



MEETING THE PARISHIONERS—In a bid to know his parishioners better, Father Schnecky, administrator of St. Catherine's Church, Mendon, is having breakfast at a different family home each Sunday after Mass. Here Father Schnecky breakfasts with the family of Mr. and Mrs. Howard Walker (left to right in photo) and their three children, Catherine, George and John. From left to right: Father Schnecky, Mrs. Walker, Catherine, George and John.

Priest Meets Flock At Sunday Breakfast

How does a new pastor go about learning to know his parishioners? That was Father Albert Schnecky's problem when he was named administrator recently of St. Catherine's Mission Church in Mendon.

ALTHOUGH THE rural church has only 30 or 40 families, they are spread out over a forty or fifty mile area. Added obstacle to closer relations between pastor and flock is the fact that the Mendon Church has no rectory. To care for his people Father Schnecky has to travel back and forth between his residence at the Nazareth Motherhouse in Pittsford and Mendon.

Father Schnecky decided on the direct approach in the problem of learning to know his congregation. Recently he requested all the people attending St. Catherine's to send him photos of themselves. Through photos, Father Schnecky feels he easily can learn to identify faces and names.

More recently, he has come up with a more intimate approach to the task of "knowing the parish." This is the "Sunday Morning Breakfast" idea.

ACCORDING TO this plan, Father Schnecky has breakfast with a different family from the parish each Sunday morning after Mass. The advantage of this, according to the priest, is that "you usually find the entire family at home on Sunday morning and can meet everybody in the house on one visit."

Howard Walker, trustee of St. Catherine's, thinks Father Schnecky's "Sunday morning breakfast visit is an excellent idea. It not only gives everyone a chance to get acquainted," he says, "but Father Schnecky can really be in the family when he comes to the house on Sunday morning."

In carrying out his Sunday Breakfast program, Father Schnecky is visiting his parishioners alphabetically. "Already," he reports, "I am up to the W's."

FAMILY FEEL—Following Sunday morning breakfast at the Howard Walker home in Mendon, Father Schnecky sits to meet the family post-Mass (left to right) the Walker children, John, George, Catherine and their mother, Mrs. Walker.

Church Officials OK Cure At Lourdes

Paris —(RNS)—A cure which took place at the famous Lourdes shrine four years ago has been declared miraculous by a special Roman Catholic ecclesiastical commission.

The case is that of Madame Aline Coueslant of Bouille-Loriz in the Deux-Sevres department, who had been completely paralyzed for 36 months when she was taken to Lourdes on a stretcher in May 1952.

WHEN SHE returned home, the woman was able to climb out of the train with the help of other pilgrims to greet her husband on the platform.

Madame Coueslant told reporters:

"My stretcher bearer, one of our neighbors, plunged me four times in the pool at Lourdes. On the last evening of the pilgrimage, I felt a hot tingle in my spine. Then I felt a warmth under my armpits. For a moment I thought it was the end, that I was going to die.

"Then I was seized by an irresistible impulse. To the amazement of the nurses I was able to stand up. It was almost as if I had heard a voice bid me, 'rise and walk.'"

TODAY MADAME Coueslant is able to run, to help the men with the harvesting and do all her ordinary housework.

Every year now she makes a pilgrimage to Lourdes as a nurse for her stretcher case. An international commission of 26 doctors who studied her record as required by the Catholic authorities in the case of claimed miraculous healings, concluded that "readily the woman's recovery was inexplicable."

Mother Helps Missions Thanks To Poison Ivy

Laconia, N.H. —(NC)—A 72-year-old mother of 14 children was able to send a generous check to African missionaries—thanks to poison ivy.

Mrs. Eva LaPointe's 50 year dream of helping the Catholic missions came true when a poison ivy remedy she originated was put on the market for national distribution.

"THE WHITE FATHERS in an African mission received her first royalty check," delighted the remedy a half century ago when her growing family demanded ingenuity in devising means of treating various ailments. Mrs. LaPointe realized no profits from her discovery until her youngest son, Gaby, a Columbia Broadcasting Co. executive, submitted the formula to a manufacturer of homeopathic remedies.

