

## Bazaar Planned By Auburn Unit

Auburn—One of the features of the annual Christmas bazaar of the Catholic Action League of St. Alphonsus Church is the ham supper which will be served on Monday Dec. 5, from 5 until 8 p.m. Miss Wilhelmina and Miss Elizabeth Saxon are co-chairmen of the supper with Mrs. John J. Craney in charge of hostesses and waitresses.

Miss Marian Berry, bazaar chairman, has announced that the bazaar will open at 9 a.m. and continue until late in the evening. During the day the school children will have an opportunity to visit the school hall where the bazaar will be held. Mrs. Harold J. Hopper is chairman of public relations.

## GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

Many believe that a blessing or an answer to prayer can come only because of the Faith of the one who asks for it. Not blessing can come to those who may have no Faith through others who have Faith. Infants have no Faith, but because of the Faith of the parents, the blessing of becoming an adopted child of God comes to the little ones. Unbelievers are cured at Lourdes through the prayers of the Faithful who are present. Remember the Gospel story of the paralytic who could not be brought into a room where Our Lord was because of the crowd; and so the four men who carried him, took him off the roof and let the sick man down before Our Saviour. The Gospel says: "Jesus, seeing THEIR Faith, said to the palsied man: Son, thy sins are forgiven."

Not a few of the gifts of healing—such as the servant of the century, the daughter of Jairus, the blind man of Bethsaida, the daughter of the Syro-Phoenician woman—were obtained through the Faith and prayers, not so much of the afflicted themselves, as of their relations and friends. This dependence of man on his fellow men was intended to foreshadow the great mystery of Redemption through Another's Blood.

Apply this to the Missions and these conclusions follow: The Japanese, the Africans, the Chinese will be converted through OUR Faith, OUR pleadings, OUR intercessions. And, when your own prayers seem weak, do something to get the converts in our Mission lands to pray for you. Take a few tiles off your roof. In the sense of opening your pocketbook or your safety vault. Send the sacrifice to the Holy Father through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. You have a much better chance of having your prayers answered through the Faith of our Missionaries. You need spiritual help. Who doesn't? The best help available today comes from our Mission Lands with their martyrs in China, their converts in Africa, their social workers in Hong Kong. Thanks for taking the tiles off your roof.

GOD LOVE YOU to the boys and girls of S.C. School for \$150. "We children have been listening to your television talks for a long time. People sometimes call us underprivileged children, but we know that the people you take care of in the Missions are less privileged than we. So we have collected money we have earned by working in the garden, giving hair cuts, waiting on tables, taking care of chickens and mowing lawns, so that we may help you buy food and clothing for your poor people." . . . to G.V.D. "Enclosed please find a check for \$46—money which I earned in 'extra jobs'." . . . to Mrs. C.E.R. "Enclosed check for \$220—a dime a working day for September; October to follow shortly." . . . to E.L. "I am enclosing \$2 from my daughter, aged eight. She is ill in bed with Rheumatic Fever, and this is the first money she has earned by working." . . . to E.A.R. "The enclosed check for \$10 represents the pennies we pay at my home for having cocktails before dinner in the evenings." . . . to A.G. for \$2. "I had just finished one of those huge sodas, when I came across your little magazine, MISSION, and believe me I have never been so ashamed of drinking a soda in all my life. Well, I have decided that my allowance will benefit you more than me. Thanks for the lesson on sacrifice."

Looking for Christmas gift ideas? Here is the perfect suggestion for the television viewers on your list—A STATUE OF OUR LADY OF TELEVISION. Originated by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, these tiny, high quality statues of the Madonna of Television are exact reproductions of the statue you see each week on Bishop Sheen's television broadcast, "Life is Worth Living." They are pure white with gold cross and halo, and are available for a \$3 offering for the poor of the world.

Out out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and send it to the Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 368 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N. Y. or your Diocesan Director, Very Rev. Msgr. John S. Randall, 56 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

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## I Lived 6 Years In Red China

At midnight the door bell would ring, and a whole platoon of policemen would rush in, screaming insults. Someone was going to jail!

(Condensed From THE SHIELD)  
By Rev. Charles Meus

I AM BACK in the free world after six years in Communist China. I can't find words to describe my sensations of freedom or what it meant to be with out it in Shanghai for all that time. The best I can do is tell some stories.

You have to live in a Communist atmosphere to know what it is like. They tap your telephone, they listen behind your door, they even hang around the confessional in the church, all for the purpose of hearing you say something that they can later use to incriminate you.

Then a police officer comes for a talk and he says, "On the 21st of August, you said to such-and-such a person that you hoped the Brooklyn Dodgers would not win the pennant. What you really meant was that you hoped our People's Government (that would be the Communists, of course) would not win a seat in the United Nations. Admit your fault!"

THE AUTHOR: Father Charles Meus was procurator of the Catholic Central Bureau of China in Shanghai for six years. The Bureau was a center of educational and social work for the people of all China. On May 1st of this year, the Reds gave Father Meus the choice of recognizing their "Independent Chinese Catholic Church" or leaving the country. Naturally, he had no choice and was forthwith expelled as a "stateless person."

