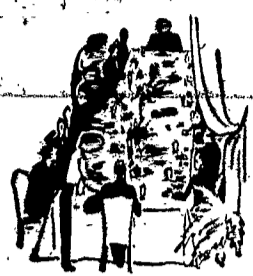


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Prayer Day Slated For Red Victims

(N.C.W.C. News Service) As the New Year begins, Catholics throughout the United States will join in prayers for their suffering co-religionists in countries dominated by communism.

It will be the fifth consecutive occasion on which a Day of Prayer will be observed on behalf of the millions experiencing bitter persecution behind the Iron Curtain "for the cause of Christ."

THE SPECIAL DAY of prayer will be held on January 1, the Feast of the Circumcision of Our Lord, at the request of the American Hierarchy. The request was made by the Bishops at their annual meeting in Washington, D. C., in November.

A statement issued by the Bishops in connection with the Day of Prayer declared that American Catholics cannot ever permit the plight of the victims of Red persecution to be forgotten or ignored.



Congresswoman Visits Missions

Enugu, Nigeria—Rep. Frances P. Bolton (R.—Ohio) chats with two Sisters of the Medical Missionaries of Mary while on a 90-day tour of mission stations in Africa. Mrs. Bolton, who has long been interested in mission work, traveled as a one-woman subcommittee of the House Foreign Affairs Committee. On her itinerary were a number of mission schools and hospitals in the Congo Basin as well as in Kenya, Rhodesia, Liberia and other African countries. (RNS Photo)

Iron Curtain Nun Tells Of Red Terrorism

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — A story of the privations, persecutions and hardships suffered by Roman Catholic religious in Romania was disclosed here by a former Urssine nun from that Communist satellite country who reached freedom through the help of her sister, an American nun of the Holy Cross order. Miss Anna Walschkowski, 62, was given formal release from her religious vows in 1949 when she became impossible for nuns in Romania. In 1952 she managed, by means which must be kept secret, to flee across the Iron Curtain and make her way to a refugee camp in Germany.

She was reunited here with her sister, who is Sister Mary Freda of the Academy of the Cross. They had not seen each other since parting in their native city of Danzig, Germany, 40 years ago.

As Sister Armels of the Ur-

sine order, Anna took religious vows in 1915 and was sent to a convent in Hermanstadt, Romania. In the same year Sister Mary Freda came to the United States and entered a convent in this country.

In 1949 when the Communists openly attacked religious orders in Romania, life became impossible for the nuns and they had to seek formal release from their vows, give up the garb and disperse.

For three years Miss Walschkowski had to work as a

manual laborer, walking barefoot through the streets and performing such jobs as wood-cutting.

Finally she was able to escape and after three years in a refugee camp, came to the United States under the sponsorship of Sister Mary Freda.

Since her order does not have a branch in America, Miss Walschkowski will not return to religious garb but serve as a lay worker in a Washington convent so that she can be near her sister.

Negro Jurist Praises Church's Racial Stand

Boston — (NC) — The firm position of the Catholic Church on racial justice was hailed by a Negro jurist here. Although there are only about 350,000 Catholics among the 15-million Negroes in the country, Judge Harold A. Stevens of the New York Supreme Court said, the Catholic Church has done more "in the field of interracial justice than any other religious body."

JUDGE STEVENS, the first Negro to be made a member of the New York Supreme Court, and a convert to Catholicism, addressed more than 1,000 men at the monthly meeting of the St. Theresa's Church Holy Name Society in West Roxbury, Mass.

"One of the great tragedies of our time," Judge Stevens said, "is that the tremendous moral force of organized religion in this country has, for the most part, been discreetly silent when the open and vigorous advocacy of such doctrine (racial equality) would offend the delicate sensi-

bilities of the generous contributors among their membership."

In the Catholic Church, Judge Stevens pointed out: "Men like Father La Farge, the prince of our Church, like Cardinal Spellman, Archbishops Cushing, Rummel, Lucey and others, have emphasized the need for social justice. They term the problem a moral one, as indeed it is, and point out that all men are Members of the Mystical Body of Christ."

CELEBRATING RECENT events in Louisiana, the jurist noted that "there is yet work to be done among the lily."

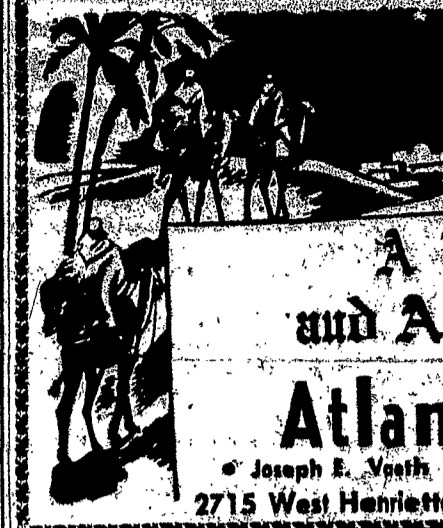
More than 5,250,000 Negroes in the United States are Protestant and almost 8 million are not affiliated with any religious group, the jurist noted.

Christmas Cards

This year will see the greatest use of religious theme Christmas cards in history according to F. Robert Edman of the Catechetical Guild Educational Society in St. Paul.

"Of the 2 billion cards to be exchanged this Christmas," says Edman, "approximately 50 per cent will have a religious theme."

This means that about one card in every three will remind us that we are celebrating because Christmas is Christ's birthday.



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