

Priests Heard Confessions, Led Rosary Aboard Sinking Andrea Doria

(The following account of the sinking of the Andrea Doria was written by one of the survivors, Father Dolcimore, a priest of the Archdiocese of Chicago.)

By FATHER JOHN DOLCIMORE
New York (NC) — I was playing "Scrabble" with Father Wojcik (the Rev. Richard Wojcik, 33, also of Chicago) in the card room on the boat deck of the Andrea Doria when she collided with the Swedish liner Stockholm. Suddenly we heard a crunch—a sort of grinding noise. Then we heard orders being shouted over the ship's loudspeaker, and a deck steward came around and said: "DON'T GET EXCITED. Everything is all right. But right after that another steward came around and commanded: "Go to your cabins. Get ready to man the lifeboats." We went down three decks to our cabin, but we

couldn't get anything from it except our life preservers because smoke began filling the corridors. Just then the loudspeaker told us to go to our number stations—the ones we had been assigned in lifeboat drill right after we left Genoa.

Our station was the large cabin on the promenade deck. There were several hundred passengers including women and children in the first class passengers' promenade cabin.

SUDDENLY THE LIGHTS went out and all we could see were shadow shapes around us. Another priest, a Father Lambert from Philadelphia, (later identified as Father A. Paul Lambert, pastor of St. Philomena's Church, Lansdowne, Pa., near Philadelphia), began reciting the Rosary out loud, and Father Wojcik and I responded:

"Holy Mary, mother of God, pray for us sinners now and at the hour of our death. . . .
Many in the group joined. I began hearing confessions.

I gave general absolution to the group. I could hear Father Lambert doing the same, and another priest named Father Markham (later identified as Father Daniel Markham of Troy, N. Y., who was injured) and Father Wojcik. The people appeared to have been strengthened by the Rosary and the confessions. There seemed to be less crying.

We looked outside through the windows and port-holes and saw that the dense fog appeared to be lifting a little. After what seemed to be hours we suddenly saw lights—many lights—and someone shouted: "A ship! A ship!"

People began talking, just to keep in touch with each other. Some even tried to joke a little.

The order finally came over the loud speaker: "Abandon ship, lighten your life belts, women and children first."
By now the deck was tilted steeply, so we all slid down in a sitting position—down to the evacuation doors, and windows that had been opened by crew members. We waited for some time at our stations beside some lifeboats. Then crew members first helped women and children down Jacob's ladders over the side to a lifeboat.

And, thank God, the water was calm. We looked around and saw that we were almost surrounded by the lights of a number of ships. We were only in the lifeboats 15 or 20 minutes—then we pulled alongside a huge liner.

It was the Ile de France.



New York (NC)—Sister Assunta, a Franciscan Sister of the Assumption, weeps on arrival here at Pier 87 aboard the SS Stockholm which rescued her from the sinking Andrea Doria. She was enroute from Rome where she had taken her final vows. Greeting her is Father James McKeown of the New York Catholic Charities, Franciscan Nun, Red Cross Worker.



New York (NC)—Lost in the sinking of the Italian liner Andrea Doria, the Massachussetts coast is the beautiful chapel here over the main altar features the Madonna of the Rosary, with St. John the Baptist (left) and St. George (right), the latter both patrons of Genoa where the lifeboat was built.

THE CATHOLIC
Courier Journal
OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE
57th Year ROCHESTER, N. Y., FRIDAY, AUGUST 8, 1966 10 Cents

Catholics Quit Cardinal Mindszenty Embarrasses Reds 'Sugar Bowl' Tournament Primate Said Balking Red Pleas To Leave Hungary

New Orleans (NC)—Wrecking of the Sugar Bowl Basketball tournament scheduled for next December 28 and 29 came in the immediate wake of enactment of the new Louisiana law banning mixed racial athletic contests. Three teams of Catholic universities withdrew from the tournament.

OFFICIALS of the Mid-Winter Sports Association, which operates the Sugar Bowl games, said that the withdrawals of Notre Dame, St. Louis and Dayton universities probably meant that there will be no basketball tournament this year.

