

4 Years In A Red Hell

Fr. Rigney Faces Cruel 3rd Degree Under China Reds

I first came in contact with the fellow called Tito in June of 1952. It was then that Wang and I had been shifted to the east compound of the prison where we were locked up in Cell No. 14. In this cell, Tito ruled as chu chang (cell leader) with an iron hand.

A youngish, stocky man, of medium height, Tito had been born in Odessa of a Serb father and a Russian mother. Gifted in many ways, he spoke and wrote English and Chinese as well as Russian, but bullying, weak and helpless talent. He used this ability in the tou cheng, the badgering accusation and third-degree process used by pro-Communist prisoners to break the spirit of their anti-Communist fellow prisoners with the aim of making them confess their "crimes."

Tito had been arrested on July 25, 1951, the same day that the Sepo (Chinese security police) had taken me into custody for alleged crimes against the "people's" democracy.

But the nimble Tito had confessed his anti-Communist "sins" so thoroughly, accused others of anti-Communist acts so vigorously and absorbed Communist indoctrination so easily that he was made a chu chang.

So well and ruthlessly did he perform his functions that he was permitted to buy extra food. His crowning accomplishment was the fact that he had grown fat in Tsao Lan Tzu prison!

Flanking Tito in Cell No. 14 were his two assistants: Wang, a merchant and an English speaking Chinese with experience in "you chenging" who had been my cellmate in the southern compound, and Luke, a foreigner, physician and Catholic who outwardly joined in castigating me, but who inwardly sympathized with my plight.

Not long after my incarceration, this trio of "you chengers" started to pressure me to explain why I had earlier confessed to a "people's" court that I had been an FBI agent and why I was now retracting that confession.

—Why did you deny your FBI confession?
A — I denied it because I was



Chicago — (NC) — Father Harold W. Rigney is greeted by his mother, Mrs. Addie Rigney, on his arrival here at Chicago's airport. Illness prevented Mrs. Rigney from going to New York to see Father Rigney on his first arrival in the U.S. since spending four years imprisonment in Chinese jails. He was released by the Communist regime in September of 1955.

As an American agent disguised as a priest...
Tito paused to scowl at Luke, who didn't seem entirely convinced by this line of reasoning.

Silence Worse
I could only shake my head at this distortion of fact. Actually, I joined the Divine Word Missionaries as a student in 1918. I was then 17. It does seem quite incredible for a youth of that age to be a qualified highly trained agent, but then Tito and his cohorts were never much concerned with credibility.

Day after day, Tito and his two aids probed my inner mind, forcing me to reveal my thoughts. To have kept silent would have meant worse tortures.

Diplomatic Answer
Proceeding cautiously, I formulated a diplomatic statement. "The passing of Stalin is a great loss to the people of the Soviet Union."

Tito trembled with grief. "Rigney," he said sadly, "the passing of Marshal Stalin is a great loss to all the people of the entire world."

Then, one day, Tito was released to our great relief. But our surcease was short-lived. After a succession of chu changs, we had the ill luck of getting one, an effeminate epigot with a nasty temper, whose name was Teng (pronounced "Dung").

Tito had been chu chang for nearly two years. Copyright, 1956, by the Very Rev. H. W. Rigney, S.V.D. All rights reserved.

Next Week: Driven to the brink of madness by his prison ordeal, Father Rigney regains the "level ground of sanity."

Father Rigney Asks Prayer For Captors
Chicago (RNS) — The Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., Catholic missionary released from a Red Chinese prison last September, urged prayers for his former captors when he celebrated his silver jubilee Mass here — a year late.

Father Rigney, formerly rector of Fu Jen University in Peking, would have observed the 25th anniversary of his ordination in April, 1955. But he was lodged in a Communist jail at the time.

More than 1,000 nuns and many friends from the neighborhood where the priest grew up were on hand for his belated jubilee Mass in St. Augustine's church on the South Side.

He told them that the Chinese people will never be able to come to the grip of Communism have on them without divine or other outside assistance.

Red Union Loses Fiat Auto Election
Rome — (NC) — The defeat suffered by the Red-dominated union in the workers' council election of the Fiat automobile works in Turin, Italy's largest industrial enterprise, is generally considered here as an indication of the deep crisis Italian communism has been experiencing for some time.

The communist union received only 30 per cent of the 55,000 votes cast in the Fiat election. Last year they won 37 per cent, and in 1954 they won 63 per cent.

Lourdes Cures Baffle Doctors
Paris — (NC) — No natural explanations can be offered for the cures of three Frenchwomen at the Shrine at Lourdes, 26 physicians have stated here.

After a meeting at the Motherhouse of the Lazzarist Fathers, the physicians asked that the medical reports of the cases of Mrs. Coutault of Poitou, Miss Frost of Provence, and Miss Bigot of Brittany be sent to the competent ecclesiastical authorities.

