



Hoag, Keng—(NC)—Big smiles were the order of the day as Father Thomas L. Phillips, St. Louis, Mo., and Father John W. Clifford, St. Louis, Mo., arrive here aboard the German freighter Hamburg, after spending three years in a Chinese Communist prison at Shanghai. Both priests, natives of San Francisco, were accused by the Communists of conducting espionage and revolutionary activities.

POAU
Seeks To Block Bus Rides For Catholic Pupils

Albuquerque, N. M. — (NC) — Petitions seeking to prevent Bernalillo county from providing bus transportation for non-public school students were circulated in several Protestant churches here.

The petition, circulated by the Protestants and Other Americans United for Separation of Church and State (POAU), are said to be answers to a signed request by some 8,000 other Bernalillo county citizens, known as the Citizens for Private School Students.

THE LATTER group asked the county commission to provide transportation for 2,884 private and parochial school students.

A 1953 New Mexico statute allowed parents to request funds for non-public school transportation. This is in line with the U.S. Supreme Court decision in the Everson case decided in 1947, which held that state funds may be used to provide transportation for non-public school students.

The Rev. A. L. Albina, chaplain of the POAU, on the other hand, said such a provision is in violation of the U.S. Constitution's separation of church and state policy.

THE POAU IS seeking 20,000 signatures on the petitions which would ask the county commission not to provide the transportation. The petitions state that the parents "do not seriously and sincerely protest the use of public funds for the transportation of pupils to parochial and non-public schools."

The Citizens for Private School Students have estimated that the county would cost the county \$47,633. Oscar Blucher, chairman of the commission, said the county lacks such funds at this time, but would try to find them before next year.



Baseball Fever Even in Siam
American Redemptorist priests take America's national sport even to far-away missions. Here Father W. Lowery, C.S.B., of St. Louis, Mo., and Major C. Duhaer, C.S.B., of Detroit, Mich., spot their club's average in the "Sporting News," baseball's official newspaper, a weekly arrival at the Redemptorist monastery in Xang Ming, Parantankhom, Sakolakhom, Thailand.

Freed Jesuits Say No Religious Liberty in Red China

Hoag, Keng—(NC)—Two American missionaries who arrived here after being imprisoned in Red China for three years, vehemently denied that there is freedom of religion in Red China. Their account of the situation indicated that the Church is being persecuted in Red China more bitterly than ever.

The priests are Jesuit Fathers John W. Clifford, 39, and Thomas L. Phillips, 52, of San Francisco, Calif. They arrived here in good mental and physical condition.

AFTER THEIR release by the Reds last month, the missionaries stated they were permitted to say Mass privately, but were forbidden to offer Mass in public or to make contact with the Chinese people.

Father Clifford was arrested by 30 heavily armed soldiers in Shanghai on June 15, 1953, six days after his assignment as curate of Christ the King Mission in that city. He was charged with being an "imperialist and disrupter of the country."

Father Phillips, who was arrested in Shanghai on the same day as Father Clifford, was accused of "imperialism." He was deprived of his glasses for two and a half years and confined to a cell 12 feet long and 9 feet wide, where he had a Chinese cellmate. He was subjected to 150 interrogations averaging two hours each.

AT HIS PUBLIC trial in Shanghai 400 picked spectators were present. The Shanghai public prosecutor stated: "The Pope is the head and hyphen between the Catholic Church in Red China."

Father Phillips revealed that he was taken on a tour of Red China with Bishop Ambrose Finigan, O.F.M., of Gowanus, Franciscan Fathers Fulgence Green and Cyril Wagner, and Father Joseph P. McCormack, M.M. The Reds did this, he stated, in the hope that the priests would make favorable comments later on the material progress of the country. He declared that the Chinese people are unhappy, and that a high price is being paid for comparatively little progress.

Catholic Schools Hailed in Congress

Washington—(NC)—High tribute was paid on the floor of the House of Representatives to the educative work carried on by private schools in the United States.

The tribute came from the House Majority Leader, Rep. John W. McCormack of Massachusetts, just prior to the final vote which killed the Federal aid to education bill by a 234-194 vote.

"I want to pay particular tribute," Rep. McCormack said, "to some people whose generous support of education in our country is frequently overlooked or even ignored. I refer to the parents and guardians of children attending private and parochial schools. I also refer to those religious groups which operate the parochial schools which so many of us appreciate and admire."

HE ADDED: "I want to point out that despite the heavy burden of financing their own schools, those who support private and parochial schools have not complained about the cost of public education."

