without pastoral service of any kind, the survey showed.

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

Bishop Fulton J. Sheen will appear on a special telecast on Sunday afternoon, December 19, at 3 P.M. EST., over NBC-TV.

We never send out a Christmas card, though we read Mass on Christmas Day for all of our friends. Thus the angels bring to you something rather than paper. On the other hand thousands of people send us Christmas cards. May we ask that this year instead of a card, you send a dime (or what you would pay for a card) and not that there be no letter sent in return, in order that the whole dime may be given to the poor of the world.

We are full of the prospect of what the lepers in the Fiji Islands, the hungry in Bombay and the suffering in Korea and Vietnam will receive from the coming of gifts, which is made from rags, into clothing for people who live in rags. Do not disappoint us the Blessed Mother was disappointed when full of expectancy she was certain that Bethlehem would offer her an inn—only to have it turned to an out. We do not want anything for ourselves. We are the servants of the missionaries and the poor of the world. If you will just send to us the equivalent of what you would spend on paper to wrap gifts, then hungry children could be wrapped in clothes.

We beg this in the name of Him, who though rich became poor for our sakes, that through His poverty we might be rich. Our Christmas is already merry because we believe in Christ, the Son of God, but the Christmas of the millions of millions of pagans is not merry because they have neither Mary nor Christ. May your angel inspire you to send this dime, or more, to us and we will send it to the Holy Father, the Vicar of the Pope of Bethlehem.

GOD LOVE YOU to M. E. "This \$4.26 was raised by the children in my Braille Class. The collection was started by a little Jewish girl; she carries a rosary with her at all times, and her greatest desire is that she may become a Catholic." . . . to D. C. "I saved this \$3 from my candy allowance, in thanksgiving for a good home and a good mother and father — also for getting a good report card." . . . to A. S. for \$25. "A dollar for each pound I lost while on a diet." . . . to P. K. and friends. "Our club raised this \$5.70 for the Missions by selling chances on pins that we made." . . . to A. H. D. for \$25. "In thanksgiving to St. Joseph for helping me close a certain contract." . . . to W. P. L. "Enclosed is \$16, saved for the Missions by putting away a dime a day."

GIFT SUGGESTION: Here's an idea for a Christmas present that someone will thank you for 365 days a year. In honor of the Christ Child who came to bring peace and good will to ALL men, give a WORLD MISSION ROSARY. When you say this rosary, your prayers are offered for ALL men, ALL over the world. For a \$2.00 offering and your request, we will send you one blessed by us.

Cut out this column, pay your sacrifice to it and send it to the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 364 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, New York, or your Diocesan Director, Very Rev. Magr. John S. Randall, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

Cardinal: 'Godly Nations Under Red Death Order'

Hartford, Conn. — (RNS) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman warned here that "every nation that puts its trust in God is under a death sentence from Communism."

He said that Communist leaders have no intention of "existing peacefully with us" and they "mean to be our masters and then to crush knowledge of God and his moral law from the minds of our children."

CARDINAL Spellman spoke during a ceremony at which he bestowed the pallium upon Archbishop Henry J. O'Brien of Hartford as the symbol of the latter's office. In September, 1953, the diocese of Hartford was elevated to a Metropolitan See by Pope Pius XII and Bishop O'Brien named archbishop of the province.

In his talk, Cardinal Spellman said the Catholic Church was suffering through a "campaign of persecution and vilification which has no parallel in history."

QUOTING FROM Scripture, the prelate continued: "The floods lift up their voice, the floods lift up their waves. The waves of the sea are mighty and rage horribly, but yet the Lord, who dwelleth on high, is mightier."

Then he said: "Let those who so confidently proclaim Communism as the irresistible wave of the future think upon that — and let them also remember that if they insist on seeing Communism as a wave, then one insistent voice will reply that the Catholic Church is founded on a rock and against that rock many mighty waves have flung themselves in the past, only to be broken in an angry seething at its base."

White Slavery Ban Demanded By Indians

Calcutta, India — (NC) — The All-India Moral and Social Hygiene Conference, passed a resolution at its meeting here urging immediate enactment of national legislation to suppress white slavery.

