

### Purged Red Rajk Asked God's Mercy

London — (RNS) — Among the last words of Laszlo Rajk, former Hungarian Communist leader who was executed during a 1949 purge, were prayers to God for forgiveness, the Budapest Radio reported.

It said the disclosure was made by another Communist leader who survived the purge.

Rajk, who was executed in the Stalin era for allegedly plotting against the Budapest regime, was recently rehabilitated. His body was taken from a traitor's grave and given an honorary burial in a cemetery that is to become a national pantheon.

### BOOK SHELF

### American Catholicism

St. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

**AMERICAN CATHOLICISM**, by Rev. John Tracy Ellis. In the Chicago History of American Civilization series, edited by Daniel Boorstin. U. of Chicago Press '56. 207 pp. \$3.00. With an Imprimatur. Available at Catholic and secular bookstores.

How does the story of Catholicism in America and especially in the United States sound, when it is told objectively to the general public, from its start in 1492 to its achievements in 1955? It sounds stormy — its members have been human and very earnest, and they have clashed with each other and with their neighbors.

It sounds noble, for in spite of confrontation by the now sleeping, now raging lion of prejudice, Catholics have hewed to the line of fidelity to God; they have pioneered successfully, fought their country's wars, sturdily educated their children in a way that is unitive and peaceful.

IT IS FULL of surprises, too, this history of Catholics in their land beloved.

Just a first run through the appendix of Important Dates, pp. 181-87, begins to suggest how well assimilation progressed at first, how fair Catholics were to their fellow-citizens in the few situations of power that came their way; how blind was the subsequent overthrow of their legislation for peace, yet how natural, arising from fears born in the passions and wars of old Europe; how huge was the double task of molding immigrant millions of Catholics into the American pattern without loss of faith, and at the same time continuing the painfully established even way of the Republic.

Monsignor Ellis's prompt answer to the invitation of his non-



### Consecrated Coach

Pittsburgh — (NC) — "Head up, keep your balance, and hit 'em hard," Sr. M. Christopher, S.S.M., tells lineemen of St. Richard's School, here. The St. Richard's line averages 119 pounds, and the "Tigers" really jump when their coach gives the word.

### Nun Reads Leahy Book, Becomes Football Coach

Pittsburgh, Pa. — (NC) — A growing restlessness among the boys in St. Richard's school here was apparent. Sister M. Christopher decided it wasn't healthy, might lead to trouble and something had to be done about it quickly.

But Sister Christopher isn't worried. She observed: "The sports program has done wonders for the boys." That growing feeling of restlessness which was so apparent last year has disappeared and so has the foreboding of trouble.

That was last year. The Josephite nun got a book written by Frank Leahy, former Notre Dame coach, on how to play football. By the time she finished digesting the book and studying the plays, she and the boys of St. Richard's school were in business. They entered the school team in the Pittsburgh Catholic Grade School League, with Sister Christopher as the team coach.

Sounds simple — but it isn't. There was the business of meeting age, weight and academic requirements to play in the league, and St. Richard's has a comparatively small enrollment of boys — 100. The team carries 14 players, which compares with 51 for the St. Anselm school squad.

LAST SEASON the team played two games and had a 1-1 record. This year, the first in full league competition, St. Richard's gridders have lost their first three games.

### Oldest Jesuit Marks Birthday

St. Louis — (NC) — Columbus Day this year had a special significance for Father Laurence Kennv. S.J. It was his birthday — his 92nd.

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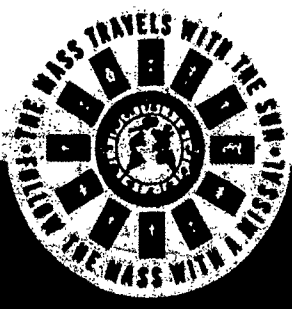
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God and His Creatures • Man: the Image of God  
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### Aid To Refugees Cut As Relief Act Dies

Geneva, Switzerland — (NC) — Activities of Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference in the field of refugee resettlement are expected to be greatly curtailed when the United States' Refugee Relief Act expires at the end of this year.

Much of the work of the CRS-NOWC in Europe was with refugees who were seeking haven in the United States. Under the Refugee Relief Act, CRS-NOWC in Europe helped to resettle 33,500 European refugees in the United States.

James Norris, CRS director, said that after the Relief Act expires there will still remain in Europe some 20,000 Catholic refugees to be helped in their search for new homes. He said he is deeply concerned about the thousands of so-called "hard-core" cases: aged, sick and handicapped persons who still live in camps and for whom it remains difficult to find permanent homes.

Mr. Norris announced that directors of Catholic relief agencies in Canada and Australia had decided to accept a certain number of European refugees who had

### Muenster Cathedral Rededicated

Muenster — (NC) — A week-long festival celebrating the restoration of the Muenster Cathedral (Germany) was begun here with the consecration of the altar by Bishop Michael Keller of Muenster.

### IS YOUR ENGLISH HOLDING YOU BACK?

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