THE REMEDY, whose basic ingredient is the common sweet fern found in abundance in the woods in the area, was given many exhaustive tests, some of them here in New Hampshire.

Spanish See Raised To Archdiocese

Madrid —(RNS)— Pope Pius XII has raised the Diocese of Pamplona in northern Spain to the rank of an archdiocese, according to the papal bull of elevation.

His Holiness also named the new archbishop, Don Juan Garcia Herrero, who has headed the Diocese of Pamplona since the death of the first Archbishop of Pamplona.

U.S. Jesuit Recalls Life In Red Prison

Father Clifford, whose three-year ordeal in a Red prison is told here was a fellow-prisoner of Father McCormack whose removal from prison to house detention is reported in a story at right of this page.

San Francisco — (NC) — Six weeks ago Father John W. Clifford, S.J., a prisoner in communist Shanghai, was astonished when suddenly told he was going home—to San Francisco.

Now he sat loose and easy, obviously comfortable in a blue sport shirt open at the neck. The rest in Hong Kong had done him good.

For three years he had tasted the bitter hopelessness of living each day as it came in a succession of Red prisons.

"Sure, I can tell you what it was like," the priest said. "But there's something important I'd prefer you get straight first. My being here is a direct result of the prayers that were offered for me. Of that I'm convinced.

"Just make sure people understand the value of prayers for those who have to live with and under the communists. I'm not, but millions aren't—and prayer is the only thing keeps 'em going."

"WHAT IT WAS LIKE" in Father Clifford's telling added up to this:

A parish assistant at Christ the King Church in Shanghai, he was seized by the Reds in June 1953, and thrown into the first of four city jails. No charges. No explanation. Just "come with us, you're going to prison."

"My real crime, of course, was being a priest. They were employing a process of attrition—arresting a few priests every year, identifying us as 'enemies,' so they could always tell the people.

"Look, we're not persecuting the Catholic Church, just getting rid of enemies of the state."

"But the comrades did make specific charges against me. I found out later—two years and four months later. Last October I was called out of my cell at the Ward Road jail and had the charges read to me: 'You are guilty of spreading rumors and of slandering the government by publishing the People's Republic in the Church of Scotland.'

Throughout his prison years Father Clifford never once had a chance to offer Mass, had no spiritual articles of any sort, and was turned down every time he requested a Bible, and was even forbidden to pray.

Occasionally a guard would catch him moving his lips.

"What are you doing?" "I'm saying my prayers." "Well, you can't do that here. It's against the rules."

Word of the incident eventually reached one of the top prison officials who informed the priest: "You have no religious rights here and will stop immediately."

THE DIMINUTIVE missionary not only didn't stop—although he tried to be sure nobody caught him in the act—but even managed to make the eight-day retreat required of Jesuits each year. A retreat master before his arrest, he knew the exercises by heart.

"I'll never forget the one in 1954," he said. "I had a ravine maniac for a next-cell neighbor—poor fellow, the guards prodded him into screaming and moaning every time they found me on my knees. It was a long eight days."

Earlier in the year, Father Clifford had spent 25 days in solitary confinement next to the same maniac. He slept when he fell over from exhaustion—only to be awakened again by the horrible sounds that went on day and night.

When not in solitary, the San Francisco-born missionary shared a cell with from one to 18 Chinese prisoners. Until May 15 this



After three years in Red China prisons, the American Jesuit, Father Thomas Phillips (left) and Father John Clifford (right) can still smile on reaching freedom. This week in San Francisco, Father Clifford told the story of "What It Is Like" for a jailed missionary in Red China. See story at left.

year he saw nothing of fellow prisoners imprisoned during the same period.

Rice or water-and-rice gruel served at 9 and 4 o'clock was the bill of fare. "Hunger or no hunger, you can take only so much rice—my limit was four bowls," he said.

BEFORE HE WAS strongarmed into prison, Father Clifford had seven years in China during which he formed a high estimate of the nation's people, and particularly the faith of its Catholics.

"I've seen them driven to the limit of their spiritual strength, and still resist communist efforts to separate them from Rome. Chinese Catholics are not weaklings. A great many are truly heroic," he said.

