

Founder Of Columban Fathers

Bishop Galvin Dies Of Illness Contracted During 4-Year Arrest In Red China

Navan, Ireland — (NC) — One of the outstanding missionary figures of modern times, Bishop Edward J. Galvin, has died at Columban headquarters here (February 23) as a result of leukemia, contracted while under communist house arrest in China. He was 73.

Founder of the Society of St. Columban and Bishop of Hanyang, China, he was born in Crookstown, Ireland, on November 23, 1882. He was ordained at St. Patrick's College, Maynooth, in 1908.

FOUR WEEKS after ordination Father Galvin sailed to the United States, where he served as assistant at Holy Rosary Church in Brooklyn.

In 1912 he volunteered to go to China as a missionary with Father John M. Fraser, who later founded the Canadian Foreign Mission Society (Scarboro Fathers).

After working with French Vincentian missionaries for four years in Chekiang province, Father Galvin returned to the U.S. in 1916 and soon afterwards came back to Ireland.

With the approval of the Irish hierarchy, he and Father John Blowick, a professor at the Maynooth seminary, established in 1917 a new missionary society which they named after St. Columban, great 6th-century Irish missionary to Europe.

THE SAME YEAR Father Galvin returned to the U.S. in



BISHOP GALVIN

and appointed Vicar Apostolic of Hanyang, China. He was in China all through that country's war with Japan. In 1946 he was made Bishop of Hanyang when a national hierarchy was established in China.

Before the communists overran his diocese in May, 1949, Bishop Galvin saw his See climb from 45th place to 9th place among the dioceses of China in Catholic population. By 1949 Hanyang had more than 51,000 Catholics.

HIS DIOCESE was staffed by Columban missionaries and Chinese priests, who were assisted by missionary nuns and the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin of Hanyang, a Chinese congregation founded by the Bishop.

Bishop Galvin was expelled from China by the Reds in September, 1952, after nearly four years of house arrest. At the time of his expulsion he was suffering from leukemia. After spending 18 months in the U.S., most of them in hospitals, the Bishop returned to Ireland in 1954.

The Society of St. Columban now numbers 650 priests and some 400 students. The Missionary Sisters of St. Columban, founded a short time after the society of priests, number about 200. The Columbans have extensive missions in Korea, Japan, Burma, the Philippines, the Fiji named Titular Bishop of Myrina

and Latin America.



It Won't Be Too Long

Charlotte, N. C. — (NC) — Auxiliary Bishop James J. Navagh (Diocese of Raleigh) and three of his parishioners at Our Lady of Consolation Church here are pretty happy as they check over building plans for their new church and school buildings. Making a lot of dreams more real was the recent contracting signing covering purchase of land for the project. Parishioners feel they'll need help to complete their building plans, both in money and prayers.

Church's World Role Seen Recognized In Violent Red Attacks

Plea To Aid Homeless Given To President

New York — (NC) — A refugee resettlement committee, of which Catholic Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference is a member, has made a "last ditch" appeal to the President to use his personal influence to "humanize" and speed-up immigration procedures under the Refugee Relief Act of 1953.

THE LETTER to the White House came from the Committee on Refugee Relief Program of the American Council of Voluntary Agencies for Foreign Service. It was signed by Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of CRS-N.C.W.C., in his capacity as chairman of the American Council committee.

The letter asked immediate action on a 13-point program which it called vital in removing "roadblocks of red tape" that it said were preventing successful implementation of the refugee legislation.

With the expiration of the refugee act only 10 months away, the letter said these 13 easements are urgent to prevent barring of nearly 100,000 homeless persons from the opportunity to find useful lives in America.

IT NOTED that although the Act provided for the admission of 209,000 refugees, less than 60,000 have as yet reached the United States.

"The present rate of security clearance and visa issuance," the letter to the President said, "is not sufficient to complete the processing of the registered applicants who now have assurances, nor of these applicants, who, we believe, will receive assurance through our agencies during 1956."

Houston Probes Sunday Car Sales

Houston, Tex. — (RNS) — The City Council has under study an ordinance giving the city the power to cancel car dealers' licenses if they sell automobiles on Sundays.

The Houston Automobile Dealers Assn. has complained that five per cent of the city's dealers are selling cars on Sundays in violation of a state law.

London — (NC) — The Catholic Church still plays a part in the Russian religious scene, despite the fact that "it is forced to live in "much greater isolation" than any other major Christian group, according to an expert on Russia and communism.

Writing in the Catholic International Outlook, Walter J. Kolacz said that this is not only because of the hundreds of Catholic parishes still in existence in the Baltic and the Byelorussian border areas, but also because of "Rome's leading role in the Christian world."

MR. KOLACZ, prominent author and broadcaster in Britain on Russian affairs, refers to the leadership of the Catholic Church, and says that "in a way the Kremlin has always recognized this leadership by reserving its most violent anti-religious outbursts to the Holy See."

