# Missioner Told He Confessed **Murder Plot**

Here is the fourth installment in the gripping story of the imprisonment of the Very Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., presented here in the Courier-Journal through the courtesy of the Chicago Sun-Times Syndicate.

By The Very Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D.

While I was in prison in Peiping, I had a "helper" named Wang, a cellmate who was in contact with the judge hearing my case and with the prison authorities. His job was to "help" me confess that I was an American spy.

Wang had many attributes for the task. He could speak English, having studied in the United States; he was a former merchant with many American business connections; he was a likeable and pleasant fellow.

Fundamentally, Wang was kind. But his wife had died three months before he was arrested, leaving him with six children. Wang wanted to get back to his orphaned brood, so he pressed me continually to admit that I was an American agent, either as a member of the Office of Strategic Services or the Federal Bureau

### Assured Of Deportation After Confession

Once I made the confession, he assured me, I would soon be deported: he also hoped that his own efforts in the case would shorten his own term.

Wang's insistence that I admit I was an OSS agent very probably stemmed from instructions he received from the court. The court already knew (from a confession made by a Chinese prisoner who had been employed by the OSS) that:

1-I had made the acquaintance of OSS personnel, along with Army, Navy and other servicemen, after my arrival in Pel- What About Geneva Pact? ping in June, 1946.

2-I had investigated the Fu Jen Catholic University to learn whether a radio used by the Nazis during the war had been hidden on the grounds. I did that at the behest of the OSS. I Red found no evidence that such a radio had been planted in Fu Jen. 3-I had informed the OSS about rumors that Communist troops near Peiping were equipped with American sidearms and that Soviet technicians had been seen with the Chinese Communist forces near Jehol.

Fingerprint Taken

the document. I was certain that

Never Heard Of Plot

Judge Shifts

confessions he later retracted. centuries.

international court.

My acquaintanceship with OSS personnel began at the U.S. Army Air Base in Accra on the Army officer asked me for help member. in preventing the marriage between an American and a suseyes. I looked at the judge and pected Nazi. No intelligence eyes, I mose at the jumping in and Glendale, has learned. gathering was involved in that out of his wastebasket.

OSS connections in Pelping made thought. Then, I told the court: Christmas dhy unless I confirm it." ceiving of a salary are not need-

Hence, I agreed: "From this point of view, I am an OSS

got, etc. I replied:

"Well, Judge, if you mean that signed, but the paper did bear being an OSS man involves all my fingerprint. It would make this, then I am not an OSS man. an, impressive document for an BOOK ceived training from them, but that was all the connection I had with them."

That elucidation infuriated the I had been led into making a judge who cursed me as a gut-faise confession while I slept. tersnipe, a shameless cunning

spy, etc. But I stuck to my denial. As my 60-day court ordeal the next morning with words her arms, delighting in her.

came to a close, my physical re. like these:

shreds and were infested with committed in China since the the secret of her medieval lice. My ankles and wrists were liberation. sore and bleeding from fetters and handcuffs, and I had been which the government refused to fascinating "great conversation" subjected to endless humiliations grant clemency. You shall be than this one. Here the twelfth

out of my cell one night at 9:45 titude and help the government Truth, and the Life. the judge's chambers.

sit on a sofa. That apparent your co-conspirators." kindness was unusual. He then. explained unctuously how I' could receive clemency if I would but confess my "crimes." plot until long after Oct. 1, 1950, worn wooden Man from the Adams had a warm, brilliant the date on which it was to have Cross, resting in death beneath mind. He found the pearl of the government would be bountifully generous if I would only spend an hour or two to clear up the civilized world is the testi- of Man in His mother's capacitis beauty; and he saw too with my case with a confession. Drones On

I was harming only myself by all those charges. being stubborn, preventing the "I am your prisoner," I said, ers is sometimes Gregorian government from showing how "I am helpless. You can shoot chant, quiet, urgent, a "great the 12th century he found not benevolent it could be.

So he droned on for an nour.

Struggling to keep awake, I told man you want would still be at silencing visitors without too sionately intelligent adults play-Struggling to keep awake, I told large. I am not the man you much aid from the 'Visitors-Are-ing gigantically and powerfully case, but I had no crimes to want." confess. He continued his cajoling line and I was favorably impressed by his kindness.

I was then led to the court myself and show willingness to the swift or slow flight of birds, and the judge magnanimously help the government by confessing the emphasize the timelessness tury. Lady of gayly painted, told me to sit down. This was ing and revealing the names of and the Creator's power that limestone, Lady smiling in wonunusual, too. Formerly, I was all my accomplices. unusual, too. Formeriy, I was all my accomplices.

Finally, he said the court the Word made flesh.

abide behind this true story of derful intimacy whether the obliged to stand at attention during court sessions. Falls Askep

persecutors put to me, I was in But he never refered to that Unicorn tapestry with its cap soever cultured and blind.

a delirium. I thought I saw cats plot again. and dogs running all over the



HAPPIER DAYS - This picture was taken at Peiping, China, in the summer of 1846 when Cardinal Spellman paid a visit to Fu Jen Catholic University, Father Rigney (first on left in photo) was rector of this university at the time of his arrest by the Chinese Communists. When this photo was taken Father Rigney weighed 180 painds. Soon after his arrest by the Reds he weighed less than 109 pounds.