In the Jesuit priest's opinion, few Westerners really understand the "diabolical" pressure put on members of the Church in China.

World Council Cardinal Mindszenty, 'Not Our Concern'

London —(NC)— One of the six presidents of the World Council of Churches (Protestant and Orthodox) said here the council did not raise the question of His Eminence Joseph Cardinal Mindszenty with the Hungarian government during its meeting in Eubangy because it "was not our concern."

The Very Rev. Dr. John Ballie, leader of the Church of Scotland, discussed the Galvestone meeting of the World Council's Executive Committee in a radio interview.

"IN ANSWER TO a question as to whether anyone mentioned the restricted Cardinal of asked about him, Dr. Ballie replied: "No. We had other questions to ask of the (Hungarian) state and government officials we saw because we were concerned about certain Protestant bishops who had been deprived of their office some years ago."

"As the Roman Catholic Church does not belong to the World Council of Churches and as we do not quite understand the situation or what is the pres-

Star Rugby Player Enters Seminary

Dublin —(RNS)—One of Ireland's outstanding Rugby players, Barney Cunningham of Cork, is leaving for England to study for the Roman Catholic priesthood.

Mr. Cunningham, who plays Rugby for University College in Cork and for the Cork Constabulary team, was selected to play for Ireland in international matches seven times during the past two years.

Graduated from the Cork college as a civil engineer, he is the first of his family to attend a football to enter the diocesan seminary at Salford, Manchester.

St. Maurice, 'The Foot-Soldier' American Army Colonel Designs Patron Saint's Medal For Infantrymen

New York —(NC)— A new medal for American infantrymen, bearing the image of St. Maurice, has been designed by St. Maurice, patron of the infantry.

Col. Franklin R. Sibley, deputy commander, Western Area command, in Kaiserslautern, Germany, became interested in the Roman saint of infantry while serving as commander of the 20th Infantry Division (Regular) at Fort Ord, Calif., last year.

INVESTING TO a dinner commemorating the founding of the 20th Infantry in northern Spain, the colonel became interested in the saint of infantry. He also named the medal, which he made in special protection, St. Maurice, but he was not sure of the name. Remembering a Latin phrase

Area Missionary Freed From Jail By Chinese Reds

The Chinese Communists have freed Father Joseph P. McCormack, an American Maryknoll missionary whose home address is listed as Palmira, N.Y., from his Shanghai prison cell to a guarded private residence, according to N.C.W.C. news reports from Hong Kong.

He has been held in Shanghai prisons since his arrest by the Communists in June, 1953. Following his arrest with seven other Catholic missionaries, he was subjected to a Communist public trial in Shanghai and condemned to five years in prison.

FATHER McCormack is a brother of Edward McCormack, 418 East Main Street in Palmira. A native of Roscommon, Ireland, Father McCormack came to the United States in 1918 and entered the Maryknoll (N.Y.) Seminary and was ordained in 1924. He offered his first Mass at St. Dominic's Church, Shortsville. The following year he was sent to the missions in Fushan, Manchuria.

Also transferred with Father McCormack from prison cells to house arrest status, according to Hong Kong reports, are two other American missionaries: Father John A. Houle, a Jesuit from Oakland, California, and Father Cyril Wagner, a Franciscan from Pittsburgh.

TRANSFER OF the American missionaries from prison to a private residence is regarded in Hong Kong, according to N.C.W.C. News Service, as a prelude to their release from Communist China.

Site of their present detention may be the Shanghai headquarters on Kao Yu Road of the Scheut Fathers, a Belgian foreign mission society. At least missionaries previously freed were held here before their final release by the Communists.

As reported last month, Father McCormack was one of a group of priest-prisoners recently taken on a tour of Red China, very often the procedure of Communist authorities before releasing foreign prisoners.

IN A LETTER received only last week by his brother Edward in Palmira, the 62-year-old missionary revealed that he had less than two years to serve of his prison sentence cut out to him by the Communists. "It was for five years," he explained, "from June 15, 1953 to June 15, 1958."

He was informed about the sentence only last October.

