

Missions Target Of Red Agents



BISHOP GRIFFITHS

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Communist agents are being trained for anti-missionary work throughout the world, Auxiliary Bishop James H. Griffiths of New York said here.

Russia's program to undermine the work of Christian missionaries has increased in tempo, Bishop Griffiths said. Several hundred Africans completed a course in Moscow in 1956 designed to prepare agents to counteract Christian influences in their country, he asserted.

He also disclosed that Yugoslavia had just opened a center "for the formation of counter-missionaries."

Today's missionary battle is not with tribal chieftains, but with foreign powers "of the vast empire of evil," the Bishop declared. To combat this evil, he said, missionaries of the free world must "concentrate on relieving the misery of their fellowmen."

One of the chief miseries in the world today is injustice, Bishop Griffiths pointed out, calling attention to a recent statement in which Pope Pius XII called for a universal justice "which must be reduced to acting practice" if Christianity is to triumph in the world.

"China strives stupidly and clumsily to contrive a synthetic church" and Marxists, "learning after forty years they can't sell atheism to the masses, are busy developing schisms," the New York prelate said.

Despite the challenge of Communism, the unity of the Catholic Church is unshaken, Bishop Griffiths stressed.

However, he assailed the lack of support which Catholic missions receive from followers of an "upholstered, streamlined Christianity" while the native convert in Asia "drags himself into his mud-floor church" and gives his last handful of rice to the collection bowl.

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China Reds Bar Prison Visit With Area Missionary

An American mother who went to Communist China to see her son who is held in a Shanghai prison, was refused permission to meet Father Joseph McCormack, an American missionary reportedly held in the same prison, according to an NCWC News dispatch from Hong Kong.

Father McCormack, a member of the Maryknoll Foreign Mission Society, visited the Rochester area in 1946 when he came to visit his brother Edward McCormack in Palmyra.

Mrs. Ruth Redmond of Yonkers, N. Y., one of three American mothers who came out of Communist China this week after visiting their sons in Red prisons, told the NCWC News Service in Hong Kong that, under conditions laid down by the Communists at the start of her visit, she was not allowed to see Father McCormack who is in the same prison as her son.

Neither was she allowed to visit American Bishop James E. Walsh who is now residing in Shanghai.

First person to greet the American mothers on their arrival in Hong Kong from Red China was Father Howard Trube, who exchanged greetings with the three mothers as they stepped from the car which brought them from the border. Father Trube, an American Maryknoll missionary and former prisoner of the Chinese Communists, is now stationed in Hong Kong.

Mrs. Redmond, looking very tired and pale after her fatiguing trip, grasped Father Trube's hand and expressed her pleasure and gratitude for his having come to meet her.

She told the Maryknoller, in a voice choked with emotion, that she was "hoping and praying that my son, Hugh, will be released."

With Mrs. Redmond, on her return to Hong Kong, were Mrs. Jessie Fecteau of Lynn, Mass., and Mrs. Mary Downey of New Britain, Conn. Their sons, held captive in Red China, are:

HUGH REDMOND, 38, a Shanghai businessman when the Reds took over in 1949, now serving a life sentence in that city on espionage charges.

RICHARD FECTEAU, 30 serving a 20-year sentence in Peking on charges of having trained and supplied agents in China for the U. S. Central Intelligence Agency.

JOHN DOWNEY, 27, serving a life sentence in Peking on the same charges as Mr. Fecteau.

William Downey, 25, brother of the imprisoned John Downey, accompanied his mother on the trip. The four Americans spent three weeks on the China mainland.

The three women, showing signs of their emotional strain, told how grateful they were for the opportunity to visit their sons.

"However, it was hard to recross the border knowing that we were leaving our sons behind in prison," said Mrs. Downey with tears in her eyes.

ALL THREE mothers entertained the hope that their sons would not be made to serve out their complete sentences. They said they knew that many American missionaries had received long prison sentences or had even been sentenced to death by the communists, and then were released.

They said they were praying that the same would eventually happen to their sons.

While in Red China, the mothers voiced pleas that their sons be released, but Premier Chou En-lai replied that he could not consider their appeal.

According to the Premier, the three Americans had "violated



FATHER MCCORMACK

Area Missionary In China Jail

Father Joseph P. McCormack, American missionary mentioned in NCWC dispatches as still held in a Communist prison in Shanghai, is the brother of Edward McCormack of 416 East Main Street in Palmyra.

A native of Ireland, the missionary came to the United States in 1918, entered the Maryknoll (N.Y.) Seminary and was ordained in 1924. He offered his first Mass at St. Dominic's Church in Shortsville.

According to the terms of his communist sentence Father McCormack should be released in June of this year.

