



Freed Missioner Phones Mother From Hong Kong

San Francisco—(NC)—Mrs. Anna Clifford, 80, talks here on the phone to her son in Hong Kong. He is Father John W. Clifford, a priest released by the Red Chinese after three years in prison. Will her are the children of Harry F. Clifford, brother of the priest. The portrait is of Father Clifford.

Ruling Seen Major Victory Over Zoning Bans On Churches

Religious congregations won an important victory in New York last week in their continuing battle against local zoning ordinances barring the construction of new churches in residential areas.

In two 6-1 decisions, the State Court of Appeals reversed lower court decisions that would have prevented the Catholic Diocese of Rochester from building the St. Thomas More Church and Parochial School in suburban Brighton, and the Community Synagogue of Sands Point, Long Island, from using property owned there for a temple and religious school.

The two cases had attracted nationwide attention because of the increasing concern of church groups over restrictive zoning laws in residential areas.

LEGAL ORDINANCES are regarded as obstacles to church construction for two reasons.

The first is the extensive amount of church building going on, which shows no signs of slowing. On the other hand, the departments of Commerce and Labor report that church construction reached a record figure of \$136,000,000 for the first six months of this year.

The second reason is the special need for churches in suburban areas. The city-to-suburb population exodus since the end of the war has been one of the greatest challenges confronting the churches. Not only have many new congregations been formed in suburbs over the country but some city churches have felt the need to move to outlying sections because of the shift of their members to these areas.

As a result some suburban communities, in order to completely maintain the residential nature of their districts, have adopted zoning regulations which attempt to bar the erection of churches and religious schools.

The arguments made by proponents of such zoning restrictions are that churches and affiliated schools create traffic hazards and depress local property values and reduce tax income.

IN A NUMBER of cases, lower courts have ruled that local authorities are within their rights in refusing permits for projected new churches in residential areas. They have overruled pleas that churches and schools must be built wherever the need arises and that to prevent such construction is a "unconstitutional" high courts, however, have sided with religious groups on the issue.

In a majority decision in the Sands Point case, Judge Albert Conway said: "We may not permit a municipal ordinance to be so constructed that it would appear in any manner to interfere with the free exercise and enjoyment of religious profession and worship."

Conquering an objection that the proposed buildings would be used for cultural and social purposes as well as "purely worship and other strictly religious purposes," Judge Conway said: "The limits of church activity being merely a house of prayer and sacrifice would, in a large degree, be a true expression of sympathy. Flowers and gifts are given, thought is directed toward more and more beautiful than words. Call it a church or call it a temple, it is a place where the spirit is free."

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Communist Tyrants Force 'Iron Curtain' Clergy To Slave Labor In 'Living Hell'

Bonn, Germany — (NC) — Nearly 1,000 priests and Protestant ministers are interned in a concentration camp at Sedolitz, Czechoslovakia, that is a living hell, according to a returnee who has reported his experience here. The Czech Red rulers are making life for these prisoners as miserable as they possibly can, it was stated.

The former inmate of the camp gave the following report: The camp is built around an old coal mine, which is also a ventilation deposit. Not even the most elementary safety measures are provided for the inmates, who are forced to do the heaviest labor in day and night shifts.

They work some 2,000 feet below the ground, in a constant temperature of more than 100 degrees. There is no water and no ventilation system and the prisoners are in danger of death from atomic radiation.

Machete guns are posted all around the camp. Standby formations in the barracks are plentiful, and sick prisoners are given little medical care.

"The soundest are here to die," a communist guard announced to them recently. "The sooner the proletariat world is delivered of your disgusting presence, the better."

Since work quotas are set so high that only the most vigorous of the prisoners can meet them, food rations are cut to the bone by way of punishment, even though the food is bad. Among the prisoners are both diocesan and religious priests: Slovaks, Czechs, Germans, Hungarians, Ruthenians and Romanians. They are granted no holidays, and Sundays are working days.

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Nazareth Receives \$70,000 Check From Ford Fund

Reception of a check for \$70,000 as part payment of a \$146,500 grant from the Ford Foundation was announced today by Nazareth College.

Nazareth College is among the 616 private colleges and universities in the United States named last year by the Ford Foundation to share in its total grant of \$210,000,000. The Foundation is paying its grants in two installments, one in July, 1956 and the other before July 1, 1957.

Under terms laid down by the Ford Foundation all educational institutions receiving the grants are restricted for 10 years to sole use of the interest from the grant for the purpose of raising faculty salaries. After the 10-year period, all restrictions on the use of either the principle or the interest cease.

IN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT of the grant, the Reverend Mother M. Helen, president of Nazareth College, issued the following statement:

"Nazareth College, administered by the Sisters of St. Joseph, wishes publicly to acknowledge the deep gratitude of its students, its alumnae and its faculty to the Ford Foundation for this generous gift.