Convert Seminarian Wins Short Story Contest

St. Benedict, Oreg. — (NC) — A freshman seminarian, whose own young life could form the basis for an ideal, short story, topped 83 other contestants and won a \$300 first prize in a short story contest sponsored by the National Federation of Catholic College Students.

The winner is Charles E. P. Simmons, 24, of the Mount Angel Abbey Minor Seminary here. His entry was titled "His Lordship Loves The Mud." The prize was supplied by The Sign, monthly Catholic magazine.

THE SEMINARIAN is the son of Mrs. Charles Simmons of Yamaguchi of Nagasaki.

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Aide To Nuncio
Fargo, N. D. — (NC) — Father Joseph Senzger, assistant pastor at St. Mark's Church, Bottineau, N.D., has been assigned as secretary to Archbishop Aloisius J. Muench, Bishop of Fargo and Papal Nuncio to Germany.

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Long live the Holy Father, the Father of us all. OUR APPEALS ARE HIS APPEALS. This week He would like very much to construct an ELEMENTARY SCHOOL for the impoverished children of Zakhle in Lebanon. The problem there is especially acute. Could you help us build this school in honor of Pope Pius XII? \$2,500 will do it. Your donation, no matter how small, will be gratefully received. You could donate this CITADEL OF GOD in memory of deceased loved ones or for the living. Imagine the spiritual return on your temporal possession! The daily, fervent, grateful prayers of the hearts very close in the image and likeness of God. All through life, generations upon generations will call you blessed. Their voices will also reach through the vaults of heaven. INVEST IN ETERNAL DIVIDENDS.

GIVE WHAT YOU CAN, BUT GIVE. SACRIFICE IS GIVING.

PETER THROUGH LEO

Leo the Great was a valiant defender of the Church against the barbarians and the heretics. In the Seminary of St. Leo the Great in Egypt, we are trying to develop seminarians as his worthy successors. FODAD and SAMIR stand ready to answer the call to the priesthood, if someone will help them. Each needs \$500 for his six-year preparation. Leo the Great vigorously proclaimed the true doctrine of the Incarnation, intimately associated with the feast of the Annunciation. Could you announce glad tidings to SISTER MARY QUEEN OF THE WORLD and SISTER MARY OF THE ASSUMPTION, sisters with the Franciscan Sisters of the Cross in Lebanon? They timely ask us for \$300 apiece to cover their two-year training. Easy payments can be arranged. ADOPT A SON OR DAUGHTER-IN-CHRIST.

DON'T LET ANOTHER DAY GO BY. DO IT NOW!

MOTHER'S DAY—MAY 13TH

Baptize Mother's Day and give it deep spiritual meaning. A day when we honor our dear Earthly Mothers and Spiritual Mothers: Foster Mothers. Also our Heavenly Mother Mary and Holy Mother Church. Use our beautiful multicolored GIFT CARD to express thoughtfulness and appreciation. Have one name: a Novena of Masses; or Gregorian Masses arranged for the living and the dead. Or select one of the following:

Mass Kit	\$100	Chalice	\$40	Vestments	\$50
Altar	75	Ciborium	40	Mass Book	40
Tabernacle	25	Monstrance	40	Stations	25

BE A BASILIAN. "Truth needs only an atmosphere of supernatural charity in which to diffuse itself. Won't you help create that atmosphere by joining our DOLLAR-A-MONTH CLUB to support POOR MISSION SCHOOLS? Give whatever you can. Perhaps some students in honor of St. Thomas Aquinas, could make this their FAVORITE CHARITY."

EUCCHARISTIC WHITE

The Easter Octave is especially dedicated to beginners in the Catholic Faith. They wear their white Baptismal robes from Holy Saturday to the Sunday after Easter. We have a large number of neophytes who have been baptized and are being prepared for their FIRST HOLY COMMUNION. They are poverty-stricken and cannot afford a white dress or suit for this wonderful occasion. Could you supply one at a cost of \$10? They will bring great joy to some poor innocent child. \$10 will also buy a FOOD PACKAGE to feed our starving little ones. We will send you a FREE OLIVE-WOOD ROSARY from the Holy Land.

MAKE YOUR WILL HIS WILL. PLEASE REMEMBER THE GOOD LORD AND HIS NEAR EAST MISSIONS IN YOUR LAST WILL.

LIGHT A CANDLE. There is a great shortage of priests on our Near East Missions. In the absence of a priest, CATECHISTS render priceless service by providing religious instruction. \$50 will ignite the PASCHAL FIRE OF FAITH in some abandoned missionary area. We of the Household of the Holy HOME FIRES BURNING. Won't you light a CATECHETICAL CANDLE?

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