Although an NCWC news dispatch in (August) 1956 said that the Communists had transferred Father McCormack from his Shanghai prison cell to a guarded private residence in that city, more recent reports (including this one) indicate that the missionary is still held in the Red prison.

Communist Chinese law and had to be dealt with accordingly.

THE MOTHERS reported that they had found their sons in good health, and that they requested only some reading material to occupy their time. The prisoners had called their prison fare adequate and said they were given opportunity to exercise each day.

Clocks, Electric or Key Wound, \$3.25 and up. William S. Thorne Jewelry, 515 Main St. East.—Adv.



ST. MARY'S VOLUNTEERS — Newest service provided by St. Mary's Hospital aides is for child patients. Youngsters, like little Raymond Tufano, find lots to cheer about when the ladies (in cherry uniforms) roll in the toy and game cart here operated by volunteers (L. to R.), Mrs. William T. Howe and Mrs. Robert J. McMahon. (Paul Contestable-Courier Journal Photo).

'Cheery Cherry Ladies' Aid St. Mary's Program

By PAUL CONTESTABLE

"Cheery ladies clad in cherry help to keep the patients merry." This is the popular self-description of the women who conduct the volunteer Hospital Aide Service at St. Mary's Hospital.

Everybody, patient or visitor, who enters St. Mary's soon comes to know the ladies in the "cheery cherry uniforms." These volunteer aides move busily and quietly through the hospital's corridors and rooms, doing what they can to serve the patients and visitors.

The volunteer women aides, some of them with time to spare and a great many of them serving at a sacrifice, are the backbone of the hospital's special service to its patients.

Serving at mental but necessary tasks, the daily service of the volunteer aides spells an annual saving of thousands of dollars to St. Mary's. Included in the volunteer's role is the work of bringing flowers to the patients, distributing library books, directing visitors, and staffing information booths and offices.

LAST YEAR, saw 273 ladies enrolled in the ranks of the volunteer aides, contributing 21,063 hours of service to the hospital and its patients.

The Aide Service was inaugurated in the 1920's by the late Mrs. Frank Collins and the late Mrs. Louis Whalen. Members were later organized in groups, and their hours of service regulated by the order of their personal lives.

Evening and weekend services are staffed mostly by business women. Daily services are cared for by housewives, widows, single women, even young mothers.

The volunteer aides are sponsored by the Women's Board of the Hospital with Mrs. Francis McConville, chairman of volunteer services; and Mrs. A. Gordon Ide, co-chairman. Miss Marie Langan of the hospital staff is director of aides.

Applications for volunteers are carefully screened and assigned to various groups. Among the services offered are the following:

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Ithaca Parish Tops Diocese In Baptisms

Ithaca's Immaculate Conception Church again led parishes of the Rochester Diocese in number of Baptisms in 1957 with a total of 299.

Sacred Heart Cathedral, Rochester, came a close second with 290.

The Ithaca church and Blessed Sacrament Church, Rochester, were tied for highest totals of adult converts, 44 in each parish.

Holy Rosary, Rochester, ranked third in overall total number baptized, 266 with 9 adult converts, followed by St. John's Greece 265 baptisms including 17 adults.

NEWEST PARISH in the Diocese, Our Lady of Mercy, Greece, opened in September 1957 and had 29 baptisms at year's end.

OTHER PARISH reports on baptism for 1957 are as follows:

IN AUBURN, St. Alphonsus was highest with 192 baptisms recorded. St. Vincent of Paul, Corning, 134. St. Ann, Horticon, 170.

Emmaus, St. Mary's Church reports 214 baptisms including 23 adult conversions.

St. Francis de Sales, Geneva 194. St. Michael's, Newark, 114. St. Patrick's, Seneca Falls, 158.

Still growing and still young St. Rita's parish, West Webster, had 180 baptisms, 3 more than last year.

OTHER ROCHESTER parishes topping the 200 mark in baptisms are:

Blessed Sacrament 247. Corpus Christi, 246. St. Andrews, 243. St. Francis Xavier, 217. St. Monica and St. Charles, Greece each 211. Holy Cross, 210, and Holy Family, 203.

Oklahoma City Bishop Named

Washington — (NC) — The Most Rev. Victor J. Reed has been named to Oklahoma City and Tulsa by Pope Pius XII.

Bishop-elect Reed, who is rector of Holy Family Co-Cathedral in Tulsa, was named Auxiliary Bishop to Bishop Eugene J. McGuinness of Oklahoma City and Tulsa on December 11, 1957. Bishop McGuinness died on December 27, 1957, and now Bishop-elect Reed has been named to succeed him.

Reed began his new duties Tuesday. "It's good to be back again," he said.

