

China Reds 'Elect' 8 New Bishops

'Patriotic' Priests Replace Exiled Clergy

By FATHER MORGAN J. VITTEGLI, M.M.

Hong Kong — (NC) — Both Catholic and communist sources here report that eight Catholic bishops have been "elected" and consecrated recently in Communist China.

Four priests of the so-called "Catholic Patriotic Association" are reported to have been consecrated bishops by Bishop Francis Chao, S.J., of Sienhsien in his cathedral, and the other four by Archbishop Ignaceus Pi of Mukden in the Tsinan cathedral. The Sienhsien consecrations are said to have taken place on April 23 and the Tsinan ones on June 1.

Reports of the new consecrations came three months after it was announced that two Chinese bishops had been consecrated in Hankow despite the explicit warning of the Holy See that both the consecrating bishop and those consecrated would suffer excommunication.

Decrees issued by the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office back in 1951 provide automatic excommunication for the consecrator and the priests consecrated when men are ordained to the episcopate without the approval of the Holy See.

According to the communist newspaper Hopes Jih Pao, the "elected" bishops consecrated by Bishop Chao in Sienhsien are Fathers Wang Shouchen, Pan Shao-ching, Chang Shou-yi and Lam Fai-lu. It gave their Sees as Yungtien, Sunhsia, Siwante and Yungling.

Yungtien and Yungping, both in Hopeh province, are listed by the Vatican yearbook as being vacant Sees. But Sunhsia and Siwante have legitimate bishops, with the latter's Bishop Melchior Chang listed as being in jail for the Faith.

THE RED NEWS source said that the Sienhsien ceremony was attended by more than 50 members of the Catholic clergy from 14 dioceses. It gave the following description:

"In accordance with the consecration rites conducted in the Catholic Church, Bishop Chao Cheng-sheng first put the book of Scriptures on the shoulder of each of the four new bishops, then anointed the head of each of them and finally conferred crozier and ring on each of the consecrated bishops.

"Following the ceremony the four bishops gave benediction to over 600 participants. The latter by turn kissed the rings of the newly consecrated bishops.

"A meeting in celebration of the election and consecration of the bishops by the Catholic Church in China was held in the church of Sienhsien under the auspices of the Hopes provincial Catholic Patriotic Association.

"Congratulatory speeches were delivered to the meeting by Bishop Chao Cheng-sheng; by Yang Kuo-chien, assistant secretary general of the secretariat of the National Catholic Patriotic Association, and Yang Chai-wel, secretary general of the secretariat of the Hopes provincial Catholic Patriotic Association."

The newspaper account concluded with the statement that the celebration closed amid loud cheers urging the gathering to "resolutely cut off all relations with the Vatican" and to "firmly carry out the guiding principle of practicing independence and self-administration of the Catholic Church.

Meanwhile, several Catholic sources here have received what seems to be reliable reports from Red China of the consecration of four other "elected" bishops by Archbishop Pi of Mukden for the schismatic patriotic Association of Chinese Catholics.

The information — messages and reports brought here by individuals, and still incomplete — indicates that the Mukden Archbishop consecrated Fathers Charles Li and Teng Yen-lung for the Diocese of Tsachow and the Tsinan archdiocese. Both Sees have been vacant. Neither the names of the other two bishops nor their Sees have been available here.

If the reported new consecrations are true, and if they were carried out without Vatican approval, it would bring the number of schismatic bishops in Red China to 10.

ON THE HEELS of the reported new consecrations come reports that candidates for episcopal consecration have been chosen for five other Sees.

ALASKA Deepfreeze State Vast Mission Area

Alas — a soon to be this nation's 49th state — will come into the Union with a long standing Christian heritage.

Two Franciscan missionaries, Father John Riobo and Father Mathias, chaplains of Spanish men of war, first brought Christianity to Alaska in 1779. Just 38 years after Vitus Bering, a Dane in the Russian Imperial Navy, discovered the territory.

Soon after, in 1784, Russian Orthodox priests arrived. Although the Alaskan aborigines — Aleuts, Athabascans, Tlingits and Eskimos — are still mostly unchristianized, Alaska's 216,000 population today includes thriving Catholic and Protestant as well as Eastern Orthodox communities.

Catholics in Alaska, which will be the largest state in size in the union, number about 22,000, an increase of over 2,500 since 1952. Well over half belong to the Vicariate Apostolic of Alaska, comprising 216,000 square miles, and the rest are in the Diocese of Juneau, which was created in 1951.