"Many people in Russia have learned through these attacks of the part which Rome is taking in stemming the forces of materialism and atheism," he continues. "It may be hoped that this knowledge has stimulated the desire of the Russian people for greater Christian unity throughout the world and in Russia itself."

While Orthodox, Armenian and Lutheran Bishops and Baptist leaders have been allowed to travel abroad, no Catholic dignitary has been granted such permission by the Soviets, according to Mr. Kolacz. In addition, he says, other Christian groups are allowed to publish journals which, despite being severely censored, "enable the outside world to glean some information about their work. But the Catholic press is non-existent, and thus "information about the Catholic Church is much scarcer than about any other major Christian group in the Soviet Union."

"AND YET Catholicism in Russia is far from negligible," says Mr. Kolacz. "It is the dominant creed in one of the 16 Soviet Republics—Lithuania. In two other Republics—Latvia and Byelorussia—Catholics of the Latin Rite form sizeable minorities."

"Then there is also the unknown factor of the Catholics of the Byzantine Rite, a branch of

the Church which has been persecuted by practically all successive rulers of Russia from Catherine II to Nikita Khrushchev. Indeed, when Khrushchev was Ukrainian Prime Minister the Catholic Church of the Byzantine Rite in the Ukraine was disbanded, and it is an open question how much of it is still in existence under the surface despite the official dissolution."

AS FOR THE Russian Orthodox Church—"the greatest single force of Christian Russia," Mr. Kolacz asserts that despite the "great martyrdom it suffered until the end of the 1930's, it has shown "a most remarkable tenacity."

"Always at the mercy of the regime, the Church of the Moscow Patriarch is, of course, subject to all kinds of political blackmail," Mr. Kolacz holds. "On many occasions it has been forced to become an instrument of Soviet foreign policy."

"However, one must bear in mind that the Russian Orthodox Church operates under the most difficult circumstances one can possibly imagine, and the weaknesses arising out of that situation deserve a charitable attitude on the part of non-Russian Christians, rather than adverse criticism," he said.

Cardinal Spellman Stamp Exhibit Wins

Bombay — (RNS) — A philatelic display entered by Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, was judged the best entry at the International Topical Stamp Exhibition here.

The display, called "America the Beautiful," was awarded the top prize, a silver plaque engraved with a reproduction of the first stamp issued by India in 1854.

Cardinal Spellman has been an enthusiastic stamp collector for many years and his private collection has been featured at many exhibits over the world.

Anti-Clericals Again Fail On School Bill

Paris — (RNS) — A Socialist bill to abolish government subsidies to Roman Catholic schools failed to win a place on the agenda of the French National Assembly despite strong efforts by anti-clerical deputies.

The Assembly rejected, 294-281, a proposal by the Standing Committee to debate the measure on March 9. Subsequently, the deputies adopted an agenda which gave no place to discussion of the bill.

A week earlier, a similar move for an early consideration of the bill was rejected by 288 votes to 278. Communist deputies were among the prime backers of the second attempt to bring the measure up for discussion.

'Red Shoes For Nancy'

U.S. Sufferers Make Trip To Lourdes

Lourdes, France — (NC) — Nancy Hamilton, a 13-year-old girl from Santa Monica, Calif., who lost both legs as the result of a rare blood disease, has been bathed in the waters of the Shrine of Our Lady of Lourdes here.

Another American, 21-year-old Elaine Esposito of Chicago, who has been asleep since an operation 14 years ago, is being flown to the shrine with her parents.

THE DOCTORS have given Nancy from two to five years to live. When she and her mother arrived in New York

on the first leg of their flight from California, she was asked by reporters if she was hoping for a miracle.

The girl, who was baptized a Catholic on her ninth birthday, replied: "I've had my miracle. Just being on my way to Lourdes is miracle enough." She explained that she does not intend to pray for a cure, nor even that the progress of the disease be slowed.

"Our Lady will do what is best for me," she said. "If I am not cured, it will be because God wants me to be an example to all the people who come back from Lourdes with-

out being cured. I can be so much more of a help to them if I'm not cured myself."

NANCY'S WIDOWED mother became a Catholic two years after Nancy did. The story of Nancy and her mother is told in Mrs. Hamilton's book "Red Shoes for Nancy," published by J. B. Lippincott Co. last October.

Miss Esposito's parents have been planning the trip to Lourdes for two years. Her father, Louis Esposito, called the flight to Lourdes "about the last hope for Elaine." She has had sleeping sickness since an appendectomy in 1941.

King Attends Mass For Pope

Brussels, Belgium — (NC) — King Baudouin will attend the solemn Mass and Te Deum to be celebrated here by His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Van Roey, Archbishop of Malines, in honor of the Pope's birthday and coronation anniversary.

Te Deums have been scheduled for all churches in the country and Catholics everywhere plan to hang flags from their houses. A special television program on the Pope will be broadcast and the Mass offered in Rome by the Holy Father will be relayed here by radio.

King Baudouin is sending a special mission of homage to Rome headed by Count d'Aspremont Lynden, Earl Marshall of the royal house.



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