

East Germany

Reds Jail Protestant Clergy

By FATHER PLACID JORDAN, O.S.B. (N.C.W.C. News Service)

Berlin—Radical anti-religious trends are becoming stronger in communist East Germany.

This is indicated by the arrest of 11 Protestants during the past three months on the stereotyped charge of hostility to the state.

Eight Protestant pastors, two Protestant seminarians and one Protestant lay religion teacher were arrested and sentenced to jail terms by communist courts for upholding their religious convictions against the atheist agitation sponsored by the Communist party.

ANYONE TEACHING religion outside the schools is subject to the supervision of school principals, according to a new decree of the East German department of education.

School principals must decide whether a teacher can hold religion classes outside the schools. If so, he can be given approval for only three months at a time. Also, all efforts to solicit attendance at religion classes within or outside school precincts have been made punishable acts.

The decree constitutes a new attempt on the part of Red rulers to interfere with the freedom of worship and the jurisdiction of churches within



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their own realm, regardless of constitutional guarantees.

ALONG WITH their attempt to suppress religious education, East German communists have also stepped up their program

of pagan "youth initiation" rites.

More than 60 Protestant pastors and clerics have been made the object of venomous attacks in the communist press for taking a stand against such rites.

Known as "Jugendweihe" services, these initiation rites amount to a secular confirmation of East German youths between the ages of 10 and 14. Purpose of the ceremony is to train youth early to fight "against superstition and out-moded ideas."

Both the Catholic prelates and the bishops of the Protestant Evangelical Lutheran church in East Germany have condemned these services. Protestants have borne the brunt of the communist attacks because they constitute a majority of East Germany's Christians.

ACCORDING TO reliable observers here, in 1953 only 15 per cent of those youths eligible for the initiation rites took part in them. In 1952, the percentage rose to between 25 and 28 per cent. Last year, approximately 40 per cent of such children were initiated.

In all likelihood this year will find close to 50 per cent of the eligible children participating in such rites because of the relentless communist propaganda.



Californians Meet At Supreme Court

Washington, D. C. — (NC) — Chief Justice Earl Warren of the U.S. Supreme Court, a former governor of California, congratulates three Californians on their coming ordination to the Catholic priesthood. Paulists who will be ordained by Cardinal Spellman at the Paulist Fathers' Mother Church in New York, the young men are, from left, Paul Power, C.S.P., of Los Angeles; Chief Justice Warren; George Nagle, C.S.P., of San Francisco, and Edward Bader, C.S.P., of Los Angeles.

Abp. Lucey Rebukes Planters In Texas

San Antonio, Tex. — Archbishop Robert E. Lucey of San Antonio declared here that anyone in agriculture "who pays an honest American worker 50 cents an hour is a disgrace to Christianity."

The Archbishop spoke at the opening session of the ninth regional congress of the Bishops' Committee for the Spanish-Speaking.

HE FIRST called attention to a recent directive issued by Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell. It states that employer requests for foreign workers are not to be approved where, through additional recruitment efforts, domestic workers can be obtained to meet farm labor needs.

Considering this in the light of the serious economic problems posed by the Spanish-speaking bracero and migrant workers, the Archbishop declared: "Perhaps now our own American citizens born in Texas will have a chance to get a job in agriculture. Thousands of them

Italian Stamps Honor Lourdes

Rome — (NC) — The Italian postal ministry has issued two stamps commemorating the 100th anniversary of the apparition of Our Lady at Lourdes. The stamps, in two denominations, will be valid until December 31, 1953.

Archbishop Alter Auxiliary Named

Washington — (NC) — Monsignor Paul F. Leibold, Chancellor of the Archdiocese of Cincinnati, has been named Auxiliary Bishop to Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati.

The appointment, made by Pope Pius XII, was announced here by Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States.

"Defrauding the laborer of his hire," the Archbishop concluded, "is one of the sins that cry to heaven for vengeance. . . Any grower who pays an honest American worker 50 cents an hour is a disgrace to Christianity."

Chinese Priests Defy Red Demands

Hong Kong — (RNS) — Reports reaching here from Communist China revealed how two Chinese Roman Catholic priests flatly refused demands that they denounce the Vatican and recognize the government-sponsored Association of Patriotic Catholics.

The defiant attitude of the two priests—Father Ma Chang-Jen and Kuo Hsiao-shin—was described by the newspaper, Hopes Jih Pao, after they had been singled out for attack at a meeting of the association in Paoing.

THE RED PAPER said Father Ma had been denounced at the meeting for having:

Branded the Communist Party as one hated by the people.

Refused to participate in a campaign against counter-revolutionaries in the Church—saying, "The Holy See has to be consulted on the question."

