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Caster

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St. Paul, Minn. - (NC) - Inez M. Quinn, Minneapolis, Leaders of the women's lay re-president of the Cenacle Retreat treat movement will meet here League here.

and in Minneapolis from June One day will be spent here, 29 to July 1 for the tenth con- another in Minneapolis, and a gress of the National Laywomen's special program will be held at Retreat Movement. Our Lady of the Cenacle's Re-Our Lady of the Cenacle's Re-

Preliminary plans for the con- treat House at Wayzata, Lake gress have been announced by Minmetonka.





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and the state of the second second

SATURDAY MARCH 17th

HAM or CORNED BEEF *

FOUR YEARS IN A RED MELL

How Father Rigney Masked Prayer

spoke English well, made a vig-shot die in prison from a di-

orous offort to get me to give sease or torture, or would be

up praying, but I stood my released. My release from

In the fell of 1953, I was way or another, would take a

given another 'helper" named long time coming, but it would

lips were moving, he asked me I learned one big lesson in

why my lips were moving while Ta'ao Lan Tzu: I must save my

Of course I went to sleep I had recognied this need

praying and it was not sur-earlier, but here it was brought

prising if my lips continued to home to me as never before,

Han, an English-speaking Chi- come.

move while I was asleep. But rrran.tir;uz

I preferred to keep this simple

"A sleeping man is not re-

Thereafter, H a n watched

vigilantly to see if I were indulging in forbidden prayer. On

that I had arisen during the

night to perform some "secret"

During my imprisonment, I

longed to celebrate the holy sacri-

fice of the mass, to pray my di-

vine office, to receive the holy

fore the blessed sacrament. But

eucharist, to visit and pray be-

"Is'ao Lan Tzu the Com-

munist prison in Peiping) is like.

But there was one consola-

iell." I often thought.

religious Christmas rite,

sponsible for his actions"

Ta'ao Lan Tzu's tortures, one,

Hell, on the other hand, is

The hell of the temporal

imprisonment of the Very Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., presented in the Courier-Journal through courtesy of the Chicago

> By The Very Rev. Hareld W. Rigney, S.V.D. Divine Word Missionary

One morning in December of 1951, prisoner Lat, who nese. He watched me closely had become chu chang (cell leader) in my prison cell, shouted and one night noticed that my eternal, endless.

"Rigney, what are you doing?"

I was squatting and praying while waiting to file out to the

"I am just squating waiting for the officer to open the door

Forced To Squat For Hours

Squatting was a torture; the judge hearing my case forced me explanation to myself. To Han, to squat daily for hours on end. I suffered, from this at first, but I said: later noticed this cramped position was becoming less painful. To harden myself, I began to squat whenever I could. On this particular morning, the chu chang suspected I was

praying. "Rigney, do you ever pray?" he asked.

There was silence. But Lu evidently made a mental note of Christmas day of 1953, he told the incident since he later reported to the prison officer that I me had gotten up several times prayed frequently and even counted my prayers on my fingers during the night to see if I was This was true when I said my rosary, counting on fingers instead secretly praying. He suspected

Rours At Him

On one occasion, I sat motionless, except for a slight movement of my lips, which I though could not be noticed. Suddenly Lu roared at me:

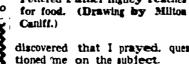
"Rigney, are you praying?" I nodded. He bollowed angrily "Praying! What are you praying for? You should be thinking about your crimes. God cannot help you. Only the "People's" government can help you. You fool, you're wasting your time with your silly proyers. Stop praying and think of the crimes you have committed against the

But I continued to pray. Every day I counted from three to 10 rosaries for my daily office and other intentions. I said many more prayers, and medi-

The Communists could deprive me of my liberty and torture me. But they could not prevent me from turning my mind and raising my heart above the foulness of their world to divine realities.

The issue of prayer came up anew one spring day in 1953. An official of the prison, who

Annual



"Do you ever prayer, Rigney?"

"Pu hsing! Pu hsing! (That is not allowed! That is not allowed)" he shouted, his face

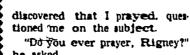
"How often do you pray?" "Every day."

ing or on rising.

After he left, prisoner Julian, Eurasian "Catholic," attempt-



Feltered Father Rigney reaches



"Pu hsing! Pu hsing!" He shook his fist under my nose and lectured me that if was forbidden to pray at any time, even while in bed, before retir-

Julian was another of my



all these were denied me for the 1,509 days I was a Communist prisoner in Pelping. Often I dreamed of celebrat ing the hely sacrifice of the mass, usually in the university Chapel of the Divine Word or in the immaculately clean and beautiful chapel of those good sisters of Fu Jen Catholic University, the Holy Ghost Missionary Sisters. These were happy, but brief dreams that dissolved when I awoke in my cell in a Communist prison modeled after

tion: Tr'so Lan Tzu could not last forever. It would come to discovered that I prayed, ques-

Seeks To Persuade

ed to persuade me to stop pray-

cellmate "helpers," a prisoner delegated by the authorities to watch my every move, listen to my every word and report all

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thought. With God's help, I Friday, March 16, 1956 would avoid the eternal Ts'ao

Lan Tzu -the eternal hell! Copyright 1955 by the Very Rev. H. W. Rigney. All rights priest to make a confession

NEXT WEEK: How Chi na's Red course force a

to crimes he did not commit

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