

BOOK SHELF

Four Years In Red Hell

By Sister Margaret Teresa Nazareth College

FOUR YEARS IN A RED HELL, by Rev. Harold W. Eigney, S.V.D. Regnery '56, 222 pp. \$3.00.
RICHARD RAYNAL, SOLITARY, by Robert Hugh Benson. Introduction by Evelyn Waugh. Thomas-More-Books-to-Live Series. Regnery '56, 162 pp. \$3.50.

Father Rigney's story now running in the Catholic Courier-Journal is obtainable in a large-print bound copy at Catholic bookstores, and will be a precious memento of a great witness for Christ in our times. Readers have found every issue, every chapter, almost unbearably painful, yet a "must". We may not close our eyes and hearts to this worse-than-martyrdom which countless thousands are enduring: this day-after-day burning away in the crucible of unending man-devised torture until there lies before God the purest gold of manhood and faith.

Nobody who reads through a day of Father Rigney's four-year imprisonment can find his own cross quite so great as before. The bitter facts give perspective, the patience and difficult prayer of each hour inspire courage.

EVELYN WAUGH writes a probing sketch of Monsignor Benson's character, mission, and style to accompany the new Thomas-More Book to Live **RICHARD RAYNAL, SOLITARY**. It was Benson's favorite novel, he points out and his first after ordination and is "a piece of ecclesiastical decorative art". A young hermit is sent by God to a young and holy king, Henry VI, to prepare him for suffering and death. The effect of his message on the King is so severe that the hermit is set upon, and as it were acts out his great message in a martyrdom. Some consider it Benson's best and true the idyllic serenity and happiness pervading the style make the tale an invitation to a poem.

But for story, newcomer or old-hand, Bensonites will prefer the robust plots and perilous beauty of Catholic living under persecution which make up the substance of his longer historical novels such as **COME RACK**, **COME ROPE** or **BY WHAT AUTHORITY**—even though they are as Waugh says propaganda a pointed rewrite of English reformation history.

AS SISTER Rose Marie wrote in "41 Benson's special forte is his moving description of the liturgy: "The Catholic novelist

immeasurably increases the power of his picture of life when he can artistically make use of the thrilling beauty of our liturgy, since the Church has instinctively made the expression of her Christ life dramatic by using the liturgy to convey it to men." And Sister quoted among other passages, this beautiful one on the Elevation:

"He comes. He comes! On He moves, treading underfoot the laws He has made, yet borne up by them as on the Sea of Galilee. He Who inhabits eternity at an instant is made present. He Who transcends space is immanent in material kind; He Who never leaves the Father's side rests on His white linen carpet, held yet unconfined, in the midst of the little gold things and embroidery and candle flames and lilies. There rests the gracious King, before this bending group the rest of the pageant dies into silence and nothingness outside the radiant circle of His presence. From BY WHAT AUTHORITY!"

Retreat Attracts Japanese Girls

Sasebo, Japan — (NC) — A Franciscan retreat master got a tenfold turnout when he gave a retreat for the 16 Catholic girls in this year's graduating class of the high school of the Australian Sisters of the Good Samaritan.

Final examinations were finished, and the girls were free to attend or not so Father Joseph Kiyokawa O.F.M. Conv. expected no more than the 16 Catholics among the 164 graduates. But all 164 graduates showed up for the first conference, and came back for the talks during the rest of the three days.

Most of the girls attended daily Mass, prayed the Rosary and took part in each evening's service which concluded with Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament.



Story Teller

First place winner in the National Short Story Contest sponsored by the National Council of Catholic Youth is Patricia Ann Walsh of Seattle, Wash. She won first place in the high school division for her story "Big Benny".

Scholars To Write Catholic Encyclopedia

Paris — (NC) — The publication of a "Catholic Encyclopedia of the 20th Century" has been announced here.

The work will consist of 150 volumes, each having only about 128 pages. Two volumes will be published each month so that the entire work will be available at the end of six and a half years.

Henry Daniel-Rops, prominent Catholic historian and writer, is editor in chief.

Mr. Daniel-Rops has written the first volume, which is called "What is the Bible?" The encyclopedia will be published by the Librairie Arthème Fayard here.

Women Retreatants List Keynote Talk

Minneapolis, Minn. — (NC) — Bishop John J. Wright of Worcester will deliver the keynote address at the 10th National Congress of the National Catholic Laywomen's Retreat Movement on June 29.

The congress will continue to July 1. Sessions will be held at the Newell Hotel here and the Hotel St. Paul.

U. S. Report Raps Soviet Move To Control Religion

Washington — (NC) — A U. S. Government report on religion in the Soviet Union states the communists have adopted a policy of making the church serve the state.

The report stated that the Soviet Union took this line to bolster its failing efforts to stamp out religious feeling among the people.