Rejected participation in a campaign against "counter-revolutionaries" in the Church, saying again, "The Holy See has to be consulted on the question."

Refused to join in accusing imprisoned Bishop Ignatius Kung Pin-mei of Shanghai, asserting that "this involves the canons and dogmas of the Church."

Balked at joining the patriotic association, saying, "I have to await papal blessing for such participation."

Declared in a sermon that "the more I am devoted to the Holy See—the more I am devoted to my country. The Holy See loves China even more than we do."

THE HOPEI paper said Father Kuo was attacked at the meeting for denouncing the campaign against "counter-revolutionaries" and calling the patriotic association "an organization formed by bad people."

It is said the priest was accused of preaching a sermon in which he said: "The government has its constitution; I have the canons of the Church."

He was also denounced at the meeting, the paper said, for describing the government's policy of religious freedom as spurious and urging Catholics to refuse to work on Sundays.



Anniversary

His Eminence Pietro Fumasoni-Biondi leaves chapel after Mass celebrating his 28th anniversary as Cardinal and Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith. Born in 1872, Cardinal Fumasoni-Biondi is a native of Italy. (NC Photos)

Hungarian Bishop Quotes Washington on Profanity

Csanad, Hungary — (NC) — A story about George Washington was used by an Hungarian Bishop in his lenten pastoral, which perturbed about the evils inherent in profanity and the use of bad language.

Citing the bad effect that improper language can have on children, Bishop Endre Hamvas of Csanad said that children are not likely to respect authority if they hear their elders defying divine authority.

"George Washington, the first President of the United States," the Bishop continued, "was once seated at a table with some friends when one of them uttered a profanity. Putting down his knife and fork, Washington looked at the man and said, 'I thought I was with civilized people.'"

AND THE WINDS BLEW THE LITTLE CHURCH DOWN . . .

In the land of steel construction and massive buildings we hardly realize how fragile homes, houses and whole towns may be in these parts of the world. In the little town of Kfar-Komel (Lebanon) the Maronites, who are loyal to our Holy Father, have no Church today because of a recent storm. They built this Church with their own money and the loss of it leaves them desolate financially — and without Our Lord. The old chapel was dedicated to Our Blessed Mother and they look to her and to YOU for help in bringing Her Son back among them. The total cost of a strong building will be \$2,000. Will you help Mary build a home for her Son?

"MORE THAN ANYTHING ELSE I NEED PRIESTS . . ." a missionary bishop writes us. "Without more priests I have no hope," he continues, "there is simply no one to instruct the converts, say Mass for the faithful, care for the dying." This is not a new appeal but the need grows more urgent with the passing of each day. Antoine and Jacques are anxious to answer this call and await admittance to the Maronite seminary (Lebanon). BUT they cannot go further unless some benefactor is found to supply \$600 for each to make the six year course possible. If you wish to have a "priest in the family" adopt one of them today. You may pay the \$600 in any manner convenient over the six year period "your son" will be studying.

TEN DOLLARS WILL BUY A FIRST COMMUNION OUTFIT FOR A POOR CHILD . . . CAN YOU FIND A BETTER BARGAIN . . . HELP A REFUGEE CHILD TO MEET OUR LORD . . .

"STRAIGHT TO HEAVEN . . . LIKE THE PRAYER OF A NUN . . ." How many times have you heard this expression . . . and we all know how true it is. These chosen souls, hidden in cloisters, have a special appeal to the heart of our Blessed Lord, Sister Mary Leo and Sister Mary Emmanuel desire to give themselves to a life of prayer in the Carmelite Order (Changanacherry, India). Each must have a sponsor who will pay a total of \$300 for while she is in the novitiate. Would you like to have the prayers of a Carmelite protect you, your family, your activities. Think it over and see whether you can afford NOT to have "a daughter a nun." You may pay the \$300 in manner of installment while "your daughter in Christ" spends her two years in the novitiate.

SUGGESTION OF THE WEEK MOTHER'S DAY will soon be with us again with its thoughts of all we owe to the one who worked so hard and gave so much that we might live and be happy. What can we do to show our appreciation and our gratitude? We certainly cannot limit our thanks to one day in the year, rather we should always show our appreciation of the sacrifices made for our welfare. Why not give an article to a Near East Chapel for your mother's intention or in her memory. The prayers of the poor people who speak to Our Lord in these small Churches will bring blessings to you and to your mother. We will send our beautiful gift card anywhere to tell your mother of your gift in her name, and we will include FLOWERS OF THE HOLY LAND which have been blessed on the Holy Sepulcher. Mass bell . . . \$2 Monstrance . . . \$40 Altar Stone . . . \$10 Crucifix . . . \$5 Picture . . . 15 Statue . . . 30 Altar . . . 75 Candles . . . 20 Chalice . . . 40

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