UNTIL THE purchase of the territory in 1867 by the United States, little is known about missionary activities in Alaska — although the Oblate Fathers, represented in Fort Yukon by Father Squila, were forced to leave the territory in 1862, because of harsh treatment.

In 1872, after Americans took possession of Fort Yukon, Bishop Laforce of Vancouver began active missionary work. Bishop Charles J. Seghers, later to be murdered by a guide in 1886, made a survey of the southern coast in 1873 and the following year the territory was assigned to the spiritual care of the bishop at Vancouver Island.

BISHOP SEGHERS, called the "Apostle of Alaska," made a missionary survey of the northwest coast of America and Father John Althoff became the first resident missionary in Alaska in 1878.

The first Nuns in Alaska were three Sisters of St. Ann, who came in 1886. They were Sister M. Zero, Sister M. Bonsecours and Sister M. Victor who were brought to staff a new hospital in Juneau by Father Althoff.

It was while on an evangelizing trip for the conversion of the Alaskan tribes with two Jesuits — Fathers Paschal Tosi and Aloysius Robaut — that the recently elevated Archbishop was murdered. His guide, a man named Fuller, who apparently developed



Forty-ninth state counts only 22,000 Catholics in vast 585,000 square mile area.

symptoms of insanity, shot this saintly priest through the heart, killing him instantly. The murderer was sent to prison for his wanton murder.

As the result of an increase in the number of Jesuits and Sisters, 45 adult Eskimos entered the Church and 416 children were baptized in 1892 and in 1894, Pope Leo XIII raised the territory to the rank of a prefecture.

THE JESUITS reorganized their missions in 1901 after the disastrous epidemic of 1900 and established a church in Nome. The territory was erected into a Vicariate Apostolic in 1916.

In 1917, the first ordination took place in the territory, that of Father G. Edgar Gallant. The Diocese of Juneau was created by Pope Pius XII in 1951 and Irish-born Bishop Dermot O'Flanagan was named first bishop.

The diocese comprises the southern coastal region of the territory, with the remainder of the new state remaining as a Vicariate Apostolic. Bishop Francis D. Gleason, S.J., a native of Missouri, is the present Vicar Apostolic in Alaska.

Of course, much of what we know about this land of the Midnight Sun is due to the famed "glacier priest," Father Bernard Hubbard, S.J., who has made extensive expeditions in the territory. Through his writings and travel films he has done much to inform Catholics of the problems and conditions in the territory.

INVALUABLE in the work of converting the natives are the huskies, who are the constant companions of missionary priests

Italy Court Acquits Priest In Marital Row

Rome — (RNS) — Father Biagio Ballo, parish priest of Roccastrada in Grosseto province, was acquitted by a court of defamation charges brought against him after he had described Catholic-born couples married in a civil ceremony as public sinners living in concubinage.

The action was taken by five couples and two wives after Father Ballo had posted a notice in his church saying he would not give the customary Easter blessing to the homes of Catholic couples not united "with the religious bond of the Sacrament of Matrimony."

JUDGE LIVIO Salvadori said that in acquitting Father Ballo he accepted the priest's explanation that he had in mind both couples living together unlawfully as well as those married in civil ceremonies only.

The judge added that he had also taken into account the fact that Father Ballo's notice did not name anyone in particular. Therefore, he added, there was no defamation.

The action against Father Ballo was similar to that which involved Bishop Pietro Floridi of Prato, who was convicted by a Florence court last March for publicly condemning a Catholic-born couple who were married in a civil ceremony and not in church.

Adenauer Party Wins German State Election

Düsseldorf — (NC) — West Germany's Christian Democratic Union (CDU) won a signal victory in North Rhine-Westphalia by gathering 50.5 per cent of about eight million votes cast in statewide elections here.

The party headed by Chancellor Konrad Adenauer of the Federal Republic thus regained control of the country's largest and economically most influential state after a two-year absence from power.

THE ELECTIONS, first held among those scheduled this year for 5 of Germany's 11 states, gave the Christian Democrats 104 seats at the state legislative assembly out of a total of 200.

The victory constituted an endorsement of Chancellor Adenauer's policies on the federal level. Foreign affairs played a large part in the pre-electoral campaign, as they will in the other four states in which the Socialist efforts to arouse public opinion over the issue of whether the new German army should be equipped with atomic weapons.

Bishops Named In Two Dioceses

Washington — (NC) — Most Rev. John J. Russell has been transferred from the Diocese of Charleston and has been named Bishop of Richmond.