"It comes at a time when additional services, increased enrollment, the necessity for new library and dormitory facilities and the very wide margin between tuition and the actual cost of educating each student have greatly increased the financial burden of the College."

"General as the Ford Foundation is it will not, however, meet the compelling and ever expanding needs of college education today."

"Nazareth must look to religious leaders, civic and business concerns, community organizations, to its friends, and especially to its alumnae for support in its efforts to hold and to improve the contribution to the education of the young women in this area."

PURPOSE OF THE Ford Foundation in assisting privately supported colleges and universities was explained last year by Henry Ford II, chairman of the Board of Trustees of the Foundation.

"All the objectives of higher education," Mr. Ford stated, "ultimately depend upon the quality of teaching. In the opinion of the foundation's trustees, private and corporate philanthropy can make no better investment of its resources than in helping to strengthen American education at its base — the quality of its teaching."

Supreme Court Fight Looms On Tax Issue

San Francisco — (RNS) — A group of California taxpayers has decided to carry to the United States Supreme Court a case which could affect the tax exempt status of every religious organization in the country.

The California Taxpayers Alliance will ask the nation's highest tribunal to overthrow a state law granting property tax exemption to non-profit private and parochial schools.

HENRY C. CLAUSEN, attorney for the alliance, said the appeal will be filed within 30 days. He indicated that it would be made on the grounds that the state statute, passed by the legislature in 1951 and approved by voters in a statewide referendum the following year, violating the First and the Fourteenth Amendments.

He said that federal questions of "discrimination, class legislation and separation of Church and State" are involved in the case.

ANDREW F. BURKE, an attorney for the Roman Catholic Welfare Corporation of San Francisco, said a decision on the federal questions will affect all tax exemptions granted to churches, religious schools and religious organizations by the federal government and by the states.

In June, the California Supreme Court, in a 4-3 decision, upheld the state law which grants tax exemption to non-profit private elementary and high schools.

The court ruled that the exemption was designed to encourage education and not to favor religious institutions, since it applied to all non-profit schools.

"The principle of separation of Church and State is not impaired," the court declared in the majority decision.

EARLY IN JULY, the California court turned down an appeal for a rehearing, which was filed by former Governor Culbert L. In a "friend of the court" brief, the former state chief executive said the court decision, if not reversed, would "commit California to the subsidization of Catholic parochial schools particularly and incidentally other sectarian schools."

The next step, he contended, would be "direct grants for the support of Catholic schools in our state budget."

consequences of making such a decision. The original story was based on a Brooklyn girl named Bernadette Lynch, who is now Sister Alma Bernadette, a professed nun and missionary in Peru.

Through talks with those who have known Sister Alma Bernadette, the viewing public will be shown what causes a normal American girl to accept a life of sacrifice in the jungle.

The program will conclude with a filmed interview of the nun in Peru.

Pope Bids 'Iron Curtain' Catholics Resist Atheism

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Pius XII, in an apostolic letter called upon Roman Catholics behind the Iron Curtain to remain faithful to their religion and resist every attempt to infuse atheistic doctrines among them.

He warned especially against those who say it is necessary to "mitigate and change the principles of the Catholic Church and the Catholic religion so that there may be a certain false union between them and the errors of the advancing age."

THE POPE'S letter was addressed to "our beloved children, both clerical and lay, of Albania, Bulgaria, Czechoslovakia, Hungary, Yugoslavia, Poland, Rumania and EASTERN GERMANY, and to other people of Europe suffering persecution who enjoy

Communists Jam Vatican Broadcasts

Vatican City — (RNS) — The text of Pope Pius XII's recent apostolic letter to Catholics behind the Iron Curtain was broadcast by the Vatican Radio for several days running in an effort to reach listeners who are occasionally heavy consumers of this air wave.

The Pope's letter, which called upon the faithful living under Communist domination to remain true to their religion and to resist attempts to infuse atheistic doctrines among them, was broadcast in various European languages.

"We hope we shall break through and be heard, but there is no certainty that the apostolic letter will be allowed to reach those to whom it is addressed," a Vatican Radio announcer said.

pace an union with the Apostolic See." It was dated June 29, the Feast of St. Peter and Paul.

Pope Pius paid a special tribute in the letter to three cardinals in the letter to three cardinals in Communist-dominated countries "whom we ourselves raised to the dignity of the Roman purple because of their outstanding merits, diligence in discharging their paternal duties and zeal in defending the freedom of the Church."

The prelates are Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary; Cardinal Szeptycki, Archbishop of Zagreb, Croatia; and Cardinal Wyszyński, Primate of Poland.

Cardinal Mindszenty and Cardinal Wyszyński are living in forced isolation after serving terms in Communist prisons, while Cardinal Szeptyński is confined by the Warsaw government in a monastery in Western Poland.

The Pontiff said that "the more the ark of Peter is tossed upon the raging waves the more vigilant is the Divine Pilot, although at times He may seem to sleep." He said that "from unjust persecution and the sufferings of martyrs will be born new triumphs for the Church."