"THE REGIME currently is going to considerable trouble to create an impression of religious toleration for the sake of the effect on foreigners," according to the report. The study was made available by a government agency which stipulated that it not be named.

It stated that U. S. Protestant churchmen visiting Moscow last month were told that religious instruction by priests is now permitted. "The truth of this statement is open to question," the report commented and added: "The law specifically prohibiting such instruction is still on the statute books."

The government study also said there has been no let up "in the intensive propaganda drive both among school teachers and parents" for the atheist education of children. It declared that atheism was still a fundamental tenet of communism. "In spite of an occasional change in tactics

there has been no fundamental change in the communist viewpoint toward religion since the days of Marx and Lenin."

THE REPORT said the Red state "is in full control of the Orthodox church and through this medium the Soviet Union has attempted to force other Orthodox churches to give their allegiance to Moscow rather than the Patriarch of Constantinople."

"It was successful in the case of the Orthodox groups in its eastern satellites," the report continued, "but failed to win any new allegiances outside of the regions under its control. The Unit Church, which owed allegiance to Rome was entirely suppressed by the communists."

Noting that "both Orthodox priests and Protestant churchmen" have been used by the communists to support the activities of the Soviet peace offensive through the World Peace Council, the report said "this activity has had little success in influencing churches beyond the Iron Curtain."

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Auxiliary

Mr. Alden J. Bell has been named by Pope Pius XII to be Titular Bishop of Rhodopolis and Auxiliary to Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, (suff. Bishop-elect Bell, a native of Peterborough, Ontario, is administrator of the cathedral of St. Vibiana, Los Angeles, and director of archdiocesan Catholic charities.

Mission Teachers Stick To Posts

Cape Town, South Africa — (NC) — Most of the African teachers in the Catholic mission schools have remained at their posts despite a 25 per cent cut in their salaries.

The Bishops of South Africa had to make the reduction in salaries when the government started to curtail the state subsidy to privately controlled mission schools under the provisions of the Bant education act.

From now on a portion of the salaries of teachers in the mission schools will have to be drawn from the contributions given to the Bishops' Campaign Fund. South African Catholics have pledged almost three million dollars to the fund in two years.

Congressman Urges Lifting Excise Tax On Private Schools

Washington — (NC) — The chairman of a House subcommittee on federal excise taxes said here he plans to introduce a bill based on his subcommittee's report, which calls for exempting private schools from excise taxes.

Rep. Alme Forand made this statement at a press conference called for the formal announcement that his seven-member subcommittee's report is ready for the full Ways and Means Committee.

IN ADDITION to urging exemption for non-profit schools, the report contains some 75 other recommendations designed to correct inequities presently found in the administration of the excise tax regulations.

Rep. Forand said he was not able to say exactly when his bill would be introduced, but that it would be "soon." He said the action would be taken in his capacity as an individual congressman and not as the subcommittee head, though the bill would be based on the subcommittee's report.

THE RECOMMENDED relief measure for schools conducted by non-profit organizations would free them from paying manufacturers, retailers, transportation and communication excise taxes. All levels of education would be exempt.

The subcommittee report estimated the loss in tax revenue by this exemption at three million dollars a year. This was more than the total of other losses, estimated at 2.1 million dollars, if all the recommendations in the report should be carried out.

THE PROPOSED exemption for private schools would release them from paying taxes on telephone calls and transportation charges as well as on retail and manufacturer purchases of such items as gasoline, schoolbuses, typewriters and sports equipment.

Rep. Forand said here the exemption would put these schools on the same footing as public schools which have not had to pay these taxes because of their status as agencies of local governments.

Pope Pleads For Care Of Lepers

Vatican City — (NC) — Leniency in the "cruel segregation" of the victims of leprosy and a re-education against popular misconceptions regarding this disease were urged by Pope Pius XII in an address to delegates attending the International Congress for the Help and Social Rehabilitation of Lepers.

Stating that "leprosy is no longer incurable as it was once thought to be and is less contagious than tuberculosis," the Holy Father stressed the importance of refuting antiquated misconceptions of the disease. He recommended the use of methods of control and cure that have been used successfully in other diseases.

The Pope pointed out that more than five million persons in the world suffer from the disease, but only 400,000 of them are benefited by medical assistance.

He decried the fact that there are still some places in the world without an organized program of assistance for those stricken by leprosy. "There is a necessity to organize the battle in the localities most stricken," he added.

Confirmation Slated In Communist Zone

Paderborn, Germany — (NC) — Archbishop Lorenz Jaeger of Paderborn plans to administer the sacrament of Confirmation in the Demau area of Communist East Germany, which is part of his archdiocese.

In 1955 the Reds refused to grant the Archbishop a visa

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