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Prayers For Red Victims

Dec. 30 Day Of Prayer



This is statement of Archbishop Francis P. Keough, of Baltimore, Chairman, Administrative Board, National Catholic Welfare Conference, in connection with the Day of Prayer for the victims of religious persecution to be observed Sunday, December 30, 1956, in Catholic Churches throughout the United States.

With the sound of the Hungarian tragedy still ringing in our ears, there is little likelihood that we of the free world will forget the sufferings of our fellow Christians of that nation as they end this year in the darkness of renewed slavery.

IN ONE HEROIC gesture, they have laid bare to the whole world the unchanging evil character of the Soviet regime; they have clearly shown that the human spirit cannot be warped and moulded by brute force, and that love of freedom cannot be killed by even the most cruel and complete oppression.

Their truly noble uprising and the righteousness of their repression serve as a vivid reminder of all those who for so long have borne the yoke of atheistic communism.

For forty years now in domains that have come under the evil and inhuman rule, members of the Church of Silence have suffered, bled and died for their Christian faith. Never in history has any body of Christians borne such widespread and unrelenting persecution. Even in the pagan days of the Caesars there were intervals of quiet and places where the poor and obscure were left unmolested.

IN OUR OWN day, however, throughout the whole vast territory under Red domination, in Eastern Europe and in Asia, a constant, grinding terror has ever been and at all times made itself felt.

Perhaps from their ancient exemplars modern tyrants have learned the lesson that, as long as even a few of the faithful are left, they are certain to raise up from the seed of their martyred brothers a Christian Church which in the end will prevail.

Truth crushed to earth will rise again. In spite of long years of persecution all evidence bespeaks a still large body of Christians whose faith has been but deepened by their trials. We are confident that, with the grace of God, they will endure steadfast and will bear

My Dear People:

The Bishops of the United States have designated Sunday, December 30, as "A Day Of Prayer For The Victims Of Religious Persecution."

In our Diocese I would like this Day of Prayer observed in every Church by special prayers and by public Exposition of the Most Blessed Sacrament from the last Mass until late afternoon or early evening.

We in the United States of America have very much for which to be grateful. We do well to remember this and to thank God for it. Especially at this time of the year as we approach another year of freedom, of plenty, and of hope, we must not forget our persecuted brothers who stand on the brink of another desolate year of persecution and terror.

Please pray that God may humble all tyrants and grant peace and freedom to those who so patiently have borne their heavy burdens.

With a blessing, I am,

Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

+ James E. Kearney

Bishop of Rochester

to the Church of Christ fruit a hundredfold.
BECAUSE THE sufferings of these our brothers require special graces of fortitude and perseverance, at this season when we stand near the beginning of another year of plenty and hope, and they on the brink of another desolate year of persecution and terror, we call upon all Catholics of our Country to unite on Sunday, December 30, in a day of prayer — and in this we beseech all men of good will to join us — that God may speedily humble all tyrants and grant peace and freedom to those who so patiently have borne their crushing yoke.

Family Doctor Of Year Baptized Many Babies

Harlowton, Mont. — (NC) — The American Medical Association's "General Practitioner Of The Year" can't remember how many infants he baptized, but it has been estimated that during his 51 years of practice he delivered more than 2,250 babies.

The honored 80-year-old Dr. Edward M. Gans, a member of St. Joseph's parish here, said: "It would be impossible even to guess at the number of babies I baptized in my 51 years as a family doctor — but they were many. If I saw there was any danger when I delivered a child, I always baptized."

THROUGH HIS long medical practice, Dr. Gans said he always told the priest so he could record it. Sometimes I would discuss a medical problem with a priest. And always, no matter the patient's religion, if I saw death was close I called the patient's clergyman immediately.

Dr. Gans is from a family of 13 children. He spent his childhood on a farm near St. Cloud, Minn. He recalled that his parents "were strong Catholics, deeply religious." Six of the children still are living. Two brothers, Father Peter and Leo Gans, were ordained for the St. Cloud diocese.

DR. GANS WAS nominated for the AMA honor last September by the Montana Association of the AMA. His son, Dr. Paul Gans, persuaded him to attend the convention in St. Paul which voted him the honor.

"There were nominees from 48 states and I didn't think I had a chance," Dr. Gans said. He was in a hotel room reading a newspaper when he was told the convention had voted him the honor.

Dr. and Mrs. Gans are active in affairs of St. Joseph's parish here. He is a member of the parish Holy Name Society and he said: "Every day of my life I say the official pledge of the Holy Name Society." He also is a member of the Knights of Columbus.

Church Strength In Poland Cited

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) Stanislaw Mikolajczyk, former Polish Prime Minister, said here the recently signed Church-State agreement in Poland proves that the present Communist regime "recognizes that the Church is stronger today than ever."

He said the agreement was not a "humanitarian act or a desire to grant religious freedom to the people but a matter of practical political necessity to recognize the influence of the Church."

Mr. Mikolajczyk expressed belief that the agreement "will not be easily broken by the Polish stooges of Russia" because the Polish patriots are "strong."

The government's failure to recognize the Church in the present critical, internal situation, would have eventually led to further disorder, he said.