"OUR GREATST grief," Pope Pius continued, "springs from the realization that the minds of children and of youth are being steeped in false and perverse doctrines so that they are separated from God and His Divine precepts, to their great loss here below and to the endangering of their eternal salvation."

"The weak and bewildered," he added, "must remember the promise of the Redeemer: 'Heaven and earth will pass, but My words will never pass.' Never will He permit the faithful and brave children of His Church to lack divine grace and fortitude."

THE POPE SAID that ten years had passed "since Christ's Church was stripped of her rights (in the Communist countries) and she has been reduced to a state of slavery."

Mother's Plea



Westbury, Long Island — (NC) — Father Thomas F. Code, pastor of St. Bridget's Church here, gives his support to Mrs. Morris Weisberger, as she makes a TV and radio plea to the kidnaper of her month-old baby, Peter. The distraught mother asked the abductor to leave a note in any church, Catholic, Jewish, or Protestant, or establish contact with a clergyman.

'Bernie Becomes A Nun' Story Stated On Telecast

New York — (NC) — A television adaptation of Maryknoll Sister Marie De Ray's recent book, "Bernie Becomes A Nun," will be featured on CBS-TV "Look Up and Live" program on July 22, 10:30 to 11 a.m. EDT.

The Sunday program will be featured in Rochester on Channel 19 over WVEV-TV from 10:30 a. m. to 11 a. m.

The program, produced by the National Council of Catholic Men, will be a documentary study into the nature of a religious vocation, and the actual

Post Office Denies Mails To 'Dealer In Obscenity'

Washington — (NC) — The U. S. Post Office Department here has announced it has denied use of the mails to Irving Klav of New York City, described by the department as "one of the nation's largest dealers in pornographic material."

The announcement said he was denied the mails "to advertise and sell his particular brand of obscene photographs, drawings and cartoons of a peculiarly salacious type."

The department said a recent decision of the Solicitor of the Post Office Department directed that mail addressed to Mr. Klav shall be labeled "Unlawful Mail" and returned to the sender or disposed of as "dead matter" if there is no return address.

The department said the ruling denies mailing activities to Mr. Klav and added that his sale of pornographic material has been estimated at more than \$1,500,000 annually.

Church Sanctions Urged Against Traffic Killings

Vatican City — (RNS) — L'Osservatore Della Domenica, Vatican City weekly, appealed for a "Christian conscience" to halt the rising toll of traffic deaths.

THE ARTICLE SAID that in the absence of laws and in the "sad but undeniable weakening of the civil conscience," the Church must raise her voice to repeat God's command, "Thou shalt not kill."

"The 16th CENTURY Council of Trent imposed the penalty of excommunication on duellists, their seconds, all who advised the duel and all who witnessed it. It also decreed that a duelist killed on the field shall be denied Christian burial."

Pope Benedict XIV in 1762 decreed that duellists should be denied Church burial even if they had received absolution before death.

Town Lifts Ban On Girls' Academy

Harrison, N. Y. — (NC) — A town ordinance permitting the construction of only public schools and accredited colleges in the exclusive Purchase area here has been amended by the Town Board in favor of a Catholic girls' academy. The vote was 3 to 2.

An application to permit the zoning of a 20-acre tract for St. Walburg's Academy and convent was originally rejected by the Harrison Town Board on April 25. Subsequently, Town Attorney Richard Condon recommended that the local ordinance be modified on conditional grounds.

AS PASSED, the amendment permits the construction of private, non-profit schools in residential areas of Harrison of which the Purchase area is a part. Manhattanville College of the Sacred Heart, a Catholic girls' college administered by the Religious of the Sacred Heart, is located there.

Ten points in the amended ordinance include requirements that schools shall be registered or regulated under the education laws of the State of New York; that the schools shall be private and non-profit as understood under the Internal Revenue Act; and that their teaching be restricted to the general arts and sciences. The third stipulation precludes the construction of dormitories for the general public and having to do with general zoning and building requirements.

JAMES G. LANDIS, Town

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U.S. Letters To Prague 'Disappeared,' Says Abbot

Prague — (NC) — A letter of protest has been sent to the Czech Ministry of Post by Abbot Ambrose L. Ondrak, O.S.B., of St. Francis Abbey here, regarding a registered letter which the Abbot had sent to Archbishop Josef Beran of Prague and which was not delivered.

Arrived on April 4 to the Archbishop's residence, no indication of non-delivery was sent to the abbot, although international postal regulations require it. Neither was the letter returned.

"If the communist regime in Czechoslovakia cannot be trusted to deliver a simple postal letter," Abbot Ondrak wrote, "how can the government of the United States be expected to honor other social existence proposals coming from behind the Iron Curtain?"

Copies of the letter of protest have been sent to the U.S. State Department, the U.S. Post Office, the U.S. Ambassador in Prague, and the U.S. Consul in Prague.