One of the first CCB priests to be arrested was Father Joseph "Sen" an apostle of the Legion of Mary. He was a jolly and holy priest who had studied in Rome and Dublin, and he spoke English with a beautiful Irish brogue. He pronounced his own name "Sin" instead of "Sen," and one of his jokes was to introduce himself as "Father Mortal Sin."

Father Sen was arrested in the dead of winter, and they put him in a cell where the floor was constantly flooded with running water. He was subject to colds and he was even taken down with pneumonia. In a few days he was dead. For weeks afterward, the sound of running water would send chills up the spines of all of us at the Central Bureau.

YES, THE Communists have their own way of inflicting martyrdoms.

But the Chinese Christians have their own ways of being confessors of the Faith. There was a family that we will call Wang. The Wangs were Catholics, and Mrs. Wang's husband had been arrested for refusing to accuse the Bishop of being a running dog of imperialism. Mrs. Wang tried to support herself and her eight children by washing clothes, but it was a poor living, and after several months the family was on the verge of starvation. This reflected badly on the "benevolent government of the people" and so the Communists decided to do "something nice" for the Wangs.

So they invited the whole family to a banquet in honor of two members of the "Independent Chinese Catholic Church"—whom the Communists called "progressists." These men had just returned from Korea, and the Communists were playing them up as war heroes. Mrs. Wang, of course, refused to submit herself and the children to this abject farce. But it would have meant a decent meal for the children after months of starving.

But the Communists didn't give up. Two members of their "religious Bureau," the purpose of which is to annoy Catholics, appeared at the Wang home

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"The railway bridge from Red China to free Hong Kong is just about there," Father Meus points out the spot to a newspaper reporter.

soon after and offered to bring lips in advance. As they had promised, the two Communist officials arrived after a couple of hours.

There was the usual palaver, which is the Communist notion of how to make people feel good even while pointing a pistol at them. Mrs. Wang moved about as if preparing the dinner. The table presumably had been set up in an adjoining room. At length she told the two members of the "Religious Bureau" that they could now come to the dining room. They went in about seventy-five feet, covered by a cement walk, and the children stood on either side in

then said, very well, she would accept the food. But she would like to have the Communists come and share the banquet with her, because this would really make it seem like an official affair. The Communists were hard by able to say no to this, and so they promised to be there. However, to save a little face, they said they would probably be late.

NEXT DAY, a rickshaw delivered a huge basket filled with all manner of fine Chinese foods—roast duck, fish, jellies, noodles, shrimp, fruit, and pastries. The whole house smelled good of it, and the poor little children were smacking their

One of the standard ways

used by the Communists to demoralize the Christians is to subject them to questioning. Sometimes they call them to the jail for this, and sometimes they conduct the questioning in the people's homes. The procedure is to ask the same question over and over again until the victim is worn out. For instance: "Do you deny that the serpent under the feet of the Blessed Virgin is Communism?" Or else they want them to say something that can be used against one of their friends or relatives.

At the Catholic Central Bureau we went through this kind of session at regular intervals. There were two inquisitors who had been assigned to the CCB as specialists in annoyance. One was a tall thin man and the other was shorter and stout. They always went around together and they looked like Chinese versions of the American movie comedians Laurel and Hardy, whose pictures one can still find in pre-Communist movie magazines in Shanghai.

One day these two arrived just after we had opened the yard for the neighborhood children. (Operating a playground and keeping open a small chapel were the only activities allowed at the CCB.) The children didn't like this interruption, for they knew perfectly well that the whole purpose of the visit was to annoy the priests of the house. While the questioning went on indoors, they stood silent in the playground.

When it was finished for the day, the two officials came out of the house and began to walk toward the gate that led to the street—the tall thin one in front and the shorter stout one behind. It was a distance of about seventy-five feet, covered by a cement walk, and the children stood on either side in

tolema silence, as only Chinese children can stand. Their hands in the sleeves of their long padded blue coats. The two Communist inquisitors had gone about halfway to the gate when one of the boys, a 13-year-old lad, called out in a high but very clear voice while his fiery black eyes followed the retreating figures of the policemen: "Laurel! Laurel! Laurel! Laurel!"

Instantly the whole crowd of children burst out into loud laughter, little grimy hands popped from the blue padded coats and clapped and raised. The man's face turned red from his neck to his hair, and the fat man's neck turned a deep crimson. Without looking to right or to left, they hurriedly walked, with as much dignity as they could muster, to the playground gate. These two never came back again.

OLD MISSIONARIES who have been in China for thirty, forty, fifty years, had expected something like this from China. But the display of faith and fortitude that the Chinese Catholics have, shown under the Communist persecution has been far above their most hopeful expectations.

How long will the Communists seemingly have the upper hand? No one knows. Humanly speaking, they seem to be winning. On September 8th last, Nativity of Our Lady, Bishop Kung of Shanghai, all the pastors of the city, and several other priests, plus 300 militant Catholics, were arrested. It was a tremendous blow to that bastion of the Faith: Shanghai. All we can do is wait for God's Providence to accomplish its aims. But meanwhile we should pray—pray like mad.

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