

# Primate Key Figure In Poland Pope Trip

By Father Patrick O'Connor  
(N.C.W.C.) News Service

Number 17 Miódowa Street in Warsaw is a plain grey building with a long yard and iron railings in front. It is a place of domestic calm. Yet it houses one of the most important persons in eastern Europe. His Eminence Stefan Cardinal Wyszyński, Primate of Poland.

Miódowa means "honey." But 17 Miódowa Street has known bitter days, and even years. They culminated on the night of September 28, 1953, when the Cardinal was arrested there and taken away to captivity.

THREE YEARS and one month later the millions of Polish Catholics received news sweeter than honey. Their Cardinal Primate had been released. On the Feast of Christ the King, October 28, 1956, he was back again, a free man, in Number 17.

I saw him in that house on Christmas Eve. At noon leading members of the archdiocesan clergy gathered to present their Christmas greetings. I was invited to join them.

The Cardinal stood in their midst, listening first, then speaking. Afterwards, a priest brought me forward to introduce me. The Cardinal welcomed me with friendly kindness as I knelt to kiss his ring.

I was one of few priests from the West to visit Poland in years. I made no attempt to get a statement from the Cardinal that day. I knew of his strict rule of giving no interviews, on or off the record, to the press.

"For ten years we have followed this rule," one of his priests had told me. Conditions had indeed improved, but prudence still dictated that the rule be kept.

THE CARDINAL, now 56, has a youthful look and bearing. His face, plump and smooth a few years ago, has furrows now. His thin, fair hair is edged with grey. His expression is habitually serious but not worried. It brightens suddenly with a frank, boyish smile. His glance is quick and penetrating.

When I saw him he was wrestling with the duties of his first free Christmas in four years and with the daily problems of a new Church-State relationship. But his features were always composed.

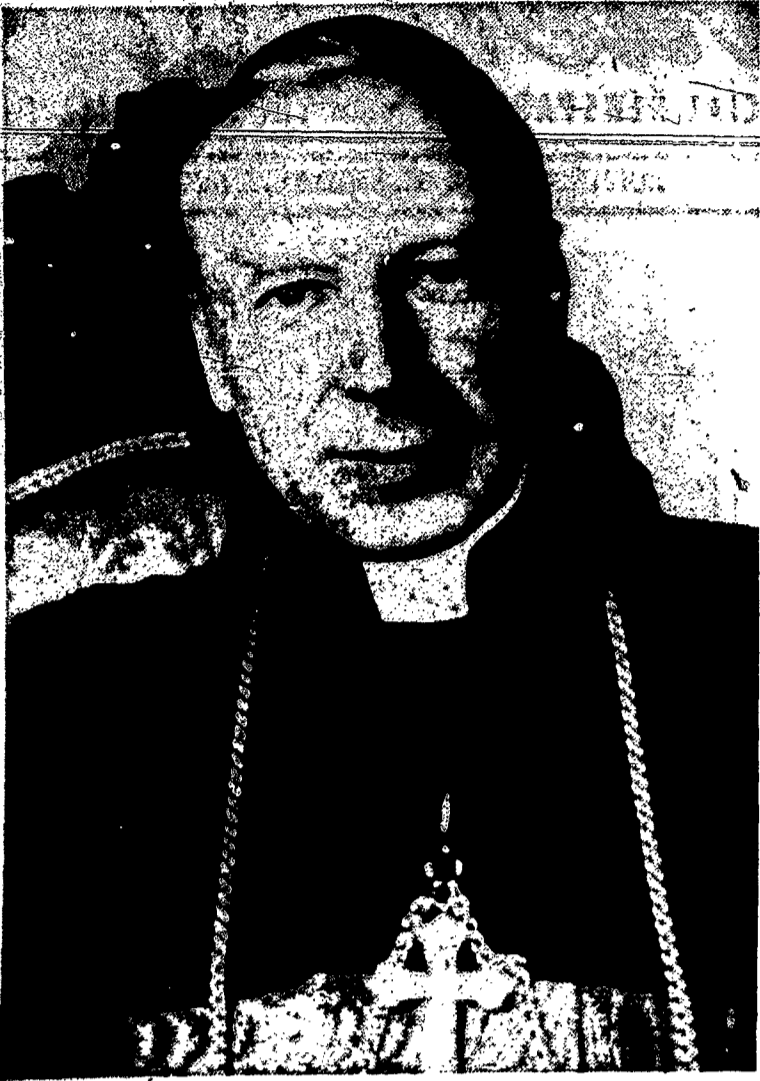
I heard him speaking four times, twice in his cathedral. He speaks with quiet warmth, never excitedly but always with feeling. He has made several notable addresses since his release, blending vigor with caution.

PREACHING IN Holy Cross church on the first Sunday after his release, he began:

"I express my regret that my canonical visit to Holy Cross parish has been delayed for more than three years... This is the end of an interruption in my work as adviser for your spiritual life."

