

# Communist Persecution Strikes 186 Members Of Hierarchy

(N.C.W.C. News Service) Communist contempt for religion has brought death, imprisonment, expulsion and suffering to at least 186 Bishops and other heads of Sees throughout the world.

An exhaustive survey by the N.C.W.C. NEWS SERVICE shows that four Cardinals, 33 Archbishops, 116 Bishops and 33 Monsignors — the latter serving as Prefects, Administrators or Visitators Apostolic — have been victims of communist persecution. They have been murdered, jailed, expelled from their place of labor or otherwise hindered from exercising their office.

THESE PERSECUTED prelates symbolize the suffering of Catholics throughout the communist world for whom U. S. Catholics will hold a special day of prayer on December 26.

These modern confessors and martyrs dot almost every part of the communist realm. They lie in humble graves or languish in Red dungeons. From Czechoslovakia in the West to Korea in the Far East.

Despite its impressive number of names, the N.C.W.C. list does not mention every Bishop or head of See who has ever suffered at Red hands. It names only those who have been murdered, imprisoned, expelled, forced into or kept in exile, or otherwise permanently barred from performing their episcopal duties.

It does not include the names of vicars general who have suffered Red persecution after they were removed to take over the duties of a diocese following the communist abrogation of the bishop.

THESE NO LIST contains the



**CARDINAL STEPINAC** names of 13 American-born prelates. Ten suffered persecution in China; two in Red Korea and one in Rumania.

The list shows that twenty-eight Bishops were murdered, executed or died of communist imprisonment or brutality.

Forty-eight Bishops and other heads of Sees are in jail, slave labor camps or under some form of arrest.

Eighteen prelates are in exile or have died in exile.

Eighty-five prelates have been expelled by the Reds from the land of their labor. Some of these have died since their expulsion.

Seven other prelates are barred from their sees or in some other way prevented from discharging their office.



**CARDINAL WYSZYNSKI** bishop of Peking — 18 Archbishops, 88 Bishops and 24 Monsignors. Eighty-four were expelled, five have died of various causes, five are still in Red dungeons, three are in exile, one is barred from his See and another is impeded in the exercise of his office.

Ten of Mao Tse-Tung's victims are Americans. Five American-born Bishops and three Monsignors have been expelled. Bishop Francis X. Ford, a Brooklyn Maryknollite, died in prison.

Chowson, an American from Lindsay, Neb., is still in prison.

**SOVIET RUSSIA** ranks second on the persecutor's list with 29 victims. This includes not only Russian proper but also the three Baltic countries (Estonia, Latvia and Lithuania) and the large slice of the Polish-Ukrainian territory gobbled up by the Kremlin during and after World War II.

Other countries on the list of persecutors are Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Communist North Korea, Poland, Rumania and Yugoslavia.

Albania is responsible for the execution of two Bishops and the torturous death of an Archbishop in prison.

Bulgaria has one Bishop in prison and another either in prison or executed.

Czechoslovakia appears on the list with one Archbishop and five Bishops under arrest, six Bishops in prison and one Archbishop isolated in his residence.

In Estonia, one Archbishop has died as a Red prisoner.

**HUNGARY**, one Cardinal — His Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty — the Hungarian primate — and one Archbishop are in prison. One Bishop was killed by the Reds, one died in prison and another is hindered in the exercise of his office.

Two Bishops — one of them American Bishop Patrick J. Byrne, M.C. — have died in prison in Red Korea. Another is in jail. The late of another American — Msgr. Patrick T. Brennan of Chicago — is not definitely known but it is generally assumed that he died as a prisoner of the Korean Reds.

Two Bishops from Latvia are in exile.

Seven Lithuanian prelates have fallen victims to communist hatred for religion. Two Bishops have died in jail, one was murdered by the Reds, one is still in prison and an Archbishop and two Bishops are in exile.

**POLAND**, one Cardinal — His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, the Polish Primate — an Archbishop, five Bishops and one Monsignor are under arrest. Two Bishops have been sentenced to prison terms. One Bishop is confined to a monastery.

All active members of the hierarchy have been eliminated in Rumania. American Archbishop Gerald P. O'Hara was expelled while serving as regent of the papal nunciature. One Archbishop and three Bishops died in prison as a result of prison rigors. Six Bishops are still in jail, one is under arrest.

An Archbishop and a Monsignor have died in exile from Russia. One Bishop and three Monsignors are still in exile. Two Monsignors were last known to be in prison.

From the Ukraine, one Archbishop, three Bishops and a Monsignor are in Red prisons or slave labor camps. One Archbishop and four Bishops died under Red mistreatment. One Archbishop is in exile.

**YUGOSLAVIA**, one Cardinal — His Eminence Alojz Cardinal Stepinac, Archbishop of Zagreb — is under semi-arrest. One Archbishop and one Bishop are in exile. One Bishop has died in exile. One Bishop is in prison. Two were murdered under Tito and another Bishop is critically ill as the result of brutal Red beatings.

There are now six Bishops and an Apostolic Delegate under communist rule in north Vietnam. None is at the present time known to be in jail or completely barred from performing his office.

