

Films Led Actor To Study Faith

Alec Guinness Joins Church, Played Priest, Cardinal Roles

London — (NC) — British film actor Alec Guinness, who has played the part of a priest and a cardinal in recent films has become a Catholic, it was announced here.

Mr. Guinness, 42, received instruction quietly at St. Lawrence's Church near his country home in Petersfield, Hampshire, in southern England. He was received into the Church by Father Henry Clarke, the pastor, on March 24. He received his first Holy Communion, the following day, Palm Sunday.

His conversion delighted his son Matthew, aged 15, now a student at Beaumont, a Jesuit school, who became a Catholic about six months ago. Mr. Guinness's wife the former actress Moria Saffman, is not a Catholic.

The film actor recently returned from Hollywood where he made his first American film "The Swan" with Grace Kelly which will have its London premiere on April 18.

Earlier he had played G. K. Chesterton's Father Brown in a British film shown in America as "The Detective" and then as a cardinal persecuted by east European Communists in the British film "The Prisoner" both of which brought him in close contacts with Catholics.

Mr. Guinness said: "I had thought about Catholicism a lot before I just don't know whether those films had anything to do with my decision. But they certainly made me go into the subject of Catholicism & hit more than I had been before."



Actor Alec Guinness as he played Chesterton's "Father Brown" in the British film, "The Detective".

HE SAID THAT he had been attending Mass in Petersfield regularly for some months. He also declared that Pope Pius XII had made a tremendous impression upon him when he had visited Rome as a naval officer in World War II.

The actor was born in London April 2, 1914 and attended English schools. He made his first professional appearance in 1934. Among his better known films are "Great Expectations," "Oliver Twist," and "Kind Hearts and Coronets."

Boston Prelate Washes Feet Of Negroes

Boston — (NC) — In a statement deploring racial intolerance, Archbishop Richard J. Cushing declared that "whenever discrimination touches another with its acid sting, then is Christ crucified again and for some, at that moment he has died in vain."

During the Holy Thursday rites in the Cathedral of the Holy Cross, the Archbishop performed the traditional washing of feet ceremony. As a sign of unity in the Church and the universality of Christ's redemption, Archbishop Cushing washed the feet of 12 poor men, who included members of the white, black and yellow races.

The Archbishop advocated that Catholics meditate on "the universal nature of Christ's redemptive act for humankind" and pledged special prayers for "brother bishops living in the world who have shown themselves to be truly good shepherds guarding all the sheep of the flock entrusted to them."

'Rock 'n Roll' Fad Seen 'Communicable Disease'

Hartford, Conn. — (NC) — The current teen-age craze for "rock 'n roll" music is a "communicable disease" and another symptom of adolescent rebellion, a Catholic psychiatrist has complained.

"If I see rock and roll it's something else," Dr. Francis J. Brackland, M.D., declared here. He laid the appeal of the hypnotic, ton-ton type of rhythm to adolescent rebellion and insecurity which have popularized such out-drunkness and disturbing the landish fads as zoot suits and ducal hats.

DR. BRACKLAND is psychiatrist-in-chief at the Institute of Living here, and is also president elect of the American Psychiatric Association.

Convert Mother Has 6 Daughters Nuns, To See Son Ordained To Priesthood

Sumner, Iowa — (NC) — A mother of 18 children, who became a Catholic after her marriage and prayed that one of her youngsters would become a religious, will see her seventh child devote his life to God's work this May.

MRS. JOHN H. SMITH of Immaculate Conception parish here will watch the ordination of her son Robert in early summer. Six of her daughters earlier joined the Franciscan Sisters of the Holy Family, Mt. St. Francis Convent in Dubuque.

One of the most important contributing factors to her children's religious vocations is family prayer, Mrs. Smith said here. "I felt after my marriage that in order to make a family properly, there should be unity in religion. Every night after supper we said the Ave Maria. Since we lived in a district

where there were no Catholic parents, we had to train the children without the help of Sisters," she said.

MRS. SMITH, whose husband died a short time ago, believes strongly in prayer and parental guidance in the matter of vocations. "We tried to give the girls encouragement when they were deciding on their religious vocations, but we left it entirely up to them," she explained.

In 1941, the six girls left home to go into the business world. In that year, the first girl announced she was entering religious life. Four years later, the second entered. She was followed two years later by a third. The fifth and sixth joined in 1954.

