

Cardinal Spellman Visits Pope Pius

Rome — (NC) — Cardinal Spellman flew into Rome for a one-day visit en route home from his Christmas visit to American troops in the Far East and had an audience with the Vicar of Christ the night he arrived.

After seeing Pope Pius XII, Cardinal Spellman declared that the highlight of his round-the-world trip was receiving the papal blessing in person. He recalled that the Pope had previously extended his blessing by telegram to all American and NATO troops which the Cardinal would meet during his world tour.

THE MORNING after his arrival, Cardinal Spellman offered Mass in the chapel of the North American College. There he gave First Holy Communion to six convert American sailors from the USS Franklin D. Roosevelt. The servicemen were baptized in St. Peter's Basilica a few days earlier.

The Cardinal left Rome by plane for Frankfurt, Germany, his last stop before returning to New York on January 18.

On his way home from Korea, Japan and Formosa, the Cardinal visited Manila, Saigon, Singapore, Bangkok, Colombo, Madras, Bombay and Athens. His visit here in Rome was the third in less than a year — the last having been last August as part of his observance of the 25th anniversary of his consecration.

WHILE IN INDIA's largest city, Bombay, the Cardinal voiced the hope that the mutual endeavors of India and the United States would spare the world from "holocaust of another war."

Addressing a congregation at Bombay's Pro-Cathedral of the Holy Name, the New York prelate said that Catholics all over the world have a special responsibility to promote peace.

Cardinal Spellman celebrated Mass at the Cathedral and later visited a diocesan seminary that is under construction. He donated \$15,000 to the seminary from funds of the New York archdiocese.

This was the Cardinal's first visit to Bombay. He was met at

Santa Cruz airport by Cardinal Gracias, Archbishop of Bombay.

AFTER HIS VISIT in Bombay, Cardinal Spellman flew to Athens, Greece. While at his Athens hotel, Cardinal Spellman was visited by Archbishop Makarios, Orthodox leader of the Greek Cypriot movement for freedom from British rule. With the Cardinal when the Orthodox leader called was Gen. James Van Fleet, former commander of the U.N. forces in Korea, who had previously headed the U.S. military mission to Greece and movie magnate Spyros Skouras.

Invited to tea with King Paul and Queen Frederika, the New York prelate donated \$5,000 to the Queen's charities funds.

Africa Catholic Ranks Increase

Cape Town, South Africa — (NC) — Negro Catholics in the territories under the jurisdiction of the Apostolic Delegation to South Africa now number more than a million.

This was revealed here in the new edition of the South African Catholic Directory.

Areas under the delegation's jurisdiction include the Union of South Africa, Southwest Africa, Basutoland, Swaziland and Bechuanaland. Total population of these territories is 17,750,000.

Catholics in the area total 1,280,028, an increase of 72,477 over last year.

Negro Catholics number 1,022,131 compared with 966,256 a year ago.

Native African Priests Ordained

Cape Coast, Ghana — (NC) — The ordination of six priests in three different Ghana dioceses in December brought the country's total number of African priests to 45.



Cardinal Sees Chiang Kai-Shek

Cardinal Spellman greets Free China President Chiang Kai-shek, during visit here to Taiwan (Formosa). The Cardinal stayed at the presidential residence, and was guest of honor at a special New Year's Day dinner, given by Madame Chiang, and attended by U. S. Ambassador Karl Rankin. The Cardinal praised President Chiang for freedom of religion here making possible a great increase of Catholics.

Venezuela Regime Frees Five Priests

Port-of-Spain, Trinidad — (NC) — Five priests held in custody by the Venezuelan government have been released after almost a week, according to reports received here.

The priests were arrested following the abortive New Year's uprising by some of the country's military forces. The revolt, led by officers of the Venezuelan Air Force and some army units, was an attempt to overthrow the five-year-old military dictatorship of President Marcos Perez Jimenez.

AMONG THE priests was Father Jesus Hernandez Chapellin, director of the Caracas Catholic daily La Religion. Father Hernandez was arrested for refusing to publish a declaration of President Perez condemning the leaders of the uprising.

Dr. Caldera had earlier been detained by the government because he was considered a strong opposition candidate to President Perez in any election, according to reports.

Cardinal To Open Lourdes Ceremonies

Paris — (RNS) — Pierre Marie Cardinal Gerlier, Archbishop of Lyons and Primate of Gaul, will officiate at solemn ceremonies on Feb. 11 marking the opening of the Marian Year to commemorate the 100th anniversary of the Apparitions of Our Lady of Lourdes.

