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**MIDDLE EAST**

Palestine, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon, Syria, and Israel are names that appear frequently in our newspapers. They are all part of our Near East Mission territory. In this area, there is a very ancient and precious Christian heritage which must not be forgotten. It is our duty to watch over it and to nourish it, ever mindful of the many places sacred in the life of Christ and His Church. In the little villages of GALILEA in Lebanon, \$100 are desperately needed to build a Church which is a dire necessity. The people, although marked by poverty, are giving of themselves and all their possessions. We must help them in the members of the SAME SPIRITUAL BODY OF CHRIST. They are our brothers. The right hand must help the left. Are there 400 REAL TRUE CROSS-BEARERS among us? If each gives \$1, this work of the Lord can be accomplished. What you make the sacrifice?

IF YOU CARE, WILL YOU SUFFER.

**CLEANSE THE LEPROUS**  
"Go and report to John what you have heard and seen: the lepers are cleansed." The same Christ-like Chapter is being written today in the Near and Middle East. Devoted Priests, Brothers, Sisters, Doctors and Nurses, are walking in the footsteps of the DIVINE PHYSICIAN caring for the leper. Each decade of leprosy offers a chance to glorify God and to give thanks for all that is being done through the WONDER DRUGS of your DEEP COMPASSION. Please join the DAMIAN LEPROSY FUND, one Dollar-Monthly Club or just send us a little.

\$10 FOR COMMUNION OUTFIT OR FOOD PACKAGE PLEASE!

**MOTHER'S DAY—MAY 13th**  
"My Mother is gone to God but by Faith is living. He is 95 years old. He is behind the Iron Curtain. I am spending this money for the good of my parents' souls." **MOTHER'S DAY, May 13th, will give you an opportunity to send FOR OUR FREE GIFT CARD WITH FLOWERS from the HOLY LAND. Choose a gift of MASSES; \$1 ENEOILLMENT; a STRINGLESS GIFT; or a DESIGNATED GIFT worth \$5.**

Mass \$5	10	Chalice	10	Vestments	\$50
Altar	10	Cherubim	10	Mass Book	10
Sorrows	25	Mourning	10	Statues	25

**SORROWFUL MOTHER.** How many a Mother's heart is pierced with swords of sorrow? Just the other day one exclaimed, "My life has been very hard." Our Lady of Sorrows understands. Don't forget her on Mother's Day. Please her, by offering a \$50 STATUE OF OUR SORROWFUL MOTHER to one of our institutions.

**ARRANGE NOW FOR GREGORIAN MASSES AFTER DEATH.**

**MY SPIRITUAL CHILD**  
"Fortitude is not of the body, but is a constancy of soul, patiently bearing all adversities." Our Seminarians and Novices have great fortitude, despite their many temporal hardships. After all, they have the inspirations of their own great St. George, born in Cappadocia, slayer of the dragon, and model of successful combat. Will you give them strength to carry on by ADOPTING A SON or DAUGHTER-IN-CHRIST? In the Seminary of St. Anthony of Padua, Lebanon, GEORGE WEBER and HANNA SABA need \$400. ANNARUKITY and DEVASIA, Novices with the Daughters of Mary in India, need \$300. They will pray daily, gratefully for you now, and always as Priests and Sisters. Give what you can, when you can. MEMORINDEE, Michigan, thanks very much!

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

**\$25 BUYS A CASSOCK.**  
The Cassock is the typical black garb worn in the Seminary, also in the street by our Priestly Missionaries. They use it day in and day out, as they ply along the WAY OF CHRIST'S CROSS. As any Mother pr Father well knows, such clothing doesn't last very long. Could you help Holy MOTHER CHURCH put a new Cassock on the back of one of her PRIEST-SONS. Your sacrifice of \$25 will be blessed abundantly. EASY PAYMENTS MOST WELCOME.

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480 Lexington Ave., at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

**FOUR YEARS IN A RED HELL**  
**Fr. Rigney Defends Airmen**

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

In the spring of 1952, I first learned of the Chinese Communist charges that the germ warfare in Korea.

I sensed something was brewing from the cartoons in the papers read by the inmates of our cell in a Communist prison in Peiping.

In many cartoons, the Americans were portrayed as infecting rats with deadly germs and then introducing these rats into Korea. It was obvious the Communists were trying to conceal their heavy losses, due to epidemics, by accusing the American armed forces of conducting germ warfare.

The Communist newspapers gave heavy play to these charges and many study brain-washing periods in prison were devoted to a discussion of these accusations.

