

Protestant Drive Launched Against Bingo Amendment

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — Fifty Protestant leaders met here and launched a state-wide campaign against a proposed constitutional amendment legalizing bingo for churches and charitable groups. The delegates, mostly executives of local councils of churches or heads of denominational organizations will serve as "county coordinators" of the campaign.

Tax Relief Asked For School Tuition

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — A bill providing that tuition payments to religious schools may be deductible from income tax on the same basis as charitable contributions was introduced in the House by Rep. Gerald R. Ford (R-Mich.). It was referred to the House Ways and Means Committee.

The measure would amend section 170 of the Internal Revenue Code by adding the following paragraph to the Code definition of charitable institutions: "For the purpose of this paragraph, payments of tuition by the taxpayer for the attendance of his children at a primary or secondary school conducted on a religious basis by an organization that is organized for religious or educational purposes shall be treated as a contribution or gift by the taxpayer to such organization."

Principal speaker at the coordinators' meeting here was Dr. G. Merrill Leno, executive secretary of the Michigan Council of Churches, who led a successful campaign against bingo legislation in that state in 1954.

THE REV. THEODORE L. Conkin, associate secretary of the New York State Council of Churches, told the coordinators that "the opposition to this legislation of bingo is based upon a conviction that it is an attempt to increase gambling in New York state, using the churches as a cloak."

The Rev. Paul W. Rishell, executive secretary of the Department of Social Relations of the Protestant Council of New York, said that "bingo as a lottery is a social practice which has a demoralizing effect upon the community and which violates basic principles of Christian ethics."

Bingo gambling, therefore, should be opposed on social and religious grounds.

The bingo amendment, which would legalize the game on a local-option basis, carries out platform pledges made by both the Democratic and Republican Parties in 1954.



HARTFORD CATHEDRAL — A 10-alarm fire sweeps through Hartford's 68-year-old St. Joseph's Cathedral as firemen successfully prevent flames from spreading to nearby rectory, school and Motherhouse. It was the second church fire in Hartford within 24 hours, and state police were assigned to guard other Hartford churches.



PRE-DAWN FIRE — Interior view shows results of a pre-dawn Sunday fire at St. Patrick's Church, Hartford, Conn. For a time the 14th floor was in danger of toppling but building inspector states church is repairable. Damage was estimated at \$200,000. The blaze was the first of two church fires in Hartford, the second destroying St. Joseph's Cathedral. (NC Photos)

Protestants, Jews Aid Building Fund Of Fire-Ruined Hartford Cathedral

Hartford, Conn. — (RNS) — \$26,263 from persons of various faiths. Contributors he singled out for special mention were the Rev. Walter H. Gray, Protestant Episcopal Bishop of Connecticut, who sent \$500 and Mrs. Beatrice Fox Auerbach, a Jewish department store owner, who gave \$5,000 toward building a new cathedral on the same site.

At the same time, the Archbishop disclosed that he had received unsolicited gifts totaling \$250,000 from persons of various faiths.

ARCHBISHOP O'BRIEN said it was too early to estimate the cost of rebuilding the cathedral, but he expected it to be "several million dollars" in excess of the sum for which the building was insured, \$2,500,000.

In an earlier statement, the prelate praised the "family spirit of common concern and united effort" evidenced by "the entire Hartford community" when the building burned down in a fire of undetermined origin.

In addition to paying tribute to state and city officials and to Hartford's police and fire departments, the Archbishop said the assistance given by the Salvation Army was "beyond praise."

"The Salvation Army had a canteen on the scene early," said his statement, which also was signed by Msgr. William J. Collins, vicar general of the diocese and rector of the cathedral. "This canteen contrasted its operation of mercy over a period of days. Bitter cold did not deter these volunteers."

THE STATEMENT also noted that Bishop Gray "sent word that all the church premises of the Protestant Episcopal diocese would be made available as we might request," and that clergymen of Protestant churches of other denominations in the cathedral vicinity "immediately invited us to use their buildings."

Archbishop O'Brien said he accepted Gov. Abraham Ribicoff's offer to make temporary use of the state armory for church services because "of all the places available it has sufficient floor space for a congregation the size of the cathedral's."

