

# As I Saw Red China

(Continued from Page 1)

supposed to be the big American criminal residing in the Chinese guards.

They then put me between two very young lads in uniform and took five more pictures. All the three in Chinese they were screaming: "Don't lay a hand on him! Don't touch him!"

These pictures would show that the American criminal had been subdued and now two little fellows could control him.

They led me to a waiting police car which I noticed was made in America. Even today nearly all vehicles in use have been made in America. It makes of course, but they try to keep them running.

When we arrived at the prison I was stripped, my clothes were torn off me and searched again. Then they gave me back my shirt, trousers and shoes, without faces.

I was then taken by the back of the neck, by a big fellow who proceeded to push, shove and half carry me to a cell door, where with one final shove he sent me sprawling into the darkened cell. I surely would have landed on my face were it not for a Chinese prisoner who caught me and placed me gently beside him.

This was to be my home for the next year-and-a-half - the first of a long line of cells I was to occupy.

Let me describe a typical cell. It was six feet by four and one-half feet, about the size of an apartment house elevator. I occupied it with four other prisoners, all Chinese.

I nicknamed the room "The pigsty" but actually my father wouldn't keep his pigs in the filthy, maggoty place. The lack of sanitation was beyond description.

There I was to sit on the bare floor - sitting hot in the summer and unbearably cold in the winter - not allowed to make the slightest movement, even to brushing a fly or bug off my face.

During the first few days of my confinement I kept wondering to myself why I had been arrested. Was I to be shot any minute? What had I done? Was I the only American priest arrested or were they all picked up? These questions and the entire short five years of communist domination of China kept going through my mind.

How had it happened? What had we done wrong? Were we too complacent?

Only five years earlier I had a busy, steadily growing seminary, the Church in China was progressing, the future was promising. Now in five short years, it was all over. Catholic churches and mission property taken over by the government; native seminaries and convents closed; priests and



Father McCormack, home after 5 years jail term.

nuns imprisoned, tortured, expelled or executed.

The reality of it all was agonizing. Here I was sitting in a dingy cell, not even allowed to talk to my fellow prisoners. We had to sit straight from morning until night. In the heat of the day and without sufficient air I became drowsy and occasionally dozed. My head only to be severely scolded by guards.

Since I've come home people have asked me how we managed to lie down at night to sleep in a cell so small. Of course we could never lie down, we had to sleep sitting with our heads against the wall. And from the head of each prisoner you could tell the length of time he had been there.

TWO MONTHS after my arrest, before the interrogation period began, the so-called judge asked me if I had any questions about my arrest.

I pretended to misunderstand his question and asked him instead if I could have my breviary. I explained what it was and he assured me he would try to get it for me if I cooperated. A few days later I asked him about the breviary and he said the head of the prison would not allow me to have my glasses - so that was that.

I then asked him for another favor.

I explained to him that as a Catholic I firmly believed in God and future reward and punishment and that since I was an old man, death might come to me at anytime and I

## First Friday First Saturday

Today and tomorrow are days of special devotion for Catholics.

Today, Sept. 5, is the First Friday of September, a day of reparation in honor of the Sacred Heart of Jesus.

Tomorrow is the First Saturday of the month, a day dedicated to the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

Many parishes schedule evening Mass or special services. Consult parish bulletins for time these rites are to be held in your church.

would consider it a great favor to have a priest of any nationality at my death or when death was apparent.

I assured him that we would, not even talk to one another and the guards could be present at all times. His eyes grew red with anger and then, after thinking for a couple of minutes, he told me: "You just tell us about all your friends - and you'll be out of here in very short time."

You see, they try to turn everything to their advantage by deceit. When I refused to give them any information on my friends, they threatened death directly and indirectly thereafter.

From my first few months in a Red prison I soon learned of the diabolical methods the communists have of obtaining information. They turn son against father, mother against child and husband against wife.

If I lived in a communist country, I would not tell my own mother everything that was on my mind - not that I could ever suspect her - but I would have to consider how much mental and physical torture she could bear under Red questioning. And quietest ed she'd surely be.

N. J. WEEK - My court trial begins.

## Jeisuit Urges

# Battle Prejudice In 'Head On' Fight

Chicago — (RNS) — Catholics were urged here by the founder of the Catholic Interracial Council movement to step up their fight against racial prejudice in the United States.