She was graduated from St. Mary's School of Nursing in 1917 following four years of training here. She remained two years serving in various departments at the hospital and as assistant director of the nursing service.

She noted this week the new laboratory facilities added in the hospital's research program since she left the city eight years ago.

Sister Teresa returns to St. Mary's enriched with experience gained in three hospitals operated by her order, the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul.

AT TWO of these hospitals she held the top post of administrator at Sisters Hospital, Waterville, Maine, and at Sacred Heart Hospital, Pensacola, Florida.

She also completed advanced nurses training at Catholic University, Washington, D.C.

Asked what are her plans for St. Mary's, Sister Teresa said, "First I have to get acquainted again with my old friends in Rochester."

"My next task is pretty much already cut out for me," she stated. "The hospital needs a new wing for patients and a new nurse's home. We did these ten years ago and I'm sure the need is all the more urgent now."

Every girl hopes she'll be remembered with flowers on Valentine's Day, February 14th. Call BLANCHARD'S for one of those unique heart and flower arrangements, together with a Hallmark Greeting card. BLANCHARD FLORES, 58 LAKE AVE. Free parking on premises or call BAKER 1-8494. —Adv.

Reds Hold 500 Priests In Dungeons

By FATHER PLACID JORDAN

Koenigstein, Germany — (NC) — Between 450 and 500 Catholic priests are currently being held in the dungeons and concentration camps of communist Czechoslovakia, according to reports received here.

This number does not include members of religious orders and priests of the Byzantine Rite who have been deported.

Reliable reports reaching this expellee center say that 100 priests are confined in the dreaded Leopoldov penitentiary, 40 miles northeast of Bratislava. This former fortress now houses 1,610 political prisoners, many of them formerly prominent in the public life of their country.

At least 150 priests are being held at the notorious Wiltmannov II camp near Jachymov and its uranium mines. This camp and the one at Pabnam near Prague have a labor force of over 25,000.

Two Czechoslovakian bishops who were released from prison in October 1956 are now under house arrest in a former Catholic Church building near Pilsen.

They are Bishop Jan Antonin Sak of Spis, who was sentenced on January 15, 1951 to a 24-year prison term and Bishop Michael Buzina, 72, a exaltary to the Apostolic Administration of Timava who was sentenced at the same time to life imprisonment.

AUXILIARY BISHOP Stephen Baras of Spis, 57, is in the dreaded prison at Leopoldov. He was arrested in the fall of 1950.

Auxiliary Bishop Stanislaus Zela of Olomouc, 64, who was given a 25-year prison sentence in December 1950, has recently been transferred from Leopoldov to the state reformatory at Mnich.

RELIGIOUS SERVICES are still banned at the Leopoldov fortress. Prisoners there may not have any religious books or articles. Priests imprisoned there are not even permitted to administer the last rites to fellow inmates who are dying, and they may not attend their funeral services.

On the major feast days of the Church, religious prisoners are especially harassed. For instance, on Good Friday, 1956, a broth was served to them for the first time in a year, their captors knowing it was a fast day.

On Christmas Eve that year, which is a day of fast and abstinence, all prisoners were served meat, which they seldom have.

A former Army major from Bratislava, Jan Savol was given 96 days in a "correction cell" for having smuggled bread into the cells of priests so they could celebrate Mass in secret.

Observing that victims are always found alone by itself but always by somebody, the Bishop said, "The same is true of Catholic Action. We need to find standing by itself alone. When we find the Catholic Action we find it expressed in a person's life."

MRS. WHALEN'S LIFE, the Bishop stated was a continuous expression of real Catholic Action. As the mother of a large family and as a laywoman devoted to the interests of the Church in education and charity, the Bishop said, Mrs. Whalen's life was a genuine expression of the best kind of Catholic Action.

Although she herself would share praise of herself and deplore a recognition of her efforts as "merit," the Bishop said, "Nevertheless, we can find a situation for all of us in speaking a word of recognition of this little lady's life."

She was devoted to the works of Catholic education and charity he said. She felt it was her duty to contribute to the personal service and her worldly goods.

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See Inside 'Get Out Of God's Way' Book Shelf: Christ's Trials Priest Advises Childless Couples Shape Of Things To Come

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Sister Suffers Setback In 'Be Neat' Campaign

St. Louis — (NC) — One Sister in a parochial school here has a problem in convincing her class of eighth-graders that neatness pays.

This problem was particularly bad when the students prepared their essays for the annual St. Louis Serra Club Vocation Essay Contest.

"I'll submit this," she ruefully told one flagrant offender, "but it's so messy it can't possibly win."

But, the Serra Club, blissfully unaware of the Sister's predicament, announced that the "messy" essay was good enough, in spite of its condition to be one of the 14 top winners.



SISTER TERESA