"For the most part, people who generously support private or parochial schools have not complained about the cost of public education."

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Americans Marry Too Young

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — A prominent Catholic theologian warned here that Americans are getting married at too early an age.

The Very Rev. Francis J. Connell, C.S.S.R., dean of the School of Theology at Catholic University of America, pointed out that the average age of marriage has declined to 22 for men and 20 for women.

It would be much better if the average for men was 25 and for women 23, he told a family life institute on the campus.

"I THINK THAT in present-day society," Father Connell said, "a young man has not had sufficient time to stabilize himself after finishing his education until he is 25."

He said that a young couple should understand "the social nature of marriage" and that it is an institution primarily for the welfare of society and not for the individual.

Parents should discourage steady dating among teenagers, he said, and matrimony should be permitted only where there is a possibility of a marriage.

Father Connell also warned against the increasing number of mixed marriages, asserting that many persons of different religious background are marrying "without sufficient reason."

Chinese Priests Ordained in Genoa

Genoa, Italy — (NC) — Four Chinese priests who fled the communist regime in China, were ordained priests by His Eminence Giuseppe Cardinal Siri, Archbishop of Genoa, in St. Laurence's cathedral here.

They were among 35 seminarians who left the University of Feking after the arrival of the communists.

Four other Chinese priests are working as assistants in several parishes in Rome.

Diocese Of Rome Reports Nearly 2 Million Catholics

Rome—(NC)—The Rome diocese has published for the first time a yearbook containing information on all the parishes and religious institutions of the Eternal City.

THE YEARBOOK lists 1,840,641 as the total number of the faithful there. They are served by 163 parishes, six quasi-parishes and 146 chapels.

Compared with the 1951 Italian Catholic directory, the figures show an increase of 26 parishes. Compared with an earlier directory of 1930, the number of parishes has increased by 100.

THE LARGEST ROME parish is that of St. John Lateran at 40,000 parishioners.

One of the oldest parishes, that of St. John Lateran is also the smallest, having only 800 parishioners.

Most Cardinals Over 70, 12 Past 80th Year

Washington—(NC)—There are 63 living members of the Sacred College of Cardinals. Two of these are in their nineties. Besides these, 12 are over 80 and at least 36 are more than 70.

His Eminence Jos Cardinal Caro Rodriguez, Archbishop of Santiago, Chile, is 90 years old; His Eminence Alessandro Cardinal Verde, Archbishop of Los Angeles, recently joined the list of 70-year-old Cardinals. He was born in New York on June 23, 1888.

Eighteen of the Cardinals have reached their 60th birthday during 1958.

His Eminence James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, Archbishop of Los Angeles, recently joined the list of 70-year-old Cardinals. He was born in New York on June 23, 1888.

Love Comics Replacing Crime Books, Parents Told

Montreal—(NC)—Inspector Ovide Pelletier, head of the Montreal Juvenile Delinquency Prevention Bureau, has warned parents to be on guard against so-called "love comics."

He said there has been a marked decrease in "crime comics" due to constant vigilance and action by police and educational activity by parents and teachers.

HE APPEALED especially to parents to give the same cooperation in watching over "love comics." Prosecution against these so-called comics is more difficult, he said, because they are made to appear highly moral by the fact that in the situations depicted the boys and girls either escape unscathed or become repentant.

He quoted findings of the Cincinnati (Ohio) Committee on Evaluation of Comic Books, which said that "love comics" seemed to be displacing "crime comics." The committee described the "love comics" as "unreal and unwholesome."

Auxiliary Bishop Named in Texas

Washington—(NC)—Pope Pius XII has named Mr. Adolph Marx, Chancellor of the Diocese of Corpus Christi, Texas, to be Auxiliary Bishop of Corpus Christi.

Bishop-elect Marx was born in Cologne, Germany, February 18, 1915, the son of Peter and Elizabeth (Olek) Marx, both of whom now reside in Cologne, Germany. He made his college and seminary studies at St. Mary's University, San Antonio, Texas, and was ordained on May 2, 1940, in St. Patrick (now Corpus Christi) Cathedral, Corpus Christi.

The Bishop-elect has been Chancellor of the diocese since 1943.

You'll enjoy your vacation more if you can take along a long portable radio. See our display of portable radios, the new type transistor portable. The display is at the Catholic Book Store, 240 St. John St., East. Hours: 10:30-5:30 p.m.