The Rev. John LaFarge, S.J., of New York, associate editor of America, national Jesuit weekly, addressed some 400 white and Negro delegates attending the first national meeting of Catholic Interracial Councils.

"THE STARK fact remains," Father LaFarge said, "that the problems caused by racial and group tensions are so acute, so specialized, that in the circum-

stances of the world as it is today, they cannot be effectively treated as mere side issues."

The 78-year-old priest stressed that these problems "can only be met adequately head on, by direct confrontation, humbly, patiently, yet unflinchingly in the full light of our holy faith."

The priest's keynote address, entitled "The Catholic Interracial

Council Movement Looks to the Future," signaled the opening of a three-day conference on the campus of Loyola University and Maxwell Hall in Chicago. Delegates from the 36 councils throughout the United States attended as well as leaders of Protestant, Jewish, non-sectarian and other Catholic groups active in the field of race relations.

Father LaFarge said the councils now organized are "only a pitifully beginning" and called for establishment of 50 more such councils in the near future. "If we are

at all to measure up to our demands."

"This goal is entirely attainable," he said, "by the use of a certain amount of energy and enterprise on the part of existing councils and their friends."

Speaking on the problem of interracial difficulties, Father LaFarge observed that "we cannot separate racial from religious prejudice. If people are hated and discriminated against because of their racial origins, the door is left wide open to similar abuses on religious or anti-religious pretexts."

## New Law Allows Free Import Of Vestments

Washington — (RNS) — Congress gave its stamp of approval and President Eisenhower signed into law a bill which permits duty-free importation of religious vestments and "regalia" intended for use by religious and other non-profit organizations.

The bill, sponsored by Rep. Usher L. Burdick (R-N.D.), is of particular benefit to groups importing vestments with handmade lace from Italy and Spain. Congress learned that there are few needleworkers in the United States capable of making such garments. Duties of 25 to 50 per cent of the value of the vestments had been levied before passage of the bill.

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## Laymen Hear Method For 'All-Year' Retreat

Cincinnati — (NC) — A significant question raised at one convention in Cincinnati found an answer at another convention held in the city.

At the National Catholic Laymen's Retreat Conference, a group of retreatants wrestled with the problem: "How can we live the retreat throughout the year?"

ONE OF THE participants pointed out that the North American Liturgical Week just completed, had spelled out the means of "living with Christ" through the year.

Fred Nighaus, religious activities chairman of the National Council of Catholic Men who was active in both conventions, cited the following liturgical week suggestions as worthy of consideration:

Celebrate the Church seasons and feasts throughout the year by taking an active part in the observance of Advent, Christmas, Epiphany, Septuagesima, Lent, Holy Week, Easter and Pentecost.

Participate actively in the Mass through dialogue or congregational singing.

"Live the liturgy" in your homes with your families' by making use of Advent wreaths, Christmas cribs, and Lenten and Pentecostal readings at meals.

Take an active part in the work of the Church by affiliating with and engaging in the activities of the Council of Catholic Men, the retreat movement, and parish groups.

Interest others in making retreats so they can live more intimately throughout the year with Christ.

## Top Of World Church Blessed

Hammefest — (NC) — St. Michael's church here, said to be the northernmost Catholic church in the world, has been consecrated by Bishop Johann Wember, M.S.F., Vicar Apostolic of Northern Norway.

The church was rebuilt after its destruction by the Nazis during World War II with funds collected among German Catholics by its pastor, German-born Father Johannes Spitz, M.S.F.

The Catholic school in this town of 3,500 high above the Arctic Circle, also destroyed during the war, is soon to be rebuilt.

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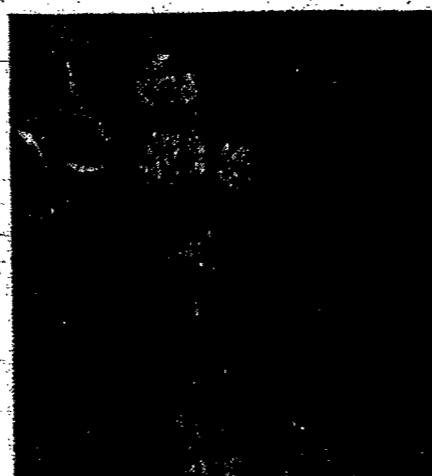
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