The rites will take place at the famous shrine where the Blessed Virgin appeared in 1838 to Bernadette Soubirous, a French peasant girl who was canonized in 1933.

A tridium of prayer will precede the inaugural ceremonies which Catholics from all parts of the world will attend.

Divorce Linked To Mixed Marriage

Washington — (NC) — A uniform course in all Catholic high schools on the problems of courtship and marriage was suggested here as a means of cutting down on the large number of mixed marriages.

Monsignor Louis F. Millenberger, vocational director of the Washington Archdiocese, cited statistics on the number of mixed marriages and proposed remedies for the problem.

"THE NATIONAL figures for 1956 show that out of 324,507 marriages, 84,720 were mixed marriages," he stated. "This means that one out of every four marriages across the country was of a Catholic with a non-Catholic."

Studies in Michigan, Maryland and Washington, D. C., covering a total of approximately 25,000 families, found that the divorce rate is three times higher in mixed Catholic-Protestant marriages than in marriages where both parties are of the same faith.

Monsignor Millenberger said the same study showed "that about seven per cent of the divorces occurred when the father was a Protestant and the mother a Catholic." This figure increased to about 21 per cent, he added, when the mother was a Protestant.

HE SAID that a study made in the Midwest revealed that "when a Catholic married a member of a Protestant denomination, only 34 per cent of the children were practicing members of either religion."

German Bishops Hit Mixed Marriages

Cologne, Germany — (RNS) — The German Roman Catholic Hierarchy, in a joint pastoral letter read in churches throughout East and West Germany, urged Catholics to halt the "flood" of mixed marriages in this country.

The pastoral was signed by Cardinal Frings, Archbishop of Cologne; Cardinal Wendel, Archbishop of Munich; and the members of the German Catholic Bishops' Conference.

It stressed that those who warn against mixed marriage do not disturb Protestant-Catholic relations in Germany, since non-Catholic bodies also are worried about such unions and feel that marriage "is not a good basis for a meeting of the confessions."

THE PASTORAL said it was not intended for those already living in mixed marriage but for those "who stand at the door of such a marriage or have growing children."

"Those living in mixed marriage," it said, "suffer more than others from the plight of a divided faith, often even more than they are able to bear. Warnings against mixed marriages help guard against such distress and the conscientious conflicts involved, and thus serve religious peace."

THE PASTORAL said that religion among spouses of the same faith is a strong tie of harmony, happiness and comfort, but in mixed unions it is a source of discord and disturbance.

"Differing views of marriage as a sacrament and on the indissolubility of marriage carry additional insecurity to such unions," the pastoral said.

It warned that statistics show that divorces occur much more frequently in mixed marriages and that they also "bring unrest into the lives of children, more than half of whom become lost to the Church."

"As a rule," the pastoral said, "the third generation following



CARDINAL FRINGS

a mixed marriage is no longer Catholic."

The Bishops urged parents to caution their children against steady friendships with young people of other faiths, "because once feelings of affection and love get the upper hand, they deprive them of clearness of thought and drive them into self-deception."

"It is only with painful tolerance that the Church allows mixed marriages at all, since otherwise the situation would get even worse," the Bishops declared.

They said that "many Catholics, in stubborn blindness, would not renounce a mixed alliance and would rather be satisfied with a non-church marriage."

"Thus," the Bishops added, "the Church acts like a mother who, with bleeding heart, gives permission to have the limb of a sick child amputated in order to save at least the child's life."

Cardinal Aide Given Life Term

Vienna — (RNS) — Msgr. Albert Egon Turcsanyi, former secretary of Cardinal Mindszenty, Primate of Hungary, was sentenced by a Communist court in Budapest to life imprisonment for alleged counter-revolutionary activities, the Budapest Radio reported.

THE STATION said that 16 co-defendants — 15 priests and seminarians and a layman, Lt. Col. Pal Lieszkovsky — were given sentences ranging from one to ten years.

Msgr. Turcsanyi, 65, was charged with "looting the files" of the State Office for Church Affairs during the abortive 1956 revolt. His co-defendants were accused of distributing anti-Communist leaflets.

THE MONSIGNOR was brought to court handcuffed and under heavy police guard. The prosecutor was earlier reported to have demanded the death penalty for him. The trial judge was Dr. Mathilde Toth, who barred the press and public from the hearings, which began Dec. 3.

