

## Government Seeks Release For Red-Held Americans

Washington (NC) — Government officials said here the administration is "still pressing" for release of the remaining Americans imprisoned by the Chinese Reds. This includes 15 missionaries, priests and nuns from the United States.

A State Department spokesman said that the number of Americans now jailed by the Reds is 63. This includes 11 more nuns, 41 civilians, and 11 Navy and Coast Guard personnel about whom the Chinese have no information.

The best information indicates that 12 of the priests are definitely in prison and that the remaining three are probably jailed. One of those imprisoned is Bishop Ambrose Pinger, O.F.M., a Franciscan from Lindsay, Neb.

STATE DEPARTMENT press officer Henry Suydam said that Franklin Gowen, U.S. Consul General in Geneva, Switzerland, has renewed his contact with Red China's consul general there.

It was at Geneva that the United States was first informed of the then-impending release of the four jet pilots, now returned to the United States.

ME SUYDAM said that Consul General Gowen has reviewed the plight of the other Americans still held. "He has renewed his request for information that had been promised on all cases of Americans imprisoned or otherwise detained," the press officer stated.

"The State Department is interested in the cases of all Americans of all categories," Mr. Suydam added.

The Reds are "detaining" five Jesuits, three Dominicans, three Franciscans, one Marist, a Divine Word Missioner and two Passionist priests.

The most recent indication that the 15 are alive was the acceptance by the Chinese Red Cross of a list of Americans to be delivered food parcels. The Chinese accepted a State Department list of those imprisoned without adding or taking away any names.

## Catholic Actionists Plan Rio Meet

Rio De Janeiro (NC) — Delegates from various Catholic action organizations throughout North and South America will meet here to discuss the responsibility of laymen in the crisis of the modern world.

Their sessions will be held in conjunction with the 36th International Eucharistic Congress, which will be held in Rio from July 17 to 24.

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## Indians Serve As Altar Boys



NEW YORK — Eight Indian boys in full costumes, who won scholarships from the Marquette League for Catholic Indian Missions, served as altar boys and ushers at a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving in the Church of the Resurrection here. The Mass was celebrated by Msgr. Bernard A. Cullen of New York, director of the League (center), in honor of the 25th anniversary of his ordination. The high school scholarships to St. Ann's Academy here were established for Indian mission students in 1949 by Msgr. Cullen. In the evening following the Mass, the Indian boys attended commencement exercises at Hunter College for graduates of St. Ann's. One of the graduating students was Henry (Bluebird) Dodge, grandson of a Navajo Chief, who won a League scholarship in 1951. (RNS photo).

## Belgians Confident State Will Aid Catholic Schools

By THEODORE LEFEVRE

Brussels (NC) — The future in regard to Belgium's school question definitely permits optimism on the part of Catholics.

There is great enthusiasm on our side and we have perfect unity.

THE NATIONAL Protest Day in Brussels on March 26 restored the confidence of Catholics who, since their 1950 defeat on the King Leopold question, have suffered from an inferiority complex. That has now been removed.

Also, while there is no question of consulting the people on the school issue, neither is there any question that, if consulted, they would defend the government's policy. This is true in part because non-Catholic opinion is divided on the question and some non-Catholics support the Catholic position.

Meanwhile, the Socialist press is carrying on an anti-religious campaign in an attempt to win the people's support for this effort.

In this crisis Catholics are not merely trying to prevent the government from cutting state subsidies to Catholic schools. The important thing is the fact that the government is trying to establish the supremacy of the public school over the Catholic school. The government is trying to influence parents by granting all sorts of advantages to those sending their children to public schools. Education in public schools is free, for example, and the diplomas given by the public schools have greater value in securing government employment than diplomas from Catholic schools.

In this way, by denying true equality between the different school systems, the government is violating the rights of citizens. The time has gone when people believed it was enough to grant purely theoretical rights. Today we believe that in addition the state put at the individual's disposal the material means of exercising rights.

Yakima Ordination  
Yakima (NC) — Bishop Joseph P. Dougherty of Yakima observed the 25th anniversary of his ordination to the priesthood by ordaining Rev. Joseph A. Graat, first native priest of the four-year-old Diocese of Yakima in St. Paul's Cathedral here.

## March Of Martyrs

## Testimonial Set For Victims Of Red Tyranny

New York — A testimonial to "Martyrs Throughout the World Who Have Suffered Under and Fought Against Communist Tyranny," will be held here on June 19 under the auspices of the Assembly of Captive European Nations.

Charles Albert McLain, general chairman for the testimonial, said it will be broadcast to the world by Radio-Free Europe and the Voice of America. Roman Catholic Bishop Cuthbert O'Garra, C. P., of Yuanling, China, will be the principal speaker. Bishop O'Garra was held prisoner by the Chinese Communists for more than three years.

MR. MCCLAIN, one of the nation's outstanding singer-conductors, will lead a 300-member choir of the Ensemble Chorale Society in religious, classical and traditional American songs to provide the musical part of the program.

A feature of the testimonial will be a "March of the Captive Nations" in which representatives of the nine member-groups of the Assembly will take part as well as delegations representative of such "other subjugated nations" as China, Korea, Viet Nam and Yugoslavia.

The A.C.E.N. comprises members of cabinet members and other government officials and one-time elected delegates of the parliaments of nine European countries, when they were free, who now live in the United States. The nations are Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Estonia, Hungary, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland and Romania.

REPRESENTATIVES of each group, clad in national costumes, will march to the stage to lay a wreath at the base of a special memorial tablet in memory of the "martyrs to Red tyranny" in their native lands. Mr. McLain said.

Among those who will participate, he said, are Archbishop Paul Yu Pin of China; Magr. Bela Varga, of Hungary; and Dr. George Dimitrov, acting chairman of A.C.E.N. Chinese (Nationalist) Ambassador Wellington Koo and Korean Ambassador Ben C. Limb and other foreign dignitaries will attend, Mr. McLain said.

## Buenos Aires Feast Rites Postponed

Buenos Aires (RNS) — The traditional outdoor procession held here on Corpus Christi Day, which falls this year on June 8, will take place on Saturday, June 9.

Corpus Christi was one of the religious days removed from the list of those observed nationally in a March decree by President Juan D. Peron. The others and their 1955 dates are: Epiphany, Jan. 6; Assumption, Aug. 15; All Saints Day, Nov. 1; and Immaculate Conception Day, Dec. 8.

Plans call for holding the Corpus Christi procession in the Plaza de Mayo.

## Catholics Increase 200,000 in W. Africa

Rome (NC) — The phenomenal growth of the Church in French West Africa, which today has some 800,000 Catholics, has taken place almost entirely in the past quarter century.

During that time, according to statistics released here by Fides, the Catholic mission agency, the number of the faithful in that region has increased by almost 500 per cent. Much of this growth has occurred within the past four years, during which the Catholic population has risen by 200,000.

## COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, June 10, 1955

Mexican Priests — (NC) — Thousands of young people joined in prayers for the Church in Argentina during the annual pilgrimage to the Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe here organized by the Mexican Catholic Youth Organization.

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