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See Inside

- Father Rigney Faces Cruel 3rd Degree... Page 5
Mary Snyder Divorce Cases... Page 4
Louis Budenz... Page 2
Book Shelf... Page 2
Joseph Brink... Page 2
Mag. DeLaine... Page 2

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Czech Reds Force Priests To Labor In Uranium Mines

Munich — (NC) — A lawyer who recently escaped from Czechoslovakia has confirmed statements broadcast by Radio Vatican on March 5 that Catholic priests are being secretly arrested in Czechoslovakia.

The escapee, Eric Bulow, 34, substantiated reports that priests in Czechoslovakia are being forced to work in the Jachymov uranium mines. He said he personally met priests serving in Jachymov as prisoner-workers.

"All the prisoners know this is part of the regime's campaign against the Church," he added.

MR. BULOW was arrested in 1949 for anti-Communist student activities in Prague and sentenced to five years' slave labor.

He declared in an interview, here with the Voice of America in Europe that even though no open trials of the priests are held, the people hear of the arrests.

"Priests just cannot disappear without people knowing about it," he added. Radio Vatican had stated that the priests were being tried secretly to keep the news from their parishioners.

MR. BULOW explained that the mysterious disappearance of priests "is deliberately used to make people afraid." In some cases, he continued, the Communists use secret trials because they have no plausible charge against particular priests.

Mr. Bulow said of at least four priests whom he had met during his imprisonment at Jachymov. One of these priests had received a summons to a Church conference purporting to be from his vicar general, acting for a jailed Bishop.

On the way to the conference, the priest changed trains at a junction. Security police were waiting there for him. The priest told Mr. Bulow that after his arrest he had been held in a so-called investigation prison for a year. Then he was tried in secret on charges of espionage and sent to forced labor in the Jachymov uranium mines.

MR. PAREKHONJES had heard nothing of him for more than a year. Then a Communist-approved "peace-portal" arrived and announced that he was replacing the pastor who, he said, had been "transferred."

Eventually, through a released prisoner, the parishioners learned that their priest had been sentenced to the mines. They refused to recognize the new Communist-appointed administrator.

The Archbishop's sentence, he said, was to carry out his duties in the church. They walked many miles every Sunday to attend Mass in a neighboring village.

Pope Warns World Leaders Against Atomic Arms Race

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII, in his Easter message to the world, warned leaders of nations against the "humid, suicidal madness" of the atomic arms race and appealed for a "co-existence in truth, justice and love."

"In order that nations may be checked in this race toward the abyss," he said, "we once again raise our voice, asking for light and strength from the Risen Christ for those who control the destinies of nations."

Wearing a heavy mantle over his white cassock, the 80-year-old Pontiff spoke from the balcony of St. Peter's Basilica to a crowd of more than 200,000 who greeted him with a two-minute ovation.

Occupying special balconies were Mrs. Clara Booth Luce, U. S. Ambassador to Italy, and many other diplomats.

THE POPE, whose message was broadcast to a world audience over radio and television, said that although the use of nuclear energy for peace purposes is the object of earnest and continuous investigation "it is which is given our blessing" all are aware that "other uses have been sought for producing instead destruction and death."

"Every day is a melancholy step forward on this tragic road, is a hastening on to arrive alone, first with greater advantage," he said. "And the human race at most loses hope of being able to stop this homicidal, this suicidal madness."

"To increase the alarm and serve," the Pontiff added, "there have come modern radio-guided missiles, capable of traveling enormous distances, and carrying, by means of atomic weapons, total destruction to men and things."

Pope Pius declared that the Church "feels the strength and courage to grasp the thorniest problems that assail mankind in the accomplishment of peace."

HE SOUNDLED, however, the warnings that obviously were directed not only against Soviet Russia and Communism, but also those who collaborate with Communism, including so-called progressive Catholics who actively support governments in the satellite countries.

In a plain reference to Communism, the Pope warned against "the enemy of peace" that seeks to exploit the weak points of mankind's pessimism.

"He uses now one, now another of those passions, and arouses one or the other" the Pontiff said, "threatening or



Pontiff Blesses World

Rome — (NC) — Observing his annual Easter message, Pope Pius XII blesses his traditional 'urbis et orbis' blessing, to the city and the world. In his message delivered from the central balcony of the Vatican basilica, the Pope declared that only a full and active faith can bring peace and ward off dangers against rising the catastrophe of atomic war.