Msgr. Turcsanyi was arrested in November, 1956, reportedly while attempting to cross the border into Austria in company with an American newspaper correspondent. Reports said he appeared pale and haggard at his trial and looked older than his 65 years.

Catholic Youth Jailed in Red Shanghai

Rome — (NC) — The number of young Catholics jailed by the communists in Shanghai has been brought to 50 by the re-arrest of two seminarians and another Catholic youth there in December, it was reported here.

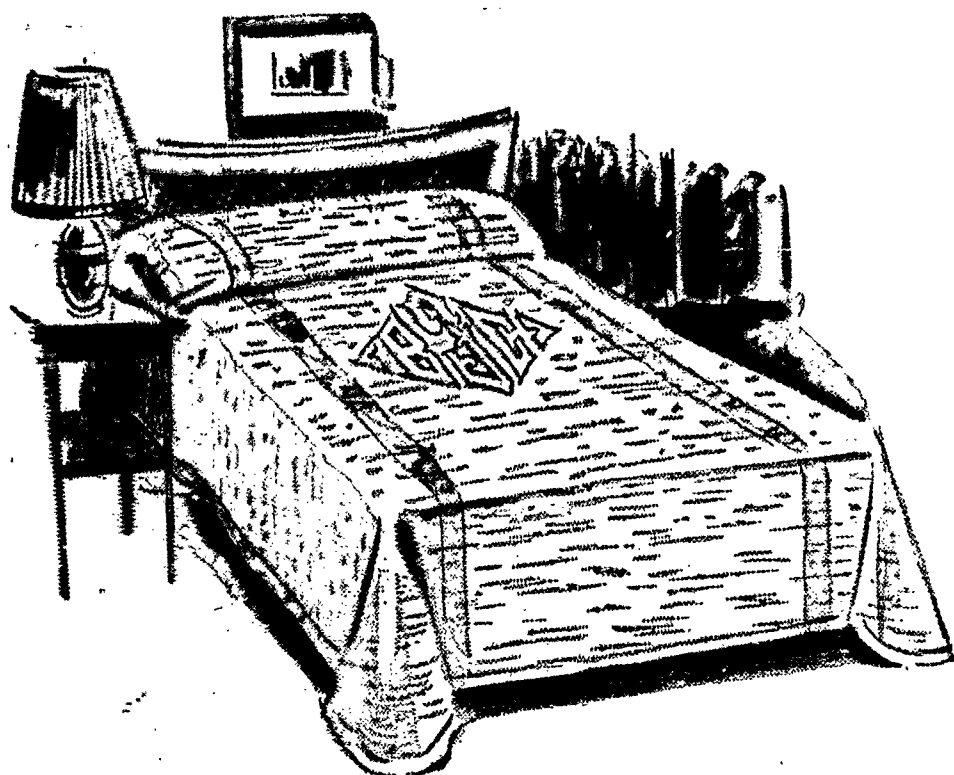
Fides, mission news service with headquarters here, reported from Hong Kong that all three men had originally been jailed in September, 1955. It identified the seminarians as Paul Chen and Stephen Hu, and said that they and the layman, Paul Tai, were all arrested again last month.

According to Fides, Mr. Hu was imprisoned for two years following his first arrest, while Mr. Chen was jailed for seven months. Mr. Tai was reported to have been kept in jail for a year after the 1955 arrest.

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Laywomen Apostles Going To Missions

Saragossa, Spain — (NC) — A group of laywomen, specially trained to assist priests in mission areas, will leave here shortly to work in the Church's missions in Latin America.

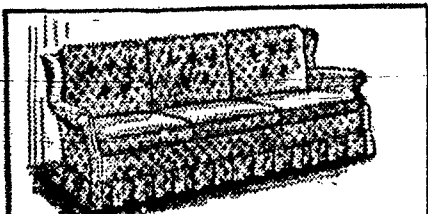
Members of the Society for Lay Apostolic Cooperation in Latin America, the women have been trained as catechists, nurses, medical technicians, social workers and teachers. They will live communal life in the places assigned to them by the local ordinaries.

Lay Role Urged In Mission Fields

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio, in a special broadcast, appealed for more volunteers to work at Roman Catholic mission stations in various parts of Africa.

The broadcast recalled the encyclical letter, Fidei Donum (The Gift of Faith) which Pope Pius XII issued last year to stress the urgent need for more priests, nuns and qualified laymen in the mission field, especially in Africa.

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