French Priest's Disks Becoming Best Sellers

Paris — (RNS) — Long-playing records made by a guitar-strumming young Jesuit priest are rapidly becoming best sellers in France.

The Rev. Alime Duval, S.J., is proving a serious rival to the popular composer-singer Georges Brassens, whose risque songs have been denounced by the French clergy.

For many months Father Duval was a source of worry to his superiors as he frequently disappeared once his religious duties had been accomplished, coming back hours later without a word of explanation. It was finally discovered that he was singing in the streets, some and music of his own composition which were in reality gay

hymns set to the catchy modern rhythm tunes young people like to dance to. Pleased by the reaction of his audiences, Father Duval's superiors encouraged him to continue.

Then S. M. Editions, a recording firm, decided to record the troubadour priest. The initial output of 5,000 discs were sold within hours of their release.

Meanwhile, the firm which records Brassens is following the rise in sales of Father Duval's records with great anxiety.

LOOKING TO YOU

Most of the world is mission territory—generally poor and underdeveloped lands. Being few in number, active Catholics are usually called upon to do the most difficult and important work.

So, our valiant missionary priests and sisters instinctively turn to their Common Spiritual Father for the means to carry on God's work. The Holy Father himself can do nothing unless he has the support of a loyal and generous people. So, he looks to us. Have you helped him lately? The Middle and Near East—in and around the Holy Land—is one of the poorest mission areas. Perhaps you'd like to start the New Year with resolve to try to make greater sacrifices for him. Perhaps you'll join one or more of his Near East MISSION CLUBS. Members give a DOLLAR A MONTH.

These clubs meet various mission needs of Our Holy Father DAMIEN LEFER FUND helps the leper asylums in India. We have CHRYSOSTOMOS to help the seminaries train priests. MARY'S BANK goes for training native sisters, while ORPHAN'S BREAD feeds and clothes several thousand orphan children. MONICA GUIDO adorns and equips mission chapels. CHAPEL-OF-THE-MONTH dollars build a modest mission chapel. There's PALACE OF GOLD for the sisters who shelter the abandoned old folks.

HOLY FAMILY SUNDAY
On their feast day the Holy Family Sisters in the diocese of Trichur, India, will be praying for a benefactor for each of two nieces who just began their two year training. SISTER BESSARIO and SISTER CASIMIR. Won't you help by sending one the \$150 needed each year for her training?

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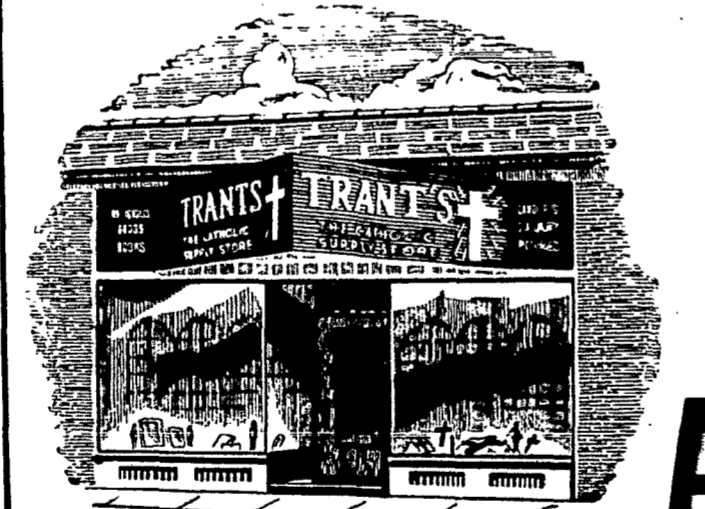
JUST JOSEPH
"Joseph must just pray for us." Today we beg him to find friends for two young Josephs just starting their six years of training for the priesthood: one at the Syro-Chaldean seminary in Mosul, Iraq, the other in India. We need \$100 a year to train each. If you can help one by sending his yearly sum in any installments, his daily prayers will bless you and you'll share in his priestly future.