# Legal Battle

Ground-breaking ceremonies for the new \$250,000 Corpus Christi parochial school here climaxed a long and bitter legal battle in which the city of Piedmont attempted to prevent the construc-

Father Edwin J. Keller, pastor of Corpus Christi Church, who led the fight for his parish's. right to construct the school, announced it will be a two-story building of reinforced concrete and structural steel capable of accommodating 400 students. .

THE LEGAL battle over the school started & few years ago when Father Keller filed a petition for a building permit. The permit was refused on the ground that the Piedmont City Council had passed an ordinance banning construction of any private or parochial school not under direct jurisdiction of the city's board of education.

With the Roman Catholic Welfare Corporation of the San Francisco archdiocese, Father Keller fought the case through the various city departments, into the courts and up to the California Supreme Court, which last October rendered its decision holding that the city ordinance was "unconstitutional and void because of its arbitrary and un reasonable discrimination" against any except public schools.

Purchase, N. Y. -(RNS)- A \$390,000 gift from the Joseph P. Kennedy Jr. Foundation was made to the development fund of Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart here. It was presented by Mrs. Bose F. Kennedy, wife of Joseph P. Kennedy, former U.S. Ambassador to London (right) and accepted by Richard P. Loftus, chairman of the college's development fund. Looking on in center is Mother Eleanor M. O'Byrne, president of Manhattanville. Taking a photograph of the presentation is Mother Buth Dowd, assistant professor of philosophy at the college.

24 Nations Honor Pope's Anniversary

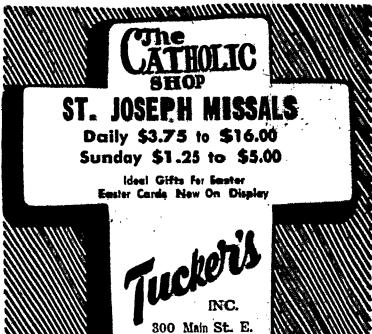
Vatican City - (NC) - Twened they will send representatives court" in Shanghai, China, on court" on October 30 and received His letter contained no account to Rome to present their good Father John Houle, S.J., his a sentence of four years, which or details of his "trial" by the wishes to His Holiness Pope mother, who resides in suburban was made retroactive with the high court." but was datelined Pius XII on the occasion of his date of his arrest in June 1953. Shanghal. But he did write: "My 80th birthday and the 17th anni-

the strain of confinement." Fath- Nationalist China, France, Ger-

German To Give Collection To Pope

Bonn, Germany - (NC)-German Catholics are contributing to a special collection, the probeen given a Red Cross package ceeds of which will be presented containing a Christmas fruit to the Pope as a gift for his 80th birthday.

Attend Daily Mass



## Prison Term Prolonged, U.S. Priest Writes Mother

All I remember is that I said Los Angeles—(NC)—A prison Actually, Father Houle was 1953, for "espionage activities." "Yes" to many questions. How sentence tantamount to 16 more sentenced by the communist court It is presumed that he still is African Gold Coast when an long this went on, I do not remonths in prison has been im- to four years in prison. His letter held in the Ward Road Jail in ty-four countries have announced the state of . Finally, I opened my heavy

Mrs. John H. Houle received "So there remain less than 18 health is good, thank God, and I versary of his coronation. A sudden fear came over me, the news in a letter written by months," Father Houle's letter am well taken care of, experienc. The countries are Argentina, But Wang insisted that my "I have confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines ing many kindnesses that ease Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, the Delivery of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines ing many kindnesses that ease Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, the property of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines ing many kindnesses that ease Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, the property of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines ing many kindnesses that ease Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, the property of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines ing many kindnesses that ease Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, the property of confessed too much, "I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines ing many kindnesses that ease Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Chile, the property of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines in grant and the property of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines in grant and the property of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines in grant and the property of confessed too much," I her missionary son and dated last said "When you read these lines in grant and the property of confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I have confessed too much, "I have confessed too much," I

ing to Communist standards, he not be taken as true and valid the situation. Mrs. Houle can imagine how happy we were "When I carne to China, I had Iran, I reland, Italy Japan, Le The judge called an end to the Chinese communists meant last 16 months in prison—it just can't I look forward to the glad day Philippines. Spain, Syria, Urued for one to become a member session and ordered me back to September at Geneva when they be, surely something can be when I shall embrace you, dear guay and Venezuela. agreed that the remaining Ameri- done " cans still imprisoned in Red But in his letter. Father Houle into your eyes and shed a few interpreter seized my right in six priests still held in Chinese "nothing to be impatient about." lies, and resting in the Provi

posed by a communist "high said he was tried before the "high Shanghai.

it will be less than 16." me an OSS agent per se. According the court in the court said she still wondered what the to hear from him-but another no thought of returning, yet now banon, Panama, Paraguay, Peru,

