

See Denies Verdict On Neumann

(NC) — The Holy See has denied that its official verdict concerning the stigmata of Koenigsreuth, Germany.

The stigmata are not supernatural in origin, it was also denied. In a letter to the N.C.W.C. News Service, Father Omer pointed out that the article in the Newsletter is a summary of a rather free translation of his remarks and that his statements have been distorted in the process.

RESTATING WHAT he had told the Royanmont meeting, Father Omer said that a medical investigation, authorized by the Bishop of Ratisbon, in whose diocese Miss Neumann lives, and urged by the Bavarian Bishops and the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office, was never carried out because of the attitude of Miss Neumann's father. For that reason, Father Omer said, the Church must take a detached attitude toward the alleged mystical phenomena.

The Church cannot take any responsibility for any declaration whatsoever with regard to the nature of the Neumann case without a free and unhampered investigation of the facts, Father Omer said.



Rosaries For Recruits

Girls of the Little Flower Mission Group, Torredale, Pa., gather around Mother McDonald (upper left) to learn one of the final steps in making blue cord rosaries for Catholic Marine recruits at Parris Island, S. C. One knotty problem is registered in the expression of Monica Goggia, one of the students, (upper right) as she works to complete a rosary. Shown receiving (bottom photo) their rosaries are two recruits, Oliver G. Powers, and Leo L. Estes of Philadelphia, with Comdr. Maurus E. Cook, O.S.B., Chaplain, of the Diocese of St. Augustine. (Marine Corps-NC Photos).



'Red Refugee' Story Called 'Ridiculous'

New York—(NC)—A Congressman's charge that communists were a majority in the first 6,500 Hungarian refugees to enter the United States was characterized as "slightly ridiculous" here by Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, world-wide relief agency of the U.S. Bishops.

Couple Ride Bike To Learn Catholic Faith

Tien Chung, Formosa—(NC)—A man and wife recently baptized in this central Formosa town traveled more than 1,000 miles by bicycle, the woman sitting on the bike's small baggage carrier, in order to receive instructions in the Faith.

They ran up the mileage over a period of six months. During this period the man and his wife attended nightly Christian Doctrine classes in a mission some four miles from their home.

No matter how inclement the weather, the couple made the nightly trip on their bicycle, and their perseverance was rewarded when they were baptized by Maryknoll Father Michael O'Connor of the Bronx, New York, pastor of Tien Chung.

Baptized about the same time in the parish of Tien Chung were 600 people who had been taking instructions for six months in the 16 catechumenates located in the district.

This brings to 1,750 the total of adult baptisms during the three years since Father O'Connor has been pastor of Tien Chung.

Father O'Connor expects to baptize over 500 more adults during the next six-month period. He feels that he could double the number if he had the means of instructing so many.

Diplomat Retires

London—(NC)—Sir Ivone A. Kirkpatrick, 60, Undersecretary for the Foreign Office and prominent British Catholic layman, retired from his post here after 35 years in the British diplomatic service.

RCA Scholarship

St. Louis—(NC)—A scholarship to be awarded a student preparing to be a science teacher has been established at St. Louis University here by the Radio Corporation of America.

Foreign Missioners Balked Entry Visas To India

Bishops' Conference, the official recommending body for missionaries entering India. The policy of the Indian government on visas to foreign missioners appears intended to discourage the entry of missionaries who are considered unable to contribute to the material development of the country. The government has expressed readiness to welcome the missionaries who possess sufficient qualifications as physicians, educators and social workers. Mere "Gospel-preaching missionaries" are unwelcome.

New Missioner Starts Career 'With Bang!'

Arequipa, Peru—A recently ordained missioner was inaugurated into the customs of this city with a bang. Father James E. Frusa, Maryknoll Missioner from Oakland, Calif., on a stop-over here on his way to Bolivia, was asked to celebrate a Solemn High Mass for the stone-cutters' fiesta. "The parish church was just a big shed with one side missing," relates the Oakland priest. "The 'choir' was one old gentleman, whom at first I thought was suffering from acute appendicitis. "The climax of the Mass came right after the Consecration. Down here, just as in China, the people shoot off firecrackers during the Mass. Luckily, I was forewarned by veteran missioners in the seminary, but I wasn't ready for the stone cutters. Naturally, they had to use what they were most familiar with—dynamite. "I'm sure I wasn't the calmest priest that ever said Mass, but I do think I merit the Combat Infantryman's Badge for my siege under fire."

Pope Receives NATO Commander

Vatican City—(NC)—General Lauris Norstad, supreme commander of Allied Forces in Europe, was received in private audience by His Holiness Pope Pius XII. After talking with General Norstad for about 15 minutes, the Pope received Mrs. Norstad and members of the general's party, which included American and Italian NATO officials. General and Mrs. Norstad after the audience expressed their gratitude for the kindness and affability with which the Pope received them. They said they had found the Holy Father in good health.

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