

Day Of Prayer For Persecuted

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese will join with the faithful throughout America this Sunday to pray for the persecuted people of the world.

Ancient pagans tormented Christian captives to renounce their faith but had at least a remnant of mercy to climax their brutality with the gift of martyrdom.

Present day Communists have bluntly stated, "We want no martyrs!"

In China or India, in the Balkan and Baltic nations, wherever the Reds have power they smother the faith by a relentless crushing technique — arresting a bishop, exiling priests, closing a nearby church — a day to day, week by week campaign which finally leaves the people without shepherds or altars.

Those who retain their faith are then forced to face the mind breaking brain-wash.

THE KREMLIN PREFERS these days to conquer through a creeping paralysis of the Church's freedom. A "front" is allowed to survive for the sake of foreign visitors and as evidence to dupes the free nations that religion is tolerated in iron curtain countries.

The tears of thousands are mute contradiction to the Soviet's boast however.

This Sunday, the bishops of the United States appeal to all Americans to take up the invincible weapon of prayer, more powerful than military might, to console the heroic souls who have endured persecution for the Christian faith. Included in these prayers will be an added request to speed the keeping of our Lady's promise at Fatima, "Russia will be converted."

PERSECUTION IS NOT restricted to Communist nations, however. There is a petty, irksome persecution which reputed reputable men impose on fellow men even in free countries.

WHAT ABOUT THE people who are refused a job, a home, an education — just because their skin is a different color? Isn't that a form of being persecuted?

What about the people who are ridiculed, teased, embarrassed because they choose to keep the laws of God and His holy Church — aren't they being persecuted too?

What about the poor who sweat their days out in work, striving at two jobs to make ends meet — are not they persecuted by the lash of poverty while profiteers take advantage of the poor man's patience?

WHAT ABOUT THE innocent young lives spoiled by the divorce of parents who break their youngsters' hearts by breaking up their homes — are not these children persecuted, hurt most by the very ones expected to love them most?

And it is quite probably true that God's accusing finger points to each of us as a persecutor too, for we all have our inner resentments, fixations and bitter prejudices.

So in praying for the persecuted — we are simply praying for our own victims — and for our own conversion to a more Christian attitude. Once we become better Christians ourselves then we can more effectively expect the Communists to cease their persecutions too.

Big Market

As America's "inventory recession" cuts down production schedules and liquidates jobs across the country, Europe's new "free trade" program presents opportunities and hazards for U. S. businessmen.

Next year, six nations — Belgium, Holland, France, Luxembourg, Italy and Western Germany — will eliminate mutual tariffs and will operate with other countries on a common tariff agreement. Britain, Norway, Sweden, Denmark, and Austria are expected to join this European common market program.

European industry, instead of competing against itself, will now be a united front challenge to America in world trade competition. American made products will be tariff taxed on European countries and have to compete against tax free European products.

Despite this double obstacle, as European markets expand to raise living standards in those nations, there will undoubtedly be a rising demand for U. S. tools and technology and especially for the raw materials produced on American farms. Better living standards will also mean more meats and fruits on European tables imported from the United States.

In the wake of the more spectacular Sputniks and satellites, this free trade program will probably go into operation with little fanfare. In reality the program is a tremendous step forward in establishing the dream of a United Europe, and one more proof that a divided world is inevitably drawing toward a "one world" way of life.

Strange But True



The ADORATION OF THE MAGI
as seen by a NIGERIAN ARTIST.

656 YEARS LITIGATION CASE!
In 1293 the Prior of Durham (England) claimed to administer the spiritualities of Durham Diocese during a vacancy in the See & the dispute continued until 1939 when the Protestant Archbishop of Canterbury whose predecessors usurped the Prior's claim after "THE REFORMATION" — as guardian.



People in half the world begin 1958 with tears as Communist nations continue a relentless drive against Church freedom.

As New Year Dawns Church Still Suffers Under Red Oppression

By GEORGE J. ROBINSON
(N. C. W. C. News Service)

This year, the 40th anniversary of the Bolshevik Revolution which cast the fire of militant atheism upon the world, saw the continued persecution of the Church in the Iron Curtain countries. It also saw new outbreaks of anti-Catholic hostility in other parts of the world influenced by the Reds and other forces hostile to the Church.

A glance through the news reports of 1957 shows that the Kremlin, not satisfied with its control over the satellite countries, inspired anti-religious activity in places as far away as India.

In Kerala, India's most Catholic and literate state, communists won control of the state government in February and have since waged a battle to gain control of all education there and to pass laws that will enable them to take over all Catholic schools.

The Moslem-controlled government of the new African nation of Sudan began taking over Catholic mission schools in its southern region last April in an apparent effort to minimize the influence of the Church on the Christian and pagan natives in that area.

The Church's missionary effort has also been greatly hindered by the extreme to which "apartheid" — racial segregation — has been pushed in the Union of South Africa.

That country is stepping up its drive to bar non-whites from attending school or even worshipping with their white co-religionists.

In the countries which have unwillingly come under the domination of Russia, persecution of the Church continued as a regular policy during 1957, although there was improvement in the Church's position in Poland.

THE MAJOR incidence of communist persecution was in China, where the government stepped up its efforts to alienate China's Catholics from Christ's Vicar in Rome by establishing a so-called Patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics.

Formation of the Patriotic Association in Peking during the summer apparently was one of the opening guns of a highly organized onslaught against the Church. Observers abroad have expressed the fear that the new communist program in China "foreshadows the most drastic persecution of Catholics in China since the

Reds took over in 1949."

The Reds released two American Jesuit Fathers from years of imprisonment last spring and allowed them to go home. But the ranks of the foreign missionaries in China are now down to a mere handful, and in the course of the year the communists have arrested and jailed priests and laymen on one pretext after another, hitting hard at the clergy's most outspoken in their devotion to the Holy See.

According to a report received from Bishop Dominic Targ, S.J., Apostolic Administrator of the Archdiocese of Carlton, he and his clergy and laymen are being subjected to severe Red pressure. Special indoctrination periods are held twice each week and the clergy are forced to attend. Afterwards, each priest and nun at the meeting is questioned privately and asked concerning their opinion of what has been said by the government speakers.

Bishop Targ, who has not accepted any of the "invitations" to attend these meetings, has been called to the Government's Bureau of Religious Affairs and given detailed instructions as to how to conduct his archdiocese.

IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA, Archbishop Joseph Beran of Prague, the country's spiritual guide, has been held in detention since 1949. His whereabouts remains unknown and there is no sign at all that the government plans to release him.

In late summer, two Dominican Sisters in Moravia were sentenced to prison terms for "antisocial" activity. They were accused of harboring Father Vaclav Filipovic who had earlier been imprisoned for operating a "spy-ring."

Also sentenced in June were a group of Salesian Fathers and Sisters who were charged with anti-revolutionary and treason activity.

Certainly, even in the light of these few instances, there is no sign of any slow-down in persecuting the Church in Czechoslovakia.

One authority on the Church in that country, writing in a French Catholic weekly, said that the Red government of Czechoslovakia is favoring the creation and development of national churches — all with the intent of luring people away from Rome and their loyalty to Christ's Vicar. Twelve out of 19 Roman Catholic Bishops, he wrote have been interned.

COMMUNIST GOVERNMENT officials in East Germany have long carried on a struggle to alienate the youth of the region from their families and traditions.

Every year, "youth initiation ceremonies" are publicized as the "progressive" approach to the "old" sacrament of Confirmation. Parents are told with subtle threats that it would be better to have their children indoctrinated in the "pre-initiation" classes and allowed to go through the ceremonies, than to participate in a religious confirmation ceremony.

As part of their widespread and exhaustive campaign to win the youth of East Germany, the Reds have even placed well trained and loyal party members in kindergarten. Thus the children's minds are being formed in accord with communist doctrine from the very beginning of formal education.

Unity Octave Prayers Lead Souls To Rome

By FATHER TITUS CRANNY, S.A.
Graymoor, Garrison, N. Y.

Fifty years ago a non-Catholic clergyman began a movement for religious unity which has been felt around the world. His name was Father Paul James Francis, of Graymoor, Garrison, N. Y. The movement was the Chair of Unity Octave, annually observed each January 18-25. His method included prayer, sacrifice, and the practice of the virtues, especially charity. His purpose was the reunion of Christendom and the conversion of unbelievers.

The golden jubilee of this prayer crusade for religious unity, which began very simply at Graymoor in 1908, will be next year. It was unusual that Father Paul should propose this means for Unity since at the time he was a member of the Episcopal Church, though a devoted follower of St. Francis of Assisi.