China would be allowed to leave. consoled his parents and said the tears of joy with you. the judge asked me where I it and pressed it to a document sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentence was meted out to Father Houle, 41, went to China dence of God, take care of your sentenc bership, what kind of training I containing the questions put to er Houle just 50 days after the Christ the King Mission in of the burden of your years and me and my answers. Whatever Chinese Reds made the Geneva Shanghai as mission treasurer daily tasks."

when he was arrested in June, FATHER HOULE said he had

est mom and dad, once again look

## I had said that evening was un-agreement. I was disturbed. My finger SHELL print had been forcibly put on

Our Lady cake. Of The Cloisters

By Sister Margaret Peresa

Nazareth College She was there waiting for us. I had known she would be, but I had not quite expected her glory, so queenly, so other-The judge opened the session worldly, so eternally happy and gay, her Child frolicking in

Mary our Mother has taken THE CHALICE of Antioch sinate Chairman Mao Tse-tung, and the cultured Henry Adams

triumph. "This is the one crime for No Great Book opens a more shot. You cannot be pardoned or and thirteenth and fourteenth accept Mary's Word, to believe That was the state of my have your death sentence communities series and institute and

our leaders that you planned to Here, as my colleague pointed

Dumfounded, I told the judge her breast. I had never even heard of the SOMETIMES IT IS a pitiful, toward conviction.

man accepted as valid, adding I in His sacrifice.

"I am your prisoner," I said. ers is sometimes Gregorian SAVE STEEL STOR me if you want. I can do noth- confession" of praise recorded, Asked-To-Be-Siler.t" signs.

The judge replied that I should and the shining Hudson far bestop my arguing, stop defending low come vagrant breezes, or living."

further and then proceeded to Word is in the lesser works of tured Christ-symbol resting in Show him that you have the humble opulence perfectly con-

serves were at an end. I was "Last night you confessed spots of Manhattan-on-the-Huder of our times, it served fourth or son for her Cloisters, and there tured by hunger and covered a change. You confessed that she queens it, day in and day Henry Adams of today is conwith weeks of dirt and sweat. You led a conspiracy to assasout, for the loving schoolchildren scious that its value lies deeper. My clothes were falling to This is the most serious crime of today who come to find out bring their hundreds of thousands in a sale- but he is held

by their concern with Christ. Perhaps Henry Adams is more ready today than he was in the as well as to love.

Read Elizabeth Stevenson's Henry Adams: A Blography, ne judge's chambers.

Our leaders that you planned to nere, as my coneague pointed MacMillan '55 (425 pp., \$6.00)

My first surprise came when assassinate, the name of your maternity "See what I have and find yourself hurrying back the interpreter gently told me to leader in this plot, the names of fameling same to his Mont-Saint-Michel and found!" Sometimes it is the Chartres, his Mary Romance, so laughing Child caressing the that you can get into this great white Dove that has settled on conversation and give it your best, and can help a man or two

the immense, controlled pathos great price, and thought it false, I protested that nowhere in of her gaze, mere battered Son and would not buy. But he saw mony of a drunken or sleeping ous arms that embrace a world a prophet's awful clarity what disasters our own unbelieving Why be so obstinate, he asked, was asleep when I confessed to The undertone to this redeem- time must come to; and both

so he droned on for an hour, ing. But if you shoot me, the of course, and beyond price, but a whole civilization of pasjust the child playing with color, Or from the Cloister garden special richness in the quality of with color. Color stood for . . . a

Dear Lady of the Twelfth Cenwould investigate the matter Or the beautiful echo of the Henry Adams whenever he image be stone or wood, capture Exhausted by the tortures my question me about other matters, art at every turn, like the last

and dogs running all over the Copyright 1956 by The Very Rev. M. Antioch chalice, its somehow for always. Show him that life to the challenge of the challenge judge's desk. After the judge put NEXT WEEK: How Father veying a history of the Bread can still be rich, and that the a few questions to me, I fell into Bigney was forced to make and Wine it gave to men in early color of life is not a game but



College Gets Kennedy Gift

Reds Seek To Win Irish In England Dublin - (BNS) - British

COURTER-JOURNAL

Friday, March 2, 1956

Communists have called a conlerence in London 🐝 a prelude to the biggest campaign they have yet conducted to win Irish workers in England to the Red cause.

This was reported by Donglas Hyde, convert to Catholic ism who was formerly an editor of the Communist Bally Worker in London, during a ecture at St. Patrick's parechial hall in Armagh.

"This fresh tackling of work among the Irish comes as a resuit of a Communist bellef that are economic crisis in Britain is not far away," Mr. Hyde

"In the event of such a crisis there would naturally follow mass unemployment and large numbers of Irish workers would then be returning to Iroland. The party wishes to ensure that among them will be a high proportion of Commu-

ADVERTISEMENT

The strange magic of Pius XII

Warmth and compassion and humor find soft, shy expression in this man. From the hands of a pilgrim he may take a little skulicap offered for blessing, place it on his own head and give the pilgrim his cap-with instant case and dignity.

March Reader's Digest brings you a portrait of the man who holds singular influence over everyone he meets...yet whose deepest yearning is only for solitude and prayer. Get March Reader's Digest

at your newsstand: 43 articles of lasting interest, including the best from leading magazines and current books, condensed