

Chess And Chance Aid Jailed Jesuit

Toronto — (RNS) — Cardinals and concentration camps, stoolpigeons and marmalade, chess and chance have all played their part in the weird and wonderful world of Father Josef Mate, S.J.

On loan from the Jesuit house in Cleveland, he is now helping with routine parish work during Lent in St. Elizabeth of Hungary church here. But life was not always so placid for Father Mate. He has been arrested by the secret police of three Communist-dominated countries — Russia, Romania and his native Hungary.

Proving that "Stone walls do not a prison make . . ." Father Mate, now 37, sat at the feet of learned Jesuit and secular priests and covered many years of theological study during his five-year stretch behind bars in Romania.

"The captain of the prison allowed books to come in," he said, "and it was the perfect place for study. No distractions like movies, walks or so on."

He smiled, then added: "You might say the studying was very concentrated." Crammed into a room 13 yards long and five yards wide at the notorious former Nazi concentration camp of Kistareca were 62 priests, school boys and seminarians, 15 of them Jesuits.

"The bullying and often brutal secret police permitted no Masses in the so-called 'priests' room," allowed no cassocks, Ro-

Notre Dame Honors State Dept. Official

Notre Dame — (RNS) — Deputy Under Secretary of State Robert D. Murphy was named to receive the 1959 Laetare Medal of Notre Dame University here for outstanding service as an American Catholic layman.

The Rev. Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., university president, in announcing the award cited Mr. Murphy for pursuing this country's foreign policy in peace and in war with "brilliance and courage."

Born in Milwaukee, Wis., Mr. Murphy was educated at Marquette and George Washington Universities. He received his first diplomatic assignment as vice consul at Zurich in 1921. During World War II, he was American charge d'affaires to the free French government in Vichy, he played a key role in making preparations for the Allied landings in North Africa in 1942. For these efforts he was awarded the Distinguished Service Medal by President Franklin D. Roosevelt.

After serving in various ambassadorial posts, Mr. Murphy was named to his present position in the State Department by President Eisenhower in 1953. Previous winners of the Laetare Medal include Frank M. Folsom, former president of RCA, and Clara Boothe Luce, recently named American ambassador to Brazil. The award is announced every year on Laetare Sunday, the fourth Sunday of Lent, but the presentation is made at a later date.

New Cathedral

Trenton, N. J. — (NC) — Bishop George W. Ahr of Trenton will bless the new St. Mary's cathedral here on March 14, third anniversary of a fire which destroyed the old cathedral.



Toronto — (RNS) — A reconstruction of the scene in the priests' room at the Hungarian concentration camp where he was held for five years shows Father Josef Mate, S.J., playing chess with a Communist "stoolpigeon" while a priest with his back to the board celebrates Mass soundlessly for other prisoners. Picture was made with the aid of students at the Jesuit seminary here.

Jungle Padres

Head Hunters Mission

Fort Wayne, Ind. — (NC) — The first band of Crozier missionaries has established a post in a swampy jungle area in Dutch New Guinea where cannibalism and head hunting still prevail.

Father Benno Mischke, Crozier provincial, with headquarters here, who surveyed the area last year before sending out the missionaries, commented on the hazards.

"If you use your head down there, you won't lose it. And if you don't use your head—well, why have it?"

The missionaries' headquarters is at Agats in the Asmat region of southwest New Guinea. The superior is Father Frank Pitka, C.S.C., formerly at Our Lady of the Lake Seminary, Scranton, Ind.

Father Delmar Hesch, O.S.C., formerly stationed at the Crozier Monastery, Onamia, Minn., has established himself in the village of Ajam. Because of a belief in spiritualism among the natives, Father Hesch thus far has been protected.

The 1,300 natives of Ajam believe in a spirit world; that when a man comes from the sea to the west he has emerged from the spirit world and is entitled to respect. So when Father Hesch, accompanied by Father Pitka, came to the village, they were welcomed royally by the king, who even posed for a picture with them.

Nobody's Happy!

New Orleans — (NC) — Don't be disillusioned; every job apparently has its drawbacks.

Students of Loyola University's College of Business Administration took a survey to see how people like their jobs. Nobody is completely happy—it seems. Here are three samples:

A taxi-driver said he's his own boss, and gets lots of tips, but his job gets monotonous, outside work is terrible in bad weather and he gets tired of having to be polite to everybody.

A bartender said businessmen teach him some tricks of the finance world, he has learned to converse on about everything, but some customers insult him and threaten to punch him in the nose, and sometimes his work is "depressing."

A horse trainer says he likes his job because he can travel, but some horses are so "antisocial" that he is afraid they will bite or kick him.

Make you feel better? All-Priest Team Wilmington — (NC) — The Holy Name Society of St. Hedwig's parish here will play an all-priest team in a parish benefit game, March 15.

Solo Pilot Tells Pope Of Atlantic Flight

Valleau City — (RNS) — Max Conrad, American ferry pilot, was received in private audience by Pope John XXIII after completing a 5,220-mile nonstop solo flight from Chicago to Rome.

The 56-year-old "flying grandfather" of Lockhaven, Pa., reported to the Pope on his flight of 34 hours and 3 minutes in a small single-engine Piper Comanche.

He told him he had carried an image of the Blessed Virgin on his flight and prayed to her many times over the Atlantic.

Valleau informants said he had an engrossed listener in the 77-year-old Pontiff who told the U.S. airman he himself was an aviation enthusiast.

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