"Such, in particular," the Pope added, "would be those Christians who, either ensnared by deceit or misled by heresy, operated in doubtful systems of material progress which demand, as a complementary condition, the abandonment of the super-natural principles of the Faith and of the natural rights of 'what we might call the vulgar man.'"

Calling for an unshaken trust in the triumph of peace, the Pontiff declared that "the Church bears nothing from the world, nothing in the world, for she lives at every moment in the mystery of Easter."

"Founded on the living rock of Faith, the unique assurance of her so as to safeguard for men supporting the Church in the tremendous struggle imposed on the values of the spirit, on the contrary increase the confusion, making themselves, in a sense, allies of Christ's enemies."

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Pontiff Sends Greetings To President, Americans

Washington — (NC) — Pope Pius XII has sent his best wishes and affectionate greeting to President Dwight D. Eisenhower and to all the people of the United States.

This was reported here by John A. McCone of California, here so as to returned from Rome, where he had personally represented President Eisenhower at the ceremonies marking the Holy Father's 80th birthday and the 17th anniversary of his coronation.

MR. MCCONE called at the White House and reported the Pope's message to the President on the success of his mission.

Talking with reporters afterwards, Mr. McCone said the Vatican authorities "accorded the President's representative every possible consideration," and that the Pope "was obviously delighted" when he read the personal letter from the President which he presented during a private audience.

And Mr. McCone added, because of his great admiration for the Pope and for the Holy Father's continuing efforts for the promotion of peace and freedom, President Eisenhower was greatly pleased to receive the Sovereign Pontiff's message for good will.

Pope Pius conferred upon Mr. Eisenhower, a Catholic, the decoration of the Grand Cross of the Order of St. Sylvester.

The Holy Father asked him to convey to President Eisenhower, employed from paying registration, Mr. McCone said, his delight and pleasure at the President's taxes under a bill signed by Gov. Theodore R. McKeldin.

Mr. McCone said he handed President Eisenhower's letter to the Pope at a private audience; that the Holy Father read it at once, and that "his face lit up."

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House Gets Auto Tax Exemption Bill Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Rep. Noah Mason (R-Ill.) introduced in the House a bill to exempt motor vehicles from federal excise tax when sold for use by religious, and educational institutions.



Archbishop Groesz Reported Released

Vienna, Austria — (NC) — Klement Volkobit, a pro-Catholic newspaper published here, reports that Communist Hungary has released Archbishop Joseph Groesz of Kalocsa.

The Archbishop was sentenced to 15 years in prison in 1961 on trumped-up charges of plotting to overthrow the government with the help of the United States. The newspaper said two unidentified priests convicted with the Archbishop were also freed.

Hungary announced last October 13 it was suspending the Archbishop's sentence, he said. Klement Volkobit said 68-year-old Archbishop Groesz now lives in the village of Solymar near Budapest and is permitted to receive visitors.

His parishioners had heard nothing of him for more than a year. Then a Communist-approved "peace-portal" arrived and announced that he was replacing the pastor who, he said, had been "transferred."

Eventually, through a released prisoner, the parishioners learned that their priest had been sentenced to the mines. They refused to recognize the new Communist-appointed administrator.

The Archbishop's sentence, he said, was to carry out his duties in the church. They walked many miles every Sunday to attend Mass in a neighboring village.

Special Retreat Scheduled For Non-Catholic Women

Cincinnati — (NC) — A week-end retreat for women at Mary Reparatrix Retreat House here from April 27 to 29 promises to be unusual.

All the retreatants will be non-Catholics. The Apostles of the Holy Spirit, an organization dedicated to convert work, will sponsor the retreat.

Officials of Mary Reparatrix Retreat House reported that about half of the available rooms already had been reserved for the retreat.

E. Schulhoff, head of the Apostles of the Holy Spirit, said all retreat houses in the Cincinnati archdiocese welcome non-Catholic retreatants. "However, the talks are prepared primarily for Catholics," he said, "and many of the terms used would perhaps not be too familiar to others."

It was to overcome this problem that the retreat exclusively for non-Catholic women was planned.



New School For Spencerport Parish

ARCHITECT'S DRAWING of the proposed new school and auditorium in St. John the Evangelist Parish, Spencerport, construction of which is expected to be completed next fall according to the Rev. Francis M. Reiser, pastor. St. J. De Angeles is the architect.