

Vatican Ends French Worker Priest Program

Decree Stuns French Clergy

Paris—(RNS)—Pope John XXIII has banned the controversial worker-priest movement in France and has asked the French hierarchy to look for "new methods" of evangelism among the working class.

The ban, made known by the Vatican in a message to Maurice Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris, came as a big surprise to French Catholic circles. It was completely unexpected because Pope John had been known to favor the movement while he was Papal Nuncio to France.

At that time he was reported to have intervened on behalf of the worker-priests with the late Pope Pius XII who in 1953 had placed restrictions on their movement.

Known as the Mission de Paris, the apostolate was established at the end of 1943 as an experiment in spreading Catholicism and reducing the influence of Communism among the working class.

Before the 1953 restrictions, the priests, who wore work clothes, spent all day in factories and lived among the workers, sharing their conditions of life in an effort to win their confidence and guide the fallen-away back to the Church.

The Vatican order six years ago came after a few of the priests had been accused of taking part in leftist activities, succumbing to Communist propaganda, and putting too much emphasis on material rather than spiritual welfare.

Pope Pius at the time ordered them to spend only three hours in factories and live in communities under the jurisdiction of bishops. All but a few of the priests bowed to the Pope's decision.

The new Vatican ruling forbidding the movement altogether followed a report on the worker-priests made last May by Cardinal Feltin to Pope John. The cardinal had asked the Pontiff to approve the movement or suggest modifications.

Catholic sources here believe that the latest restriction partly results from the fact that a few worker-priests were charged earlier this year with aiding Algerian rebels with whom they came into contact through their missions in poor industrial slums where many Algerians live.

The priests involved protested that they had been concerned with the social welfare of the Algerians and not with their political opinions. However, the incidents greatly disturbed the French because many families have at least one member fighting in Algeria and rebel sabotage in this country has resulted in a high death toll.

Also affected by the Vatican ban are two similar but smaller movements known as Les Filles de la Charite and the Prado.

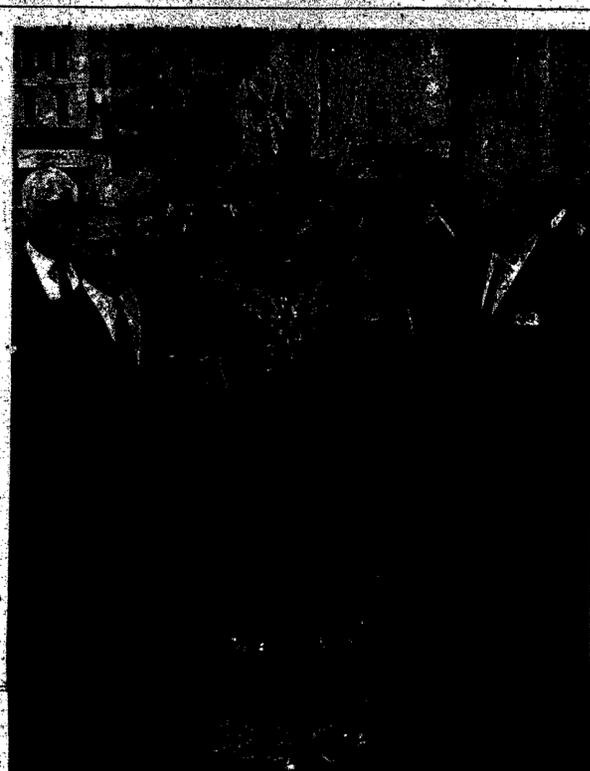
Reds Arrest Another Priest

Hong Kong—(RNS)—Apprehension and sentencing to forced labor of another native priest in Communist China—Father Joseph Chen Ting-jan of Swatow, Kwantung Province—was disclosed by Roman Catholic sources here.

The 57-year-old priest is the 12th of 30 in the Snow diocese who have been reported arrested and imprisoned. About 300 churches and chapels in the See have been shut down by the Reds.

No particular reason for Father Chen's sentence was revealed, but the sources indicated that he was handed over to Communist police for "supervision and re-education through work."

Hamilton and Omega watches. Budget Terms. William S. Thorne Jeweler, 318 Main St. East—Adv.



Flanked by Harry D. Goldman, associate justice, Appellate Division, and Supreme Court Justice Daniel J. O'Mara, Bishop Kearney is ready for lawyers' Red Mass at St. Joseph's Church Wednesday morning.

Bishop Tells Lawyers Nikita Visit 'Lesser Evil'

Nikita Khrushchev's visit to the United States is "a lesser evil in order to avoid a greater one," Bishop Kearney told lawyers at their annual Red Mass Wednesday morning in St. Joseph's Church, Rochester.

He viewed the Soviet Premier's coming as "the only alternative" to outright war. The Bishop urged the lawyers—representing many different religious denominations—"to redouble our prayers" for President Eisenhower and his current negotiations for world peace.

The Mass marked the opening of the fall term of the civil courts, an annual rite inaugurated by Bishop Kearney fifteen years ago. The Red Mass gets its name from the red vestments worn at the ceremony which invokes God's blessing on the lawyers.

In his sermon, the Bishop cited the lawyers' need to be men endowed with God's special help to assure justice for all men. He cited Catholic teaching on the "seven gifts of the Holy Spirit" and prayed that these would be given abundantly to them.

His remarks about the Khrushchev visit spelled out clearly that he endorsed the president's invitation to bring the Kremlin leader to this country—an action that is "distasteful" and "humiliating" but necessary to relax "existing tensions."

Following is the portion of the Bishop's talk dealing with the currently much debated topic: Ever since the close of the second World War, we as a nation have sought eagerly and persistently to produce peace and international order. Our hopes and efforts have been frustrated, due to the opposition of an intransigent enemy.

All our good intentions and reasonable proposals have been rudely rebuffed. Treaty obligations, solemnly and freely entered into by the Soviets, have been ignored, and even violent assaults have been launched

against the rights and freedom of unoffending nations. To invoke the force of arms in order to obtain redress of our grievances might be necessary under certain extreme conditions, but such procedure should always be regarded as a last resort, and only then contemplated in order to avoid the abject surrender of essential rights and freedoms.

The only alternative to force is negotiation. Negotiation is not to be equated with friendship; neither is it to be interpreted as a condonation of evil or a compromise with sincerity and truth. To negotiate our differences, even when such action is distasteful and at times humiliating, is a lesser evil than war itself.

In such negotiations there is always an element of danger, and no thoughtful citizen can be unaware of the critical decisions which at present face the constituted authorities of our government. We are not unmindful of the inherent contradictions between good and evil, between truth and falsehood, or between justