

God's Call In War Ruins From Nazi Germany To Africa Missions

Innsbruck — (RNS) — Bearded, 28-year-old Martin Adolf Bormann, son of Hitler's right hand man, was ordained to the priesthood in the Jesuit church of the Holy Trinity here, together with 26 other deacons.

Seven of his sisters were among hundreds of tourists and newspapermen who witnessed Holy Orders conferred upon the young man whose father, Martin Bormann, was head of the Nazi Party Secretariat, Deputy Fuehrer and director of Hitler's personal affairs and finances.

Branded one of the top war-crime criminals, the elder Bormann, father of ten children, disappeared from Hitler's bomb shelter in the final days of the war. Reports are that he was killed in a German tank in 1945 when attempting to escape from Berlin.

For Father Bormann, who plans to do missionary work in the Belgian Congo, his ordination was the climax of a spiritual adventure that began when, as a 15-year-old member of the Hitler Youth, he found himself alone and rootless as Germany began collapsing in defeat and ruin.

Frightened and lonely, the boy wandered into Austria, and finally found his way to a mountain farmhouse near Salzburg, where the woman of the house, Frau Klaus Hohenwarter found him lying exhausted on the doorstep. She took the lad into her home and fed him. Cheered by the kindness of the woman and her husband, both devout Catholics, young Martin agreed to remain and work as a farmhand.



FATHER BORMANN
Nazi's son now priest

In 1945, Allied authorities arrested him about his father. Convinced that he knew nothing of his father's whereabouts, they released him and he immediately returned to the home of the Hohenwarters.

THERE HE WAS befriended by a Catholic priest, who talked to him about Nazism. For the first time, Martin learned about the concentration camps, the millions of their tortured and murdered victims. Such was the boy's shock and torment that he fled from the haven he had found. He wandered the mountains for a whole year before he finally returned to the hospitality and kindness of the Hohenwarters.

In 1947, Martin became a convert to the Church his father had hated.

Two years later he was admitted to the Sacred Heart Missionaries' Seminary in Vienna to begin studying for the priesthood. A model student, he was cited by his superiors as "an outstanding example" to his fellow-seminarians. In 1950 he went on a Holy Year pilgrimage to Rome and attended one of the mass audiences given by Pope Pius XII. Two years afterwards he was admitted to the Jesuit College here to complete his studies for the priesthood.

FATHER BORMANN will remain in Innsbruck for a year

for specialized studies before going to the Congo.

Although his ordination has aroused considerable interest here and abroad, the young priest has been openly averse to publicity of any kind. He offered his first Mass at the Kitchental church in Salzburg where the Hohenwarters worship. The following day he officiated at the wedding of a younger brother, Helmer. Even since coming to Innsbruck, he has continued to live in solitude, his only excursions being for visits to members of his family.

Irish Hold First Liturgy Week

Dublin — (NC) — Ireland's first Summer School of Liturgy has been held at St. Mary's Convent, Limerick.

Some 200 teachers took the course which was presented by Father Kieran O'Gorman, of the Diocese of Killaloe.

The course opened with a Mass celebrated by Father J. F. Conner of St. Patrick's church, Limerick.

Among the lecturers at the course was Father Jack Hanlon, a well-known Irish artist, who spoke on Church Art. He is doing five paintings for the church of Our Lady of the Rosary, Limerick.

Reds Hobble East German Church Life

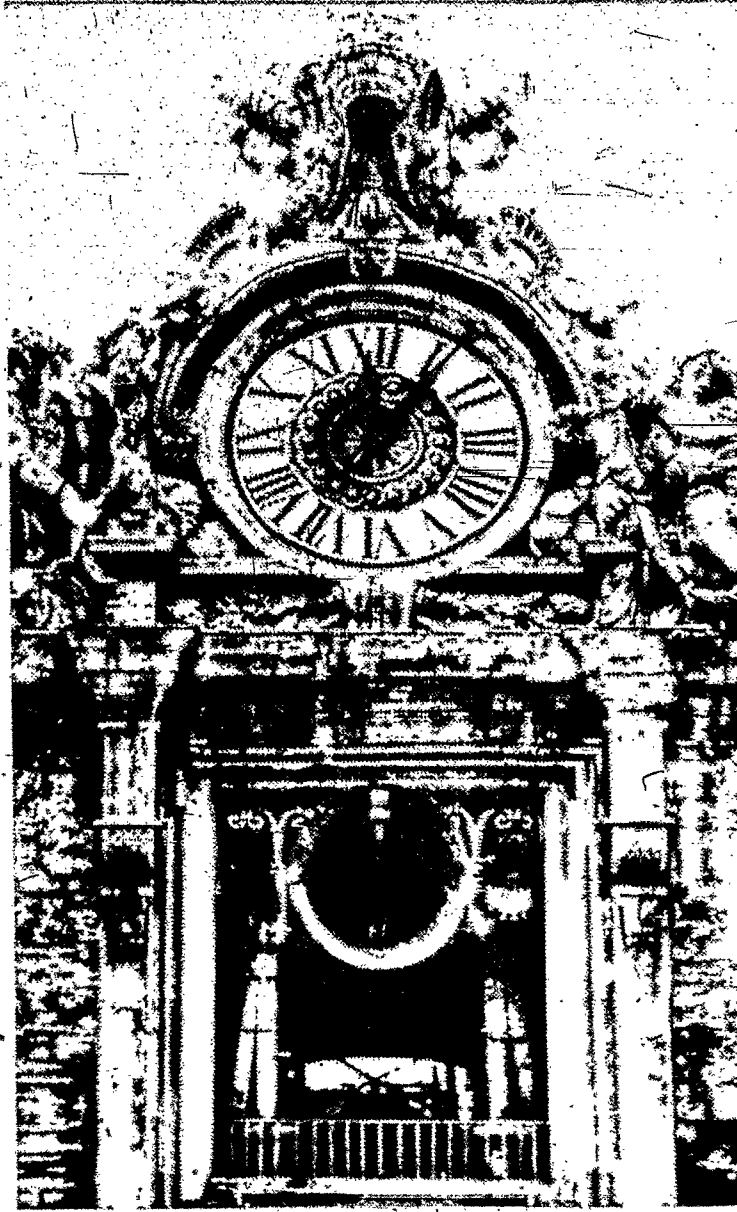
Berlin — (NC) — The communist regime of East Germany has refused a travel permit to Msgr. Bernhard Schraeder, who is in charge of the part of the Osnabrueck diocese in the Soviet zone.