In their withdrawals from the tournament, the three universities made it clear that their athletic teams represent the entire student bodies of their schools, which include Negroes. They added that any student is eligible to participate in athletics and will not be kept off of team because of race. The schools added that their policies do not recognize racial segregation.

NATIONAL COLLEGIATE Athletic Association rules limit college university teams to 25 games and, since Catholic schools for the coming basketball season already have completed, it appears next to impossible to get major teams for the tournament, even if they were willing to play under segregated conditions.

Religious gatherings are specifically excluded from the bill which was signed into law by Gov. Earl K. Long.

Two Nuns Lost
In Ship Disaster
Peterham, Mass. (RNS)—A regular Mass was celebrated here for two Mexican Missionaries of Mary missing in the Andrea Doria sinking.

The missing nuns, whose society established the Immaculate Foundation here two years ago, are Sister Maria Grech and Sister Theresa De Guadalupe. They were on their way from their native Italy to study hospital techniques at St. Vincent Hospital in nearby Worcester.

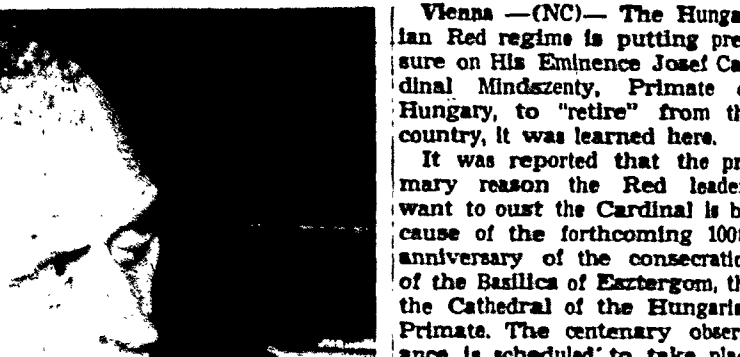
Hope for the missionaries' survival was abandoned after the Rev. Rocco Serra, S.M., returned to New York where he spent several days checking leads and interviewing survivors of the maritime disaster in efforts to learn the fate of the two nuns.

Father Serra, who is a cousin of Sister Theresa, is assistant superior of St. Francis Xavier Mission House and Novitiate here.

He said the last person who remembered seeing the nuns came to him a few hours before the collision to inquire the hour Mass would be celebrated the following morning.

No one to whom Father Serra spoke recalled seeing them again.

See Inside
Early Jesuits
In Cayuga Page 5
Louis Ruses Page 2
Book Shelf Page 6
Father Sheen Page 4
Mary Daly Page 11
Mary Snyder Page 10
Joseph Berg Page 4
Mrg. Dolan Page 4



CARDINAL MINDSZENTY
1948 — In Red Courtroom

Vienna (NC)—The Hungarian Red regime is putting pressure on its Eminence Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, to "retire" from the country, it was learned here.

It was reported that the primary reason the Red leaders want to oust the Cardinal is because of the forthcoming 100th anniversary of the consecration of the Basilica of Esztergom, the Cathedral of the Hungarian Primate. The centenary observance is scheduled to take place on September 2.

IT WOULD BE very embarrassing for the Red regime, it was stated, if the celebration should take place when the Cardinal is banned from his own country. Catholic sources here feel the Communist leaders are right in believing that the centenary observance would focus the eyes of Hungarian Catholics on the Cardinal's martyrdom.

According to the information here, Communist officials have discreetly asked Catholic Church leaders if they would undertake the delicate mission of "persuading" Cardinal Mindszenty to retire abroad, preferably to Rome.

It was learned that Primate Minister Andras Fiedkus of Hungary had offered the Cardinal a substantial pension if he would consent to leave the country.

THE CARDINAL, it was reported, has emphatically turned down earlier proposals to leave the country, although Red leaders tried twice to lure him into accepting their offer.

The most recent report on the Cardinal stated that he is confined at Almásy Castle near Pecs, Hungary, a small village about 40 miles from Budapest. It is believed that he is free to travel about the grounds of the castle, but it is not known whether he is permitted to have visitors.