Frank Sheed Hurt In London Accident

London — (NC) — Dr. Frank Sheed, theologian, lecturer, writer and publisher, was rushed to a hospital unconscious after falling from a Catholic Evidence Guild platform in Hyde Park, London.

Dr. Sheed while addressing the crowd at "Speakers' Corner," the park's open-air forum which is one of the sights of London, slipped off the fragile rain-soaked plank and dived headlong to the pavement.

Latest report from the hospital is that he is suffering from concussion and severe bruising. He has had to cancel all immediate engagements.

Dr. Sheed, well known in the United States, is 59.

Red Zone Santas Talks Socialism

Berlin — (NC) — When Santa Claus appears at a children's party in the Soviet Zone of Germany, he should be careful that his talks with the children center about "world peace and a happy socialist future."

This suggestion was made in a communist magazine published in the Soviet sector here.

Maritological Society Chicago — (NC) — Theologians from this country and Canada will attend the national convention of the Maritological Society in the Hotel Morrison here, January 3 and 4. The society promotes study of the Blessed Virgin.



Olympic Champion Wins Again

Cambridge, Mass. — (NC) — Charles Jenkins, Olympic 400-meter champion from Cambridge, Mass., (center) beams as his bride, the former Phyllis G. Randolph, shakes hands with Olympic hammer throw champion Harold Connolly in Boston. The fleetfooted Jenkins and Miss Randolph were married in St. Richard's Church.

BOOK SHELF

Book of The Babe

St. Margaret Teresa, Nazareth College

FROM THE BOOK OF THE BABE, written through the centuries:
And her hand leaves His light Sifted to suit our sight...
In the Middle Ages...
He came all so stilled
To His mother's bower
As dew in April
That falleth on flower
He came all so stilled
Where His mother lay
As dew in April
That falleth on spray.
"Our Lord," says Walter Hilton, "through His shining of His blessed light touched my blind heart and showed to my sight that it was a snare of death, His love and liking of the world that I stood in. And with the sweet feeling of His love He brake mightily this snare, and delivered me out of it."

"O MARY," says Thomas a Kempis, "you are the palace of God, the gate of heaven, the garden of charm, the well of graces, the glory of angels, the joy of men... O Virgin of virgins, all sweet and beautiful... O mild Virgin, innocent as a lamb... wise as a noble lady, serving like a humble handmaid! O holy source, high cedar, fruitful vine, most sweet fig tree, most wide-spreading palm tree, in you all good things are to be found..."

"God is my gift," sang the martyr-to-be Southwell, "Himself He freely gave me, God's gift am I, and none but God shall have Me!" and in another poem,

"Come kiss the manger where He lies
That is your bliss above the skies
This little Babe, so few days old,
Is come to rifle Satan's fold."
In the more peaceful yet darker days of the 17th century:

O Thou whose glorious, yet contracted light
Wrapt in night's mantle, stole into a manger...
The shepherds sing; and shall I silent be?
My God, no hymn for thee? (Herbert)

The Babe look't up and show'd His Face —
In spite of Darkness, it was Day.
It was thy day, Sweet! and did rise
Not from the East, but from thine Eyes...
We saw thee; and we blest the sight.
We saw thee by thine own sweet light. (Crashaw)

And later still, in the second Spring:
Father Faber, to Mary —
And what wonders have been in the day
All the day and all the night,
While the angels fell before thee
To adore the Light of Light...
It was Heaven, it was Heaven,
Come before its time to thee!
AND HOPKINS, on the Two:
Through her, we may see Him
Made sweeter, not made dim,

New Formosa Church Blessed

Taipei, Formosa — (NC) — The Church reached another Formosan milestone in mid-Advent when Archbishop Joseph Kuo of Taipei blessed the 80th church to be built in his archdiocese since 1952.

In 1952 there were only eight churches in the whole See, and the additional churches have been necessary to keep pace with the growth of Catholics, increased from 4,311 in 1952 to 24,141 in 1956.

COURIER-JOURNAL
Friday, December 28, 1956

Vatican Denies Cardinal Story

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio denied reports by a "foreign news agency" that the Vatican had the United States government had "approved" memoirs dictated in Budapest by Josef Cardinal Mindszenty, Catholic Primate of Hungary.

"The Vatican knows nothing of these memoirs by Cardinal Mindszenty, much less of their confirmation and examination," the station said.

Cardinal Mindszenty has been taking refuge at the American legation in Budapest since Nov. 4, when Russian forces re-entered the capital to crush the insurrection which broke out on Oct. 23.

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WHO IS HE?
See Page 9

U.S. Jesuit Named Bishop In Islands

Washington — (NC) — Father Vincent Kennally, S.J., a native of Boston, has been named by Pope Pius XII to be Titular Bishop of Sassari and Vicar Apostolic of the Caroline — Marshall Islands.

He served as Apostolic Administrator and Regular Superior of the Caroline — Marshall Vicariate from 1947 to 1952, and has been Vice Provincial of the Philippine Vice Province of the Society of Jesus since 1952.

Bishop-Designate Kennally succeeds another native of Boston, Bishop Thomas J. Feeney, S.J., the first Vicar Apostolic of the Caroline — Marshall Islands, who served from 1951 until his death, September 9, 1955.



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