The conference urged authorities to adopt a system of licensing and supervising institutions for women and children, including marriage bureaus, so as to prevent their exploitation. The resolution on white slavery took on added importance because of recent statistics released on the subject. The Calcutta Vigilance Society issued a report stating that there are 45,000 brothels known to exist in that city. The number in Bombay is reported to be 30,000.

READY FOR CHRISTMAS



Buffalo, N.Y. — This oil painting showing three altar boys getting ready for a Christmas service was done by Albin B. B. an artist here, who is using the illustration on his personal greeting cards. The cards are being printed by the Franciscan Sisters of Allegany, N.Y. The painting shows two older youths helping a younger one get ready by combing his hair and sewing a top button on his cassock. In the background is a stained-glass window depicting the Nativity. (RNS Photo)

Lisbon Cardinal Condemns Alleged Marian Apparitions

Lisbon, Portugal — (NC) — Church authorities here voiced the strongest disapproval of alleged "apparitions" of the Blessed Virgin which each month continue to attract thousands of people.

The stern disapproval came in a decree issued by His Eminence Manuel Cardinal Goncalves Cerejeira, Patriarch of Lisbon. The decree forbade all religious acts in connection with the alleged apparitions at a village north of here. At the same time it decried the "apparitions" of the Virgin of the Fatima, but all who participate in such services, or publicly defend or promote them.

An earlier instruction by the patriarchate had warned all the priests not to take part in any religious ceremonies connected with the alleged apparitions.

The "apparitions" center about an 11-year-old boy, Carlos Alberto Selva Delgado, who reported the first "apparition" on May 16 of this year. He claims that the "apparitions" have occurred on the 16th day of each month at Asselceira, a small village halfway between here and Fatima.

JUST BEFORE the supposed August apparition, the boy — small and emaciated for his age

Is This Socialism?

Plan Gives States Control Of Federal Aid To Schools

New York—(NC)—If Federal funds were allotted to States for public education needs, and if these funds were based on the overall number of school-age children, the State would have to decide what education is private and what is public.

This was said here by Beardsley Ruml, noted economist and head of the public education finance committee of the National Citizens Commission for Public Schools.

MR. RUMI made the statement at a press conference called to announce the release of the committee's report, "Financing Public Education in the Decade Ahead."

Speaking on Federal aid to schools, Mr. Ruml, originator of the pay-as-you-go income tax plan, said funds might be granted to States on the basis of so much money for every child of school-age (5 to 17 years).

Asked by an N.C.W.C. News Service reporter if this meant that private and parochial school pupils would be counted in the number used by the government as the basis for its allotment, Mr. Ruml replied affirmatively. He was then asked whether this meant that Federal aid would go to both public and private schools.

MR. RUMI ANSWERED that the funds would be allocated for public education, but it would be up to the State to decide which education is private and which education is public.

Reminded that this decision would be important in a State like Rhode Island where more than 90 per cent of the youngsters are in private schools, Mr. Ruml said the problem had come up in the committee's deliberations, but the only solution they reached was that it be left to the States to decide.

promised that the Blessed Virgin would give all a "sign" during that "apparition." The disappointed crowd saw no "sign."

However, this has failed to dampen the enthusiasm of supporters of the "apparitions." Last November 16, an estimated 6,000 gathered around the grove of bushes on which the boy claims to see the Virgin every month.

A loudspeaker was placed in a nearby olive tree and a woman led the recitation of the Rosary. During the second mystery she asked all men to remove their hats because the boy signaled that the time had come for the "apparition."

AFTER ANOTHER ten minutes the youth's childish voice came over the loudspeaker saying that the virgin would "appear" again on December 16. He also predicted that there would be "peace" in Goa, Portuguese India, "within three days."

Australia Catholics Get Tax Relief

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — Australian Catholics taxpayers will get substantial relief from a new tax policy implemented by the Federal government by which gifts for the acquisition, construction and maintenance of school or college buildings are regarded as allowable deductions for income tax purposes.

This follows the enactment of amending legislation to income tax laws by the Commonwealth parliament recently. Income tax returns for the year ending June 30, 1955, will be the first affected by the new policy.

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