The Hungarian Reds arrested the Cardinal on December 26, 1956, on charges of treason. After he was given a limited release from prison in July, 1955, he was confined for several months to a residence in the village Puspek Szent Lázló.

THE BASILICA of Esztergom will be 100 years old on August 31, but its centenary will not be observed until Sunday, September 2, because of a Communist law that forbids church ceremonies and celebrations on work days. The basilica stands on the so-called "Holy Hill" of Hungary, where St. Stephen, King of Hungary, was born and baptized.

Catholics here feel that the Cardinal's absence from the Esztergom celebration will intensify the hatred of the Hungarian faithful toward their Communist oppressors. This is especially true, they say, because of the recent appointment of Erno Grot as first secretary of the Hungarian Communist Party to succeed the deposed Matyas Rakosi. Both men played major roles in the arrest and imprisonment of the Cardinal.

The Hungarian regime, it was learned, is doing its utmost to tone down the centenary celebration. It was reported that Hungarian officials had proposed that if the government thought it unwise and inappropriate to ban the celebration, it should at least limit its extension and discourage Catholics of other dioceses from traveling to Esztergom.

Our service includes flower-ly-wire arrangements. And a special for busy hospitals. Flowers already arranged in water. Prepared to prolong their beauty. At Blanchard, Fidler, 3 Lake Avenue. MAKER 544-466.

Holy Communion Distributed As Ocean Liner Went Down

Philadelphia (NC)—A story of how the consolations of religion allayed fears and brought hope to passengers aboard the Italian liner Andrea Doria after its collision with the Swedish liner Stockholm was told here by Father A. Paul Lambert, 55, pastor of St. Philomena's Church in suburban Lansdowne, Pa.

Father Lambert was returning from a visit to Europe and to the Holy Land. He was taken aboard the French liner Ile de France.

AT THE TIME of the crash Father Lambert was in the lounge of the Andrea Doria with two Chicago priests, Fathers John Dolcimore and Richard Wojcik.

"It felt as though we had hit a rock and were grounded," he said. "The ship shook violently and within 15 minutes it listed at a 45 degree angle. We were told to go to our cabins and get our life preservers, and we knew we were in serious trouble."

"The first hour was the worst. The fog was very heavy, and we had no idea as to whether we could get help. We prepared for the worst. We priests received absolution from one another and then gave general absolution to groups of people."

Father Lambert and the other priests moved along the decks on hands and knees, hearing confessions and leading groups in saying the Rosary. At times they crawled up to the priest and crawling away again.

"We sat there in pitch blackness, hoping to be rescued," Father Lambert said. "The only help that could be given the passengers was help for the soul."

"The first hour was the worst. The fog was very heavy, and we had no idea as to whether we could get help. We prepared for the worst. We priests received absolution from one another and then gave general absolution to groups of people."

"I feel it before God," he told the Roman Catholics of the Youngstown district during the celebration of an outdoor Mass in the Byzantine Rite.

The Mass—the fourth that Bishop Sheen has offered in the Eastern Rite—dramatized the sacrament of Holy Communion in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

"Some day, please God and Our Lady of Fatima," the Bishop said, "I am going to read a Mass—exactly as I am reading now—in Russia."

Expressing his love for the Russian people, Bishop Sheen said Russia is not Communist but only under Communist rule. "They love Our Lady and have devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mother just as we do," he stated.

Pope Offers Prayer For Sea Victims

Rome (RNS)—Pope Pius XII invoked "divine mercy" for the victims of the Andrea Doria sinking and sent his Apostolic Benediction to the survivors and their families.

In a message to Antonio Segni, Italian Premier, from his summer residence here, the Pontiff said the disaster "raises a deep sorrowful echo in our hearts."

The message, which was made public by the Italian Government, read:

"The immense maritime disaster which hit Italy and so many of God's creatures raises a deep, sorrowful echo in our heart."

"Alert to everyone's suffering as well as to the moving display of helpful christian charity, we invoke divine mercy for the victims and send to the survivors and to their families 'sanctus' a special comforting Apostolic blessing."

