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### Bologna Prelate Recalls 'Holes in Pants, Hunger'

## Cardinal Lecaro Strengthens Faith, Steals Show From Reds In Italy Stronghold

By FATHER JAMES I. TUCEK

Bologna, Italy — (NC) — Cardinal Lecaro has a "choral soul". This was the strange description that a Bolognese priest journalist gave to His Eminence Giacomo Cardinal Lecaro, Arch-bishop of Bologna, who is revivifying the Faith with a combination of zeal and imagination in one of Italy's most strongly communist regions.

His success as a pastor of souls is explained by his concept of the church as a theater. To him it is like a large story in which the eternal story of Christ is enacted through the liturgy. His greatest sorrow comes from the knowledge that the theater is empty while the liturgical play is in progress.

He is constantly in search of means to all the theater to bring souls closer to the poetry of the ritual worship. His books on the liturgy, developed out of this desire, have been acclaimed throughout the world.

"HE FEELS" so closely related to all men," the priest journalist wrote, "and professes so much respect for the personalities of others that he could never have lived or prayed alone." This observation becomes apparent when one looks more closely at the life of this man of many talents who has been the pastor of 700,000 souls in his archdiocese for the past four years.

Shortly after he was created a Cardinal on January 12, 1953, the prelate was feted by some of his former students. In an after dinner speech one of the ex-students said: "Had it not been for us you would not be wearing those purple robes today."

The story of Cardinal Lecaro and the students began when he was a priest in Genoa during the years of the First World War. It has not ended yet.

AT THAT TIME religious instruction was not compulsory in Italy's schools. Father Lecaro, secured permission to teach religion in one of Genoa's public schools. At first his presence was merely tolerated and attendance was poor. After a few years his continued services were requested. Through his success with his students he gained access to their homes and began a highly effective program of renewing the Faith in many families.

Suddenly, when he was appointed Bishop of Ravenna in 1947, the happy days of Father Lecaro with his boys ended and he was confronted with the problems of a traditionally anti-clerical diocese. The abrupt change was almost too much for him and he seriously considered resigning to enter a monastery. Thanks to the persuasion of an old priest friend, he changed his mind.

BISHOP LECARO ruled the Diocese of Ravenna for five years, then he was transferred to Bologna on April 19, 1952. The following January he was elevated to the Sacred College of Cardinals.

In Bologna he again began his work with boys. "These empty rooms in my residence weigh too heavily on my conscience," he said. One by one he took needy young men into his home. Today he is guardian and provider for 32 boys.

"The boys are a part of Cardinal Lecaro's home life. His public life, his pastoral labors, his interests and activities are just as warmly human. He is a liturgist, a scholar, a builder, an accomplished speaker, an author and a courageous opponent of the communist elements in his archdiocese.

THE CARDINAL'S presence is strongly felt in Bologna. It is said axiomatically that Main Street runs through his residence. Whenever a civic event

takes place, whether athletic, religious or cultural, the Cardinal is there.

"The many observations that have appeared in print about the Cardinal can be reduced to two: his pastoral innovations and his sensitivity to social problems. One night his boys refused to let a poor man in to see him. Upon learning of the incident, he scolded them. "Had you been born the sons



CARDINAL LECARO

of princes," he said, "I would have understood your failing to comprehend a poor man's state of mind. But as it is, you were born like me, with holes in the seat of your pants, and like me you have known hunger."

As to his innovations, the Cardinal says: "I know I am doing new things. But why should I be the slave of tradition when I know that my innovations serve to bring Christ

### Louis Budenz

## Kremlin Saved Hungary From Fascism, Say Reds

By LOUIS BUDENZ

Although still permitting some display of "independence," Moscow is now tightening up on what the communists of the world are to say about the

its fifth columns to make Moscow is now tightening up on what the communists of the world are to say about the

ment" in Hungary, and that the Kremlin merely responded to the "facts."

Berlin — (NC) — The bishops of East Germany are protesting once more against the youth initiation rites designed by the Communists to take the place of Christian confirmation.

In a pastoral letter, the bishops repeated their warning that any Catholic who takes part in these rites cannot receive the sacrament of confirmation.

THE REDS have announced that preparatory courses for the youth initiation rites of 1957 will include studies of the origin and development of the universe, the source of life and the history of the evolution of human society. The bishops warn that these studies will be made along atheistic and materialistic lines.

The preparatory program for the youth initiation rites is anti-religious in its orientation, the pastoral letter points out. The purpose of these studies is clear: the destruction of faith and Catholic children must not be exposed to such a falsification of truth, the bishops wrote.

IN ORDER TO protect children exposed to this godless propaganda, the bishops ask all priests to teach the truth to direct the light of Catholic knowledge against the materialistic interpretation of pseudo-science. Parents should learn the truth also as to help protect children from the flood of atheistic propaganda, the letter said.

Cardinal Lecaro's physical appearance reveals some traits of his character. He carries his small frame with confidence. His short cropped hair is just turning gray. The wrinkled corners of his eyes make him appear always on the verge of smiling, hiding the fact that he suffers chronically from headaches. The way he uses his hands when he speaks and his sensitive mouth gives the impression of a warm and cultured personality.

He is a man of quickly changing moods. He is always ready to laugh and trade jokes, but there is no one more implacable where the rights of God are concerned. His face flushes, his lips tremble, his movements quicken. Christian truth is more than an object of study for him: it is his passion.

## Bishops Warn 5,000 Americans German Youth On Red Rites In Foreign Missions

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Maryknoll, N. Y. — (NC) — For the first time in history over 5,000 American Catholics are engaged in missionary work outside the United States, it is reported in the January Maryknoll magazine which uses its 50th anniversary edition to review a half-century of American Catholic missionary activity.

THE NUMBER of United States priests, Brothers, Sisters, and Scholastics in foreign lands is up to 5,126. They represent five per cent of the total number of Catholic mission workers throughout the world.

Less than 50 years ago, the United States itself was a mission country. At that time there were only 21 Americans in the foreign mission field. Those were 13 priests, two brothers and six sisters. The total number of priests in the United States at that time was 17,000.

DURING THE past decade and a half, the United States has sent an average of 193 new workers each year to foreign fields. The states with the largest Catholic populations have the largest number of missionaries. New York heads the list with 1,035 priests, Brothers and Sisters. Massachusetts follows with 790, then Pennsylvania with 628, and Illinois with 250.

THE FIVE societies of men having the largest groups of Americans on the foreign missions are: Jesuits, 750; Maryknoll, 464; Redemptorists, 202; Society of the Divine Word, 156,

and the Franciscans 151. Among religious institutes of American women, the largest contributors of personnel to the missions are: Maryknoll Sisters, 453; Marist Mission Sisters, 136; School Sisters of Notre Dame, 93; Medical Mission Sisters, 91; Dominican Sisters of Brooklyn, 76; Franciscan Sisters, 67; Franciscan Missionaries of Mary, 59; Religious of the Sacred Heart of Mary, 57.

There were 79 of them on the plane, including 10 families with a total of 13 children, six young couples and 34 other persons. Catholic Relief Services - National Catholic Welfare Conference, the world-wide relief agency of the U. S. Bishops, sponsored them and arranged for their transportation to Chicago. CRSNWC also sponsored the largest group of refugees to leave, so far, for one city - 183 persons who departed for San Francisco.

### Large Refugee Group In Chicago

Camp Kitzner, N. J. — (NC) — The second largest group of Hungarian refugees to go to a single city left here by air to begin new lives of freedom in Chicago.

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