In his letter, dated May 28, 1956, the veteran Maryknoller also forecasted his prison release as reported this week. "There is good hope," he wrote "that the Government will show me some more leniency and shorten my sentence somewhat."

The Irish-born priest, according to recent reports, has not lost his native sense of humor during his three years under the notorious hardship of prison life in Red China. This was indicated by two fellow prisoners, Father



FATHER McCormack is a brother of Edward McCormack, 418 East Main Street in Palmira. A native of Roscommon, Ireland, Father McCormack came to the United States in 1918 and entered the Maryknoll (N.Y.) Seminary and was ordained in 1924. He offered his first Mass at St. Dominic's Church, Shortsville. The following year he was sent to the missions in Fushan, Manchuria.

McCormack, Houle and Wagner—all now reported out of prison and under house guard—are among five American Catholics remaining in Communist China.

Two other American missionaries still held by the Communists, are Father Fulgence Gross, a Franciscan from Omaha, Nebraska, and Father Charles J. McCarthy, a Jesuit from San Francisco. According to unconfirmed reports, these two priests also have been shifted from prison and living under house detention in Shanghai.

THE JESUIT Father Phillips, a fellow prisoner of Father McCormack and released last month by the Reds, reported on his arrival in Hong Kong that house prisoners are free to recreate together, permitted to stroll about the garden, and may sleep when and as long as they wish. They have three cooked meals a day, western-style, with plenty of steak hamburger and port chops by the side.

Hong Kong observers, according to Religious News Service, believe that the new treatment given the missionaries may be due to the recent Communist invitation to American correspondents to visit the country. They say the Reds obviously hope to impress the visitors with the fact that all the Christian missionaries have been freed, or at least that those still in custody are being well and humanely treated.

"When you give flowers you give the most sentimental gift of all," said Father Phillips at 55 Lake Ave. for the largest and most complete stock. The flowers have plenty of water and are well cared for. Call MA. 5421—Adv.

Iron Curtain Bishop Held In Asylum

Vatican City —(NC)— Bishop Eugene Bosilko of Nikopol, Bulgaria, who was sentenced to death by the Reds on October 3, 1952, is in an institution for insane, according to the "Red Book" of the Persecuted Church.

The "Red Book" was published by the Commission for the Persecuted Church, a branch of the Conference of International Catholic Organizations. The first copy of it was given to His Holiness Pope Pius XII in May.

THE RED BOOK gives the following information in regard to Bishop Bosilko:

He was arrested in his home on July 15, 1952. Together with 20 priests, two nuns and two laymen, former editors of the Catholic weekly Istina, he was tried by the Sofia court of justice on September 25, 1952. He was accused of spying, possessing firearms and spreading anticommunist propaganda.

He was sentenced to death with three Assumptionist priests: Father Kaban Venc Lovton, Pavel Gligov and Giosafat Selskov. The "Red Book" states that Bishop Bosilko was imprisoned by the Communists in a psychiatric hospital in Sofia.

The "Red Book" says that only a few of the 127 priests who were active in Bulgaria in 1946 are still free. Only a few nuns and Religious are free of the 200 who were found in Bulgaria before the advent of communism, it adds.

To South Pole

San Diego, Calif. —(NY)— Chaplain (Lt.) Leon S. Derkowski is one of two chaplains named to accompany the U.S. Navy's Antarctic Expedition this year. Father Derkowski, currently assigned to the Naval Air Station at Mirna, California, will relieve Father John C. Condit, of St. Louis, who has served in the Antarctic for almost a year.

John Clifford and Thomas Phillips, both American Jesuits, who were released from Red China last month, Father McCormack, he said, was in good health and "the life of the party."

IMPEDIMENT BY the Communists is not Father McCormack's first brush with trouble as a missionary. During World War II, his mission in Manchuria was overrun by the Japanese. He was repatriated to the United States in 1942 and assigned to mission work in Chile, South America.

See Inside

300 Years Of Faith In Cayuga Page 5
 Louis Budent 2
 Father Sheerin 4
 Mary Daly 10
 Mary Snyder 10
 Joseph Brul 10