That the relative will be unduly alarmed was deplored by priest-chaplains at hospitals here.

"IN ALL MY years as a chaplain, I have never appointed a patient who was not grateful for it," said Father Edward J. O'Meara, who is chaplain at two non-Catholic hospitals and six rest homes. He stressed the necessity for Catholics to call in a priest to administer to a sick relative or friend who is a patient in a non-Catholic hospital.

Father Wilfred D. Schlattmann, chaplain at Lutheran Hospital here, said that Catholics who neglect to call a priest for a gravely ill relative "are guilty of criminal neglect for which they will be judged most severely by God."

"It is really criminal to leave a patient in complete darkness about his condition, especially if his soul is not prepared for death," Father Schlattmann said. "The most important moment of life is the moment of death. If we are not God's friend at that time, if we are not in the state of grace, we're lost forever. To approach this moment oblivious to the fact that one is dying is dangerously foolish."

BOTH CHAPLAINS said that reception of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, in many instances, is an act to recover and that far more people live rather than die after they have been anointed for death.

They said that practicing Catholics facing death in the proper spirit have a great missionary effect on non-Catholic fellow patients, doctors and nurses. Several conversions have resulted from such instances, the chaplains said.

'Guilty Of Criminal Neglect' Catholics Who Fail To Call Priest For Fear Of Upsetting Dying Rebuked

St. Louis (NC)—The "sickliness" of some Catholics in calling in a priest to administer the Sacrament of Extreme Unction to a sick relative for fear

that the relative will be unduly alarmed was deplored by priest-chaplains at hospitals here.

"IN ALL MY years as a chaplain, I have never appointed a patient who was not grateful for it," said Father Edward J. O'Meara, who is chaplain at two non-Catholic hospitals and six rest homes. He stressed the necessity for Catholics to call in a priest to administer to a sick relative or friend who is a patient in a non-Catholic hospital.

Father Wilfred D. Schlattmann, chaplain at Lutheran Hospital here, said that Catholics who neglect to call a priest for a gravely ill relative "are guilty of criminal neglect for which they will be judged most severely by God."

"It is really criminal to leave a patient in complete darkness about his condition, especially if his soul is not prepared for death," Father Schlattmann said. "The most important moment of life is the moment of death. If we are not God's friend at that time, if we are not in the state of grace, we're lost forever. To approach this moment oblivious to the fact that one is dying is dangerously foolish."

BOTH CHAPLAINS said that reception of the Sacrament of Extreme Unction, in many instances, is an act to recover and that far more people live rather than die after they have been anointed for death.

They said that practicing Catholics facing death in the proper spirit have a great missionary effect on non-Catholic fellow patients, doctors and nurses. Several conversions have resulted from such instances, the chaplains said.

Expressing his love for the Russian people, Bishop Sheen said Russia is not Communist but only under Communist rule. "They love Our Lady and have devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mother just as we do," he stated.

Bishop Sheen Predicts He'll Say Mass In Russia

Youngstown, O. (RNS)—Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York predicted here that someday he will say a Mass in Russia.

"I feel it before God," he told the Roman Catholics of the Youngstown district during the celebration of an outdoor Mass in the Byzantine Rite.

The Mass—the fourth that Bishop Sheen has offered in the Eastern Rite—dramatized the sacrament of Holy Communion in honor of Our Lady of Perpetual Help.

"Some day, please God and Our Lady of Fatima," the Bishop said, "I am going to read a Mass—exactly as I am reading now—in Russia."

Expressing his love for the Russian people, Bishop Sheen said Russia is not Communist but only under Communist rule. "They love Our Lady and have devotion to the Blessed Virgin Mother just as we do," he stated.

In Byzantine vestments, Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York is shown on occasion of his offering the Mass in the Byzantine Rite.

MAKER 544-466
Our service includes flower-ly-wire arrangements. And a special for busy hospitals. Flowers already arranged in water. Prepared to prolong their beauty. At Blanchard, Fidler, 3 Lake Avenue. MAKER 544-466.