In a passage that was not fully reported in the Warsaw press, he said:

"There were laws for freedom of conscience and yet we were all witnesses of the hardships that the Church had to bear."



One of two most influential figures in Iron-curtain Poland is Cardinal Wyszyński, Primate of Poland, shown above after his release from several years Communist imprisonment.

These are best illustrated by the number of bishops removed from their posts.

"Only last week, to repair the wrongs done to the Church, they were allowed to return to their work as Polish bishops... If a 'White Book' were compiled, it could give a perfect picture of the Church, herolism shown by priests and aided by the prayers of the faithful. Now we see signs that the importance of the Church is being understood more and more deeply."

THE CARDINAL'S memorable Christmas Eve broadcast, heard over the government radio, was recorded on tape two days earlier in 17 Miódowa Street. That evening, December 22, I obtained a French translation of some important passages, especially those listing ten objectives for Poland. Thus Catholic weekly papers abroad could receive the essence of the speech in good time.

While carefully avoiding an aggressive note, the speech was outspokenly Catholic. Over the radio of a communist regime, it stated as Objective No. 1, "that Poland may live in sanctifying grace, faithful to the Church, the Gospel and the Cross."

Other objectives included Christian education and in contrast with laws for divorce and abortion—the safeguarding of marriage and of the unborn child.

CARDINAL WYSZYŃSKI and Władysław Gomułka, first secretary of the Polish United Workers' (Communist) party, are the two most influential figures in Poland today.

The Cardinal's influence rests on the deepest foundation, the religious faith of the great majority. Mr. Gomułka ranks high because, though a communist, he has stood up for Poland against the former Stalinist regime.

The Cardinal would not be free, if it were not for Gomułka. If the Cardinal had not been released, Gomułka would not have the popular support he enjoys. His regime, generally regarded as the lesser of two evils, could not last if the Cardinal did not counsel the people to be patient.

The picture of Our Lady of Czestochowa with the Divine Child holds the place of honor on Cardinal Wyszyński's chest. His motto is short but says much. During his captivity this motto spoke eloquently, above his vacant throne and on the wall of his house on Miódowa Street.

The motto is *Soli Deo—Unto God Alone.*

## Pope Trip To Lourdes Shrine Hinted

Rome —(NC)— An evening daily here has stated that Pope Pius XII might go to Lourdes in 1958 to preside over the celebrations commemorating the centenary of the apparitions of Our Lady to St. Bernadette.

The possibility of such a trip has not been confirmed or even mentioned by the Vatican.

Another newspaper has expressed the opinion that the Pope will be asked to make the trip to Lourdes when French President Rene Coty visits Rome and the Vatican in May.

It is conjectured here that the newspaper stories could also be based on the fact that, shortly after his elevation, the Pope privately expressed the intention of presiding over the International Eucharistic congress which was to have been held at Nice in 1935. Plans for the congress were canceled when the war broke out.

## Passion Players Reject Film Bid

Berlin —(RNS)— Organizers of the famous Oberammergau Passion Play were reported here to have again rejected an offer by an American motion picture company to film their performance.

Raimund Lang, mayor of the town in Upper Bavaria, where the Passion Play was inaugurated about three centuries ago, was quoted as saying the offer was "very high and tempting."

However, he added, the people of Oberammergau felt that filming of the Passion Play might harm its religious purpose and reputation.

## Catholic Women In 'Who's Who'

Chicago —(NC)— The National Council of Catholic Women has been named an advisory patron of the forthcoming volume, "Who's Who of American Women."

The reference book is being compiled by Marquis Who's Who, Inc., with the cooperation of the Women's Archives at Radcliffe College, Cambridge, Massachusetts. It is the first such volume to be compiled on American women.

## French Jesuit's Singing Apostolate Starts Boom In Music Shops For Recordings

Paris — (NC) — Music shops in Paris are being embarrassed by their inability to keep up with demands for the records made by France's most popular singer.

Shop owners complain that until recently, when Jesuit Father Alme Duval gave his first Paris recital before a capacity audience, it was difficult enough to supply the demands of teenagers for his records. Now, however, they are ready to give up before the clamoring for the young priest's songs.

FATHER DUVAL, 38, was born in France's Vosges mountain country, between Lorraine and Alsace.

As he grew up, he learned the songs and music of country people and taught himself to sing in the manner of the country minstrels of the past.

During his studies for the priesthood in the Society of Jesus, Father Duval was often given the responsibility of training and directing choirs.

AFTER ORDINATION he was permitted to travel through the Vosges country, singing for the people and conducting what might almost be called "musical missions."

Gradually, the priest's fame spread. More people wanted to hear him sing, accompanying himself on the guitar. Those who could not attend his sessions waited at least to buy his records. This started the run on music shops.

Father Duval's repertoire consists almost entirely of songs he has written himself. He found that modern music, at least popular modern music, was "pitiful," so he wrote songs to fill the need he saw.

The priest's are all spiritual, but simply worded so as to appeal to all listeners.