High Court Voids Brighton Town Ban On Church

Albany—(Special)—New York State's highest court, the Court of Appeals, by a 5 to 1 decision, has cleared the way for the erection of the St. Thomas More Church and School on the 14-acre "Drescher Estate" at 2815 East Avenue in the Town of Brighton.

In a separate decision, the Court of Appeals also knocked down a local ban against the erection of a Jewish Synagogue in Sands Point, L. I.

The Diocese of Rochester, refused permission to erect church buildings on the East Avenue site by the Town of Brighton and the lower courts, carried its case to the Court of Appeals at a hearing held last April in Albany. The Diocese was represented before the Court of Appeals by Attorneys David H. Shearer of Rochester and Porter Chandler of New York.

In the two decisions handed down on Wednesday of this week, the state's highest court overruled lower courts that had upheld local authorities in refusing to grant permits for the necessary construction of religious buildings. The Court of Appeals was divided 6 to 1 in each case.

BOTH OF THE court's rulings directed local officials to grant permits for the development of religious uses. They said local authorities could not impose unreasonable conditions to the issuance of permits to assure that the buildings were safe and complied with building, fire and other laws.

Associate Judge John Van Voorhis of Iroquois, the dissenting voice, said he would not grant the permits in both cases because of his disagreement on procedural grounds. He contended that neither case was properly before the court.

Writing for the majority in the Sands Point case, Chief Judge Albert Conway said: "We think that we should accept the fact that we are the successors of 'We, the people,' of the Preamble to the United States Constitution, and that we may not permit a municipal ordinance to be so construed that it would appear to be an exercise of police power of religious profession and worship."

The Sands Point case involved an appeal by the Community Synagogue for the right to develop an estate known as "The Chimneys," which it had acquired for religious purposes, to include a synagogue and meeting rooms for affiliated religious organizations.

ASSOCIATE JUDGE Charles W. Frossell wrote the majority opinion in the Brighton case in his 14-page decision. Judge Frossell dealt with the reasons why church use of the Drescher estate was refused by the Brighton Town Board and Planning Board.

The Court of Appeals noted the Brighton Planning Board based its decision on the following arguments:

1—That the Brighton board was, in effect, declaring "that a proposed church and school, such as we have here, could only be built in an outlying area."

"Since the board states that all of this Class A area except this tract is built-up, this in effect precludes the diocese, under this declaration of policy, from ever locating its church in a Class A district."

2—That the board's ground that the church would have an adverse effect upon property values "will apply with equal force to any residential zone, and if such unauthorized standard is allowed to prevail, the planning board could keep churches and private schools from locating in any place in a Class A area."

"Moreover," the opinion continued, "in view of the high purposes and the moral value of these institutions, mere pecuniary loss to a few persons should not bar their erection and use."

3—That the board's argument on grounds of loss of potential tax revenue was inconsistent with the intent of the state's law permitting tax exemption for religious institutions.

"... the paramount authority of this state has declared a policy that churches and schools are more important than local taxes, and that it is in furtherance of the general welfare to exclude such institutions from taxation. This being the case, it cannot be seriously argued that the decision of respondents denying this permit because of a loss of tax revenue is in furtherance of the general welfare. A higher authority than these boards has decreed otherwise, and the opinion states:

4—That "noise and other inconveniences have been held to be insufficient grounds upon which to deny a permit to a church."

THE MAJORITY opinion also stated that, as to the right of the planning board to reject the necessary "uses" proposed by the diocese, they "are within the scope of a church's activities, or case was properly before the court."

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It also noted that "it would hardly be argued that such structures are more objectionable than those related to agriculture, which are expressly permitted in Class A districts without qualification."

IN NEW DISSENTING opinion, Van Voorhis noted that the case raised the question of whether it would be unconstitutional to prohibit construction of a church in a zoning district.

"It is premature to decide that the question now, as I believe that the court is solving. Under the majority view, it would hardly be possible for the planning board to deny approval of a religious or educational use in a Class A residential district upon any basis or upon any ground."

Joining in the majority opinion handed down this week were the Supreme Court Judges Frossell, Conway, Desmond, Dye, Fuld and Burke.



New St. Thomas More Church and School will be erected on 14-acre tract on East Avenue, Brighton. Site is shown by cross (X) on diagram above.

How To Recruit Women Singers

Galveston, Tex. — (RNS) — The rector of an Episcopal church here has come up with a new method of recruiting female members for his choir.

He published in the church's bulletin an observation that women who sing stay younger looking. A singer's cheeks clear are so well-developed, he stated, that her face will not wrinkle nearly so soon as that of a non-singer.

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