OUR SUSPENSE CARD will guarantee that Masses will be said for your soul. Ask us about it today. We earnestly beg your charitable Mass offerings, for living and departed, to help our poor Near East missionaries who have almost no other support.

MARY'S CALL FEW HEAR
Only a few very faithful souls heeded our plea a few weeks ago for Our Lady's new Hospital in Kanjor, India—MARY, QUEEN OF INDIA HOSPITAL to take in the wounded and sick poor. But we need more. All seasoned missionaries agree the MOST EFFECTIVE MEANS of reaching the pagan is by caring for his bodily ills when his own leave him. Won't you help? A bed costs \$25, \$250 will endow a bed, \$2,000 will endow an operating room. Thank God for your own health.

NO ROOM FOR HIM
The priest at Paryavoor in the diocese of Tellicherry, India, writes that the Lord is being forced out of town. His 2,000 Catholics now use the same place for school on weekdays, and for Mass on Sundays and feasts. The government inspector recently ordered the schoolmaster to use it exclusively for school or he would close it. We need \$3,000 to build a small chapel. The poor people will give the land and their labor. Have you an aim?

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Francis Cardinal Spellman, President
Mgr. Peter P. Leahy, Nat'l Sec'y
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Bishops' Agency Sponsors Major Refugee Group

Camp Kilmer, N. J. — (NC) — With the arrival of 1,750 more Hungarian refugees the number of refugees who have been brought here to the Kilmer Refugee Center reached a total of 15,140.

OF THIS NUMBER approximately 9,000 were brought to the U. S. under auspices of Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, the overseas relief agency of the U. S. Bishops.

Of the approximately 9,000 whose resettlement is being handled by CRS-NCWC, 4,759 have left Kilmer for homes and jobs in various parts of the country. It was reported by Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, the agency's executive director. A total of 8,732 refugees have been resettled since the program started.

Msgr. Swanstrom also reported that a stepped up program of processing and resettlement is now underway through the cooperation of the President's Committee for Hungarian Refugees and the Army which are providing larger and more adequate building facilities, administrative personnel, tabulating and data machines among other aids.

CRS-NCWC also is expanding its operations and personnel to match the increased number of refugees going to Kilmer. Two other transports will arrive shortly each bringing 1,750 freedom seeking Hungarians.

The relief agency is being housed in new quarters at Kilmer, taking over one of the large mess halls which had been closed.

Carpenters, electricians, painters, plumbers, and the broom brigade have been busy getting the building in shape to handle the thousands of refugees anxious to move out and go to work.

OTHER VOLUNTARY agencies handling resettlement of the refugees and the number received are:

Church World Service 2,804; Hebrew Immigration Aid 1,633; Lutheran Refugee Service 713; International Rescue Committee 770; and the Tolstoy Foundation 144.

The number of refugees who have been at Kilmer 14 to 27 days is less than 3,000 and those there 21 days or more is less than 200.

Russians In Brazil To Get Jesuit
Sao Paulo, Brazil — (NC) — Jesuit Father Feodor Wilcock, formerly superior of Solovley Hall, Fordham University's residence for priests and religious of the Byzantine Rite, has arrived here to work among Russian immigrants.

Father Wilcock will work with two Brazilian priests among approximately 40,000 Russians living in this city.

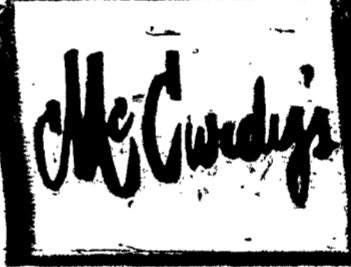
Before going to Fordham University, the English-born Jesuit worked among Russian emigres in Shanghai and the Philippines. He plans to stay in Brazil for about a year.

No Rome Trip For Polish Primate
Warsaw — (NC) — Reports that His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, Primate of Poland recently released from arrest by Polish Reds, will go to Rome during January are incorrect, it is believed by well-informed Catholics here.

Earlier it was reported that the Cardinal would go to Rome following the end of negotiations which led to the recently concluded Church-state agreement.

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