It was providential, however, that he should begin this work, for in less than two years after the Octave started, Father Paul and his small group of Friars and Sisters known as the Society of the Atonement entered the Catholic Church on October 30, 1909 in a body. Their conversion seemed to be tangible proof of the effectiveness of the Octave prayers.

Today the Unity Octave is part of the devotional life of the faithful in all parts of the world. It was approved by St. Pius X on December 27, 1909 and by each of the Popes since. It was extended to the universal Church by Pope Benedict XV on February 23, 1916 through the Apostolic Brief, "Romanorum Pontificum." Each year witnesses a greater expansion development of this prayer crusade for Unity.

"There is a peculiar fitness," Father Paul wrote, "in this particular Octave for united prayer and effort and to further true Catholic Unity, because it links the name of the two great apostles who jointly founded the Holy Roman Church with the Chair of Peter, which is by divine appointment the center around which all must rally and whose authority all must acknowledge before the whole body of Christians can constitute one fold under one shepherd."

"The Unity Octave," Father Paul further explained, "which begins with the festival of St. Peter's Chair and ends with the conversion of St. Peter brings us at once into touch with the foundation principles of Catholic Unity and raises the whole subject to the solid rock of divine institution, spiritual revelation, and apostolic tradition."

THIS ANNIVERSARY of the Chair of Unity Octave is a milestone of special importance. It recalls the memory of Father Paul (who died in 1940) and his gigantic work for Unity. It reminds the faithful of their duty of apostolic prayer and activity to bring souls to the Church.

As Archbishop Montini of Milan has said: "We must bear witness to our love for each other, and then love those whom we wish to evangelize. The great policy of the apostolate is that it should not be a conquest but a service. We shall keep vigilant watch and not forget that the world can be converted only through love. We shall love everyone — friends, enemies, nations, all people whatever their color or their creed; their profess, be it Protestant, Anglican, pagan or atheist. We shall love even those who ridicule us."

Father Paul would be in full accord with these words of charity towards all men, for only prayers offered in this spirit can bring souls to the Divine Redeemer.

He displayed this love when he wrote to a minister who had ridiculed him: "I cannot tell you how great an affection I have for the clergy of the Anglican Church and how I long that all of them might learn to know better, to reverence, and to love that Blessed Church of Rome which is truly Mother of us all."

To such a spirit of all-embracing charity we must join the virtue of unwavering hope, confident of the mercy of God and of the intercession of our Blessed Lady, who loves all men and seeks to unite them with her Son.

The words of Pope Leo XIII allow for no discouragement in prayer and work for Unity:

"But let not this hope be considered utopian, for that would be unworthy of Christians. The promise of Our Lord must be fulfilled: 'there shall be One Fold and One Shepherd'... Difficulties there are but they should in no wise discourage our apostolic zeal and charity. It is true that rebellion



FATHER PAUL started prayer crusade

and estrangement have fostered a deep-rooted dissent in men's hearts but shall that make us give up hope? Please God, never!"

The recent gatherings of various non-Catholic groups concerned with Unity should furnish additional motives for prayer during the Octave and of daily prayer. The meeting of officials of the World Council of Churches at Yale University, the North American Conference at Oberlin, Ohio, the World Lutheran Federation meeting in Minneapolis, and other conferences all reveal a genuine concern for Christian Unity.

Our prayers should be that sincere souls may secure true Unity where it alone can be found in the Holy Catholic Church ruled by the Vicar of Christ, Pope Pius XII.



The Bell Tower

Fig. Jr.
Mother: "Jimmy, I wish you'd learn better table manners. You're a regular pig at table."

After a deep silence on Jim's part, his father, wishing to further impress him said "Do you know what a pig is Jimmy?"
"Yes," Jimmy replied, "It's a hogs little boy."

In one parish school in Kearny, N.J., the 1st grade teacher had trained her class to fold their hands reverently, and to close their eyes during prayers. One day, when class was over, a little girl approached the teacher, offering the following unsolicited information: "Sister, I watched every boy and girl while they were saying their prayers, and I was the only one who had my eyes closed."

A couple finally realized a life ambition by spending their vacation in Europe. Upon their return, they were interviewed by a local reporter.

"And did you see much poverty abroad?" he inquired.

"See it?" snorted the husband. "Why, I brought some of it back with me."

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PH. 2-4163 or 2-4123

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