Mrs. Michael Hyle, pastor of St. Mary's Church, Baltimore, has been named Titular Bishop of Chiospolis and Co-adjutor, with the right of succession, to Bishop Edmund John Fitzmaurice of Wilmington, Delaware.

The Diocese of Richmond has been vacant since the death of Bishop Peter L. Ireton on April 27, 1958.

Nuns To Attend Safety Conference

Notre Dame — (NC) — More than 1,000 Catholic nuns from scores of religious communities throughout the United States will convene at St. Mary's College here on July 12 for the first in a series of national traffic safety conferences for Catholic schools.

Sanborn Appliances, Toasters, Mixers, etc. Budget Payments, William S. Thome, Jeweler, 318 Main St. East. — Adv.

In The Good Old Summertime



NUNS FROM many states are currently studying music theory and practice at the Eastman School of Music. Sister Maria Walter, L.H.M., left, from Scranton, Pa., jots down a few notes during a free period while Sister M. Ignatia, S.P.A., from LaCrosse, Wis., practices her violoncello.

Nuns Study Music At Eastman School

Summer time means vacation for millions all over this land — but not for 19 hard-working Nuns taking the six-week summer session course at the University of Rochester's Eastman School of Music.

These musically-gifted Nuns — representing many religious orders from as far away as Wisconsin besides from our own Diocese of Rochester — are taking courses that range from musicology to music education.

That they are gifted is attested by Ralph Bigelow, registrar for the school. The Eastman School is very selective in accepting students — whether lay people or religious.

Bigelow said that there are about 19 or 20 religious who take the Summer session each year, with many coming back year after year.

For some, like Sister Maria Walter, L.H.M. of Marywood College in Scranton, Pennsylvania, this is her first year at the Eastman, but not the first school that she attended. She previously studied at the Juillard School of Music in New York.

At the Eastman, she is studying in the string ensemble workshop. She teaches violin at Marywood and conducts the college orchestra there.

For Sister M. Ignatia of the Franciscan Sisters of Perpetual Adoration, coming to Rochester provided a minor difficulty. Taking her master's degree course in music with a Violoncello major, getting her instrument to Rochester from LaCrosse, Wisconsin, provided a clumsy handicap — but one that was solved.

Sister Ignatia teaches both at the grade school in LaCrosse and at Viterbo College there. This is her first year at the Eastman.

MOST OF THE Sisters are taking degree courses that will lead to their master's degrees. However, a few are taking special courses like the string ensemble workshop and in the string orchestra institute.

Those working toward degrees take about six credits per Summer (the maximum allowed is eight, but very few have the time to devote to take the full credit course), while those in the workshops or the institute take one or two credits.

Two of the Nuns are studying for their doctorates in music theory. They are Sisters Eleanor Marie, O.S.B. of South Bend, Ind., and Sister Mary Eloise, S.L. of Webster Groves, Mo.

TWO ROCHESTER Diocese Sisters are studying at the school this Summer. They are Sister Jeanna, S.S.J. of St. Monica's

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Pope's Blessing Irks French Reds

Paris — (NC) — Left wing members of a parliamentary committee raised a protest here against the message sent by Premier Charles de Gaulle to Pope Pius XII asking for "spiritual assistance" in his task of governing France.

THE COMMISSION for National Education, of the French Chamber of Deputies, announced a strong protest against "the official character given by the President of the Council to the message he sent to the Pope."

The commission stated that the de Gaulle message was contrary to principles enunciated in the Constitution concerning the secular character of the French Republic.

The commission decided to issue its protest by a vote of 16 to 7. The majority voting for the protest included 14 members of the Communist and Socialist parties, and two Radical representatives.

GEN. DE GAULLE'S message to the Pope, translated late in



BISHOP DERMOT O'FLANAGAN heads diocese of Juneau
BISHOP CHARLES J. SEGHERS murdered on Alaskan mission

56,227
LAST WEEK'S
PAID
CIRCULATION

Canton Priest Reported Jailed

Rome — (NC) — Father Dominic Tan, priest of the Canton archdiocese and alumnus of the Urban College in Rome, has been imprisoned by the Chinese communist regime, it was disclosed here.

Files, news agency of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, said the Reds have declared Father Tan a "rightist element."

Bishop Dominique Tan, S.J., Apostolic Administrator of Canton, has been in jail since February.

Nothing will bring more cheer to a shut-in than a lovely bouquet of long lasting plants. Call Blanchard Florist Baker 5584. Let them take care of it or drop in at 68 Lake Ave. Free parking in rear. — Adv.