Msgr. Schraeder had planned to visit Bishop Helmut Witter of Osnabrueck at his episcopal residence in Western Germany since the Bishop himself has not been permitted to enter East Germany.

OTHER BISHOPS, parts of whose dioceses are located in the Soviet zone, have found it equally difficult to maintain contact with the faithful there.

Red rulers have recently renewed their efforts to step up their atheistic propaganda campaign by insisting that all young people participate in the pagan "youth initiation rite" and in "secularist 'name observances'" designed to replace Baptism. They have also insisted upon secularized wedding ceremonies in place of Church weddings.

East German officials have refused to give permits for the erection of new churches, even though the building materials may be provided as gifts from Western charitable organizations. Pastors are constantly forced to submit to searches for so-called "subversive literature" among their personal collections of books. Gift parcels from the West are now strictly limited to twelve a year.



Automated Angelus

Vatican City — (NC) — The bells of St. Peter's famed basilica in Rome now ring the noon day Angelus and toll the hours automatically. 200-year-old hand-wound clock mechanisms have been replaced by modern electric run motors.

Australia Plans More Aid For Mothers

Sydney — (RNS) — A plan for increased maternity allowances and child endowments submitted by the National Catholic Welfare Committee is now being considered by the government. The reaction in Protestant circles has been generally favorable, although isolated critics have taken exception to it.

Under an existing maternity act, the government pays a bonus of between \$33 to \$40 for every child born in Australia. In addition, social security for children now provides weekly endowment payments for each child under 15. The amounts are 50 cents for the first and \$1.12 for each child thereafter.

The Catholic committee's plan would provide maternity allowances of \$45 to \$90 for each birth. It also would pay weekly endowments of 56 cents for the first child with increases for the sixth and additional children.

New Seminary In St. Louis

St. Louis — (RNS) — A new junior seminary will be built just west of St. Louis by the Most Holy Fathers. It was announced here.

A 12-acre tract has been purchased in St. Louis County. It was announced by the Very Rev. John M. Martin, M.M., superior of the Maryknollers' St. Louis House of studies.

Segregation Law Closes S. Africa Catholic Schools

Capetown — (RNS) — Four Catholic schools for African children, all located in Johannesburg, have been refused registration by the South African government's Department of Native Education.

This means they will be forced to close as of Jan. 1 next year.

The department acted under terms of the Bantu Education Act, which requires that all Bantu or African schools must be registered with the department if they are to be permitted to continue operating.

TWO OTHER Catholic schools for African children, the paper noted, had earlier been given close-down orders by the government under the terms of the Group Areas Act which requires segregated business and housing areas to be set up for Africans and other non-whites.

According to the Southern Cross, the four Johannesburg schools have a total of 850 pupils, ranging from primary grade youngsters to trainee teachers.

It said authorities at the schools were informed by letter from the Director of Bantu Education in the Southern Transvaal that their applications for reregistration had been refused. All of them, the paper explained, had applied for reregistration as "unaided schools" — that is, private schools without state subsidies.

A self-supporting and independent system for the education of native children was inaugurated by the Catholic Church in South Africa last Jan. 1, when all state subsidies for the support of the Church's 730 mission schools terminated under the terms of the Bantu Education Act.

This law, framed in line with the government's apartheid (racial segregation) policy, stipulated that all mission schools be brought under state control or lose their subsidies. The Catholic bishops refused to hand over their schools and announced they were prepared to "go it alone" instead.

The Southern Cross said one of the four schools affected is St. Thomas Training College, which has buildings valued at about \$140,000. It stated that when it is forced to close next year, more than 100 student-teachers and secondary students and 700 primary pupils will have to try to find accommodations in other heavily overcrowded schools.



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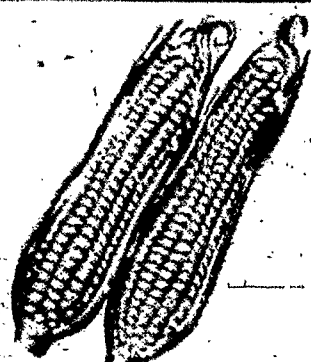
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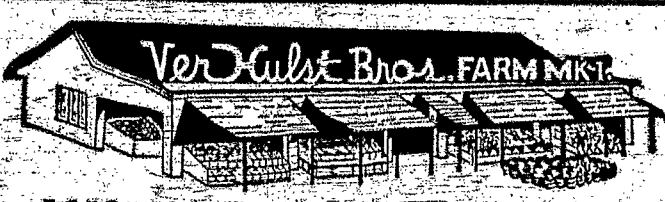
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