## Prayer Day For Persecuted

Next Sunday, December 26, has been set aside by the American Bishops as a day of prayer for the persecuted Church. Bishop Kennedy offers the following prayer composed by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman to be recited from the pulpit after all the Masses on next Sunday:

## Prayer For Our Persecuted Brethren

**WE BESECH THEE, O God, be mindful of Thy Holy Catholic and Apostolic Church, established from one end of the world to the other, which Thou has purchased with the adorable blood of Christ; give power to Thy Church and strengthen Her until the consummation of time.**

**REMEMBER, O GOD, those who are being judged unjustly, and those condemned to prison and exile and bitter slavery, and those suffering affliction, want and distress for the sake of Thy name. Remember, O God, all Thy people suffering under godless tyranny, and shed Thy mercy ever all, fulfilling their prayers unto salvation. And glorify those who have given their lives as a sacrifice to Thee.**

**FOR THOU ART, O God, the Help of the helpless, the Hope of the despairing, the Haven of the troubled, and to Thee we offer glory together with Thy only begotten Son and Thy most Holy and life-giving Spirit, now and always, forever, and ever. Amen.**

## Guadalupe Juan Diego's Grave Found Near Basilica

Mexico City — (RNS) — The long-lost grave of Juan Diego, the Indian involved in apparitions of the Virgin near here in 1631 that led to establishment of the famed shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe, has been rediscovered.

Two reporters, Adrian Atencio and Hector Ibarra Luna, located the grave after devoting years of their spare time to research on the life of Juan Diego during which they followed up every fact they could unearth.

**THE DISCOVERY** carried them to the little town where he was born, to the parish church, at which he worshipped, the town where he lived with his uncle, Juan Bernardino, and many other places. But the grave finally was found within sight of the great Basilica of Guadalupe — unnoticed by the millions who have made pilgrimages to the shrine in the past four centuries.

It was in a crypt under the sacristy of the little parish church of Guadalupe, alongside the Basilica, that the journalists found Juan's remains and those of his uncle, who, according to Church historians, was cured by the Virgin of a serious illness.

**A MOVIE** is under way here now, the introduction of Juan Diego's beatification cause. Some weeks ago, Father Lauro Lopez Beltran of the Basilica made a special trip to Rome in this connection.

Church historians relate that Juan Diego, then 35, was hurrying down Tepeyac hill, three miles from here, to hear Mass in Mexico City on Dec. 8, 1531, when the Virgin appeared talking to him, to inform the Bishop that a temple was to be built where she stood. She appeared to him at the same spot that evening and again on the following day, Sunday.

The Bishop at first was unimpressed but later asked Juan to obtain a sign which the Indian was not immediately able to do because he was busy taking care of his uncle who was critically ill.

**AT DAYBREAK** on Tuesday, Juan ran to get a priest for his uncle but, in order to avoid the complication of possibly seeing the apparition again, took a different route. The Virgin found him, however, promised to visit

## Feeney Followers Sentenced in Tampa

Tampa, Fla. — (RNS) — Four followers of the Rev. Leonard Feeney excommunicated Roman Catholic priest, was fined \$500 each here pending appeal of their sentence of 100 days in jail for selling religious books without a license.

The men, who came here from Father Feeney's headquarters in Cambridge, Mass., describe themselves as "brothers of the Slaves of the Immaculate Heart of Mary" with the unrooked priest as their superior.

They were sentenced by Municipal Judge Bob Johnson to pay a \$500 fine or serve the jail term after police officers testified they had approached Roman Catholics on the streets and attempted to sell copies of a book entitled "Saints to Know and Love." City Prosecutor John Twomey charged that the men had "misrepresented" themselves as agents of the Catholic Church in their sales efforts.

The men charged were Phillip Swain, 27; John J. Martin, 27; Thomas M. Semnot, 32, and Albanias Ewaskin, 38 all of Cambridge. Two other followers of Father Feeney, Brendan J. McGovern and Ignatius Pacardo, were arrested with the other four but were not arraigned.

## Aglipayans Are Heretics But They Remember Mary

Zambales, Philippines — (NC) — "Members of the heretical Aglipayan sect here have fallen away from the Church, but there's no doubt that Mary's still their Mother."

Columban Father John Griffin made this remark when a statue of Our Lady of the Rosary was brought on a visit to this province, a stronghold of the Philippine Aglipayan heresy.

**THE HERESY** started in 1903 when its leader, Gregorio Aglipay, a Catholic priest, seceded from the Church.

Hundreds of members of the religious sect were seen entering the Church and participating in the processions honoring the Virgin.

Two notable conversions were reported during the tour of the image, known to be miraculous in the archipelago.

An Aglipayan, dying of cancer, who had been bitterly anti-Catholic all his life and who had resisted the efforts of his niece, a legionnaire of Mary, to bring about his conversion, called for a priest. He died within the Church, after receiving the last Sacraments.

**ANOTHER MAN**, a Protestant and mason, for whose conversion his relatives had long stormed heaven, also died peacefully within the Church.

Zambales province, staffed by Columbanas, has no church dedicated to Our Lady. Father Griffin explained: "But the visit of Our Lady's image to all the parishes has shown that she is not forgotten even among those who have strayed outside the one true fold."

## Cardinal Spellman Visits Father

Boston — (RNS) — His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York and Military Vicar of Roman Catholics in the U. S. Armed Forces, made his traditional pre-Christmas visit to his 90-year-old father here before returning to New York to enplane for his Far Eastern tour.

The Cardinal will spend the Christmas season with American troops in the Far East for the fourth consecutive year. During his 28-day tour, he is scheduled to visit military installations in Alaska, Japan, Korea, Okinawa, Formosa, Hong Kong, Manila and Hawaii.

By the time he returns to the United States on Jan. 15th, Cardinal Spellman will have traveled about 26,000 miles.

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