After each song, Father Duval gives his listeners a short talk on man's condition on earth and his responsibilities and relation to God. The talk is followed by a discussion, and the discussions have always proved very lively.



On French Hit Parade

Paris —(NC)— Playing his guitar is Father Alme Duval, a French Jesuit priest whose religious songs are among the best selling records in France. Besides composing the words and music to his songs, Father Duval accompanies himself on the guitar.

## President Gives Nixon Message For Pope Pius

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — President Eisenhower gave Vice President Nixon a personal message to deliver to Pope Pius XII during the Vice President's good will tour to Italy and a number of African countries.

The message to the Pontiff was described as a "verbal message." There was no hint as to its general content. Vice President Nixon, who left here February 28, will pay a visit to the Pope during his stay in Rome scheduled from March 16 to 18.

## Abo, Lucey Challenges Foes Of UN

Chicago —(NC)— A Catholic priest challenged opponents to United States participation in the United Nations to "tell us frankly how we can survive alone in a tragic and troubled world."

Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio made the remark at the conclusion of his speech before the John A. Ryan Forum, sponsored by the Catholic Council on Working Life, at the Morrison Hotel here.

SPAKING ON "The United Nations and Peace," Archbishop Lucey said that in this "complex and heterogeneous amalgam of the nations lies our one last hope of peace."

In dealing with the critics of the UN, Archbishop Lucey said: "Some people don't like the United Nations. That is not at all surprising in view of the fact that no Jew understands it. The field of international relations is exceedingly complex and involved. A majority of our citizens have made no formal study of this science although that does not deter them from expressing their ideas on any subject having to do with the world community."

THE ARCHBISHOP answered those "sincere citizens" who believe that the U.S. cannot do business with the Communists and therefore Russia should be thrown out of the UN. He remarked:

"Any thoughtful observer will admit that doing business with Communists is always difficult and frequently futile, but a cold war seems to be the only alternative to a shooting war and if patient negotiation is our last hope for peace we should follow that hope to the end."

**Poles To Take Pledge To Mary**  
Warsaw —(NC)— The Cardinal Primate of Poland has called on the Polish people to make this Lent a period of preparation for a solemn pledging of the nation on May 5 to Mary, Queen of Poland, "the liberator of our motherland from sin at last."

Cardinal Wyszyński, Archbishop of Gnesno and Warsaw, said in his Lenten pastoral to the clergy and faithful of Poland that the pledge will be made in all the churches of Poland on that date, and will be "a far-reaching religious and patriotic act."

He said that in it the Polish people will renew their promise to be faithful to God and His Church, to revive charity and justice as national virtues, and to wipe out the evils of abortion and divorce.

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**CONVERT PRIEST HOMELESS**

Our Holy Father must have put a special prayer on this appeal before he sent it to us. It concerns Father James, a former schismatic priest recently united with Rome. He became the good missionary Bishop in India made several visits to the village of Tengely at the invitation of the people, who are all schismatic Jacobites. After his first visit ten families united with Rome; after the second, seven more families; and fifteen individuals, after his last visit. So, in July 1955, he sent as pastor Father James, who asks your help to build a Chapel (\$2,000) and a small school (\$2,000). Finally, he accidentally mentions the need of a small rectory for himself. At present he sleeps under a shelter of four palm leaves. The people promised the labor and the land. Won't you help him buy the materials?

**FOOTSORE AND FRUSTRATED**  
Our wonderful women catechists who seek out the neglected children in the priestless villages of the mountains in Lebanon and prepare them for First Communion, are footsore from trekking across the rough, primitive roads. They are frustrated because they lack transportation whereby a group of five or six could save several villages on one trip—thus reach more souls. If they only had a JEEP! Won't you help us gather \$1,500 we need to speed them on God's mission?

**EASTER REMEMBRANCE**  
For that special relative or friend, priest, nun or lay person, OUR NEW EASTER GIFT CARD will be a precious remembrance to tell them that you remembered them 1) with a Mass by a missionary in the Holy Land; OR 2) with a gift enrollment; OR 3) you have given an article to a mission chapel in their names. We'll send it anywhere for you and enclose PRESSED FLOWERS FROM THE HOLY LAND.

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### Protest Toronto

Toronto, to publish a nounced by the United Church (stant) at its Lete.

The board so if the Telegram plans it will general of Or prosecute, und Act of Canada, the paper.

UNITED CI and members' board to uphold ing to buy the if and when streets.

The board c gram's plans Lord's Day Ac jected Sunday "trucked and ed" to the nev hies, railway, drugstores and Ontario.

"It will be Lord's Day," t ed, "to subse apartments a hundreds of j eluding girls c visting seven ploymen."

The board a Lon after Dr. mor, its secret "Now is the t sive the Lut ay paper, w means of w basic structure in Canada ward making seular."

OPPOSITE papers also w Canadian Bap ration of the c' Ontario, an Baptist Union aca

Declaring it on't who set Sunday paper cur national' the only rea wants to pub instead of six to its profit "take"