**Flier's Confession**  
The local Peiping papers also made much of a confession submitted by a captured American pilot in the confession, printed in both Chinese and English, the flier stated he had dropped dud bombs over Korea targets. I could see that this charge was conclusive evidence that the duds contained deadly germs.

We also read the testimony of a foreign clergyman who investigated evidence submitted by the Chinese Communists to bolster their germ warfare charge.

This cleric concluded that the U.S. armed forces had used bacterial weapons in their Korea operations. He based his conclusion on corroborative testimony offered him by a number of Chinese clergymen.

But the question that came to my mind was whether these Chinese pastors were free to express their sincere opinion on the subject. Judging from my own experiences with the Communists I doubted it.

**Persecuted by Priests**  
Later we read that an international scientific commission went to China and Korea to investigate the germ warfare charge.

The commission also concluded that the American armed forces had used bacterial weapons. Its conclusions and further confessions made by captured American fliers led me to believe, at the time, that Americans had conducted a test of germ bombs over Korean battlefields.

The germ warfare controversy had its repercussions in my cell. Because I refused to believe that Americans were conducting a full-scale germ warfare, I was savagely persecuted by my cellmates.

**Not Convinced**  
While these confessions agreed on some important points, I was not entirely convinced. I had firsthand experience with the Communists and their techniques of extracting "confessions" from prisoners.

It seemed entirely possible, indeed probable, that the Chinese Communists had used on the fliers the methods they had used on me to force a confession of "crimes" which I did not commit.

Having served as chaplain in the U.S. Army Air Force during World War II, I had some insight into the minds of the men that flew our combat aircraft. I knew they were neither cowards nor traitors.

Analyzing the situation, I reasoned thusly:

"These fliers are not cowards. If they have made confessions they were tricked or tortured into making them by subtle refined techniques which destroyed the power of resistance."

**Worried Over Airmen**  
Later, I became distressed, on reading in the Communist papers, that the American government planned to court-martial these fliers on their return to the United States.

I hoped the government in Washington would not punish these airmen for falling to stand up against third-degree techniques of which they had no yen and for which they had not been prepared.

If Washington punishes them, I thought, the Americans will be playing into the hands of the Communists who are trying to disrupt Air Force morale, with the ultimate aim of frightening American youth so they will not enlist in the Air Force.

After my release and arrival in Hong Kong, I was pleased to learn that the U.S. armed forces had set up training centers to prepare cadet airmen for the kind of torture techniques employed by the Chinese Communists.

Some Americans were shocked at the so-called brutality of the training procedures. But if these people had any idea of the psychological weapons employed by the Communists to break down prisoner morale, they would take a less sentimental view and endorse heartily the new training program.

In the spring of 1954 came renewed hope that perhaps I would be released from Ts'ao Lan Tzu prison in Peiping.

During the early months of my imprisonment I prayed

This is the 11th installment in the gripping story of the 50 months spent in Communist prisons in China by the Very Rev. Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D. His story appears in the Courier Journal through courtesy of the Chicago Sun-Times.

earnestly for my release. As time went on I prayed for strength to bear up under my trials and less for my release.

Sometime in May, shortly after my transfer to another cell in my old compound, I was called to the "people's" court and put through another grilling by the judge.

A question and answer narrative of the cross-examination I went through will be illuminating:

**Q (by the judge) — How does the U.S. government control the American S.V.D. (Divine Word missionaries)?**

**A —** The U.S. government does not control the S.V.D.

**Q — It does and we know all about it. I am asking you only to see how honest you are.**

**A —** It is 36 years since I joined the American S.V.D. and I have always been in close contact with them. I know nothing of the U.S. government controlling them. Moreover, I personally do not believe the U.S. government controls the American S.V.D.

The judge was annoyed by my answers to his questions. He warned me that refusal to "expose" the S.V.D.'s alleged links to Washington would have heavy consequences.

Subsequently, he suggested that if I exposed this alleged government control of the S.V.D. I would get a big reduction of my sentence.

**Stood On Answer**  
My reply was, "I have told you the truth I know of no U.S. control of the American S.V.D. To say otherwise would be confessing falsely and I have had enough of that. I will not make a false confession."

**Q (thunderingly) — What! Are you threatening the "People's" government?**

**A —** No, I'm just telling the truth.

**Q — If you do not confess about the U.S. government control of the American S.V.D., your case will not be reviewed every year, as in the past, but only every three years.**

My spirits were dampened by this threat. But I continued to deny these charges and others equally absurd, such as his contention that Washington controlled not only the S.V.D., but the Catholic Church as well.

Then the judge gave me an earlier "confession" I had made and ordered me to condense it. I did, compressing it to 20 pages. But the man on the bench made many substantial alterations.

**Confession Changed**  
Where I had written that a Divine Word priest that I knew could have known an FBI agent, the judge made it read:

"... as rector of Fu Jen (the Catholic university in Peiping), I gave intelligence."

The judge altered this to read: "Under the cloak of a priest, I gave intelligence."

He overruled my objections to these distortions. My only hope was that some day I would be freed and be able to set this matter to truth.

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**Manitoba Exarchate**  
Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Pius XII named Bishop Maxime Hermaniuk, C.S.S.R., to be Apostolic Administrator of the Ukrainian Catholic Exarchate of Manitoba, Canada.

**BOOK SHELF**

By Sister Margaret Teresa Nazareth College

**AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY: CLARE BOOTHE LUCE**, by Alden Hatch. Illustrated with photographs. Holt '56. \$5.75, 254 pp. At all bookstores.

**ST. FRANCIS OF ASSISI: A PICTORIAL BIOGRAPHY**, by Leonard von Matt & Walter Hauser. With 200 plates. Regency '56. At all Catholic bookstores.

There was some nagging criticism about Mr. Hatch's book as not being a fair and complete portrait of our extraordinary Ambassador to Italy. Well, who knows whom that

well? The book is crammed with the excitement and vigor and achievement and non-estheartedness of its subject.

Let's call it a "profile" — an accepted type of modern journalistic biography, and then call it the Profile of the Year, and congratulate Mr. Hatch on the joy he has given. He is a family friend of the Lucees of long standing, has broad sympathies and airs no horrid prejudices, and catches the shining detail.

I like to remember out of 1948, his note that Bishop Sheen when he sent Clare his good secretary Dorothy Farmer, gave Dorothy this parting injunction: "Take good care of Clare." And Mr. Hatch adds that in 1950 our Holy Father Pius XII said exactly the same words to Dorothy Farmer in private audience.

"TAKE GOOD care of Clare." It belongs at the end of the nightly "God-bless-Papa" litany. May the span of this Clear Light's journey across our skies be as long as it is steady. May there be several more victory charms like the Trieste one dangling from her bracelet, Georgetown University labeled her the "Valiant Woman," and Mr. Hatch approvingly closes his book with all fourteen of Solomon's verses on that subject.

The Holy Father, says the last America, has delivered a pithy address to literary critics, and the Catholic Mind will publish it in full in a coming issue.

The general purport: Judge a book by what it says, not by extraneous and prejudicial information about the author's life. The foundation of criticism is truth; the crown, charity.

Another magnificent picture-story, offering 200 plates by Leonard von Matt just as telling in their scenic heights and depths and historic beauty as those he took for his Plus X picture book, is now selling.

There is but little text, sometimes just a page for an eight-picture setting (so that you do the first reading of the book the minute you open it — and look out you're not late for something or other!)

Yet what text there is illuminating.

**Byzantine Rite Chancellor Named**  
Pittsburgh — (NC) — Father Stephen Koelsko has been named chancellor of the Byzantine Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh. Bishop Nicholas T. Ilko has announced that the diocesan chancery offices are in his city.

Father Eugene A. Chromaga, assistant to the chancellor since 1954, has been named vice-chancellor. Father Edward V. Rosack, recently returned from graduate studies at the Pontifical Institute of Oriental Studies in Rome, has been appointed assistant to the chancellor.

Father Koelsko was born in Minneapolis, Minn., on June 11, 1915, and was ordained in Rome on March 30, 1941 by Bishop Alexander Everloff. On his return to the United States he was assigned to St. Stephen's church, Detroit. In 1947 he was pastor of St. John the Baptist church, Lyndora, Pa. He has served until now the defender of the marriage bond in the diocesan tribunal.

**Golden Glove Boxer Ordained Priest**  
Montpelier, Vt. — (NC) — Father Forest W. Rouelle of this city, who fought in the Golden Glove boxing tournament while a student at St. Michael's college, has been ordained to the priesthood at the Cathedral of the Immaculate Conception in Burlington.

**Over Million In Religious Orders**

Paris — (NC) — World membership of Catholic religious orders and congregations is more than a million, according to a survey published here by International Catholic News.

Religious communities of men have 180,443 members, in 17,922 houses in all parts of the world, the survey disclosed. There are 7.1 per cent of the world's Catholic population, has 174 per cent of the world's Religions. There are 18,097 religious priests, 8,752 Brothers and 158,069 Sisters in the U. S.

COURIER-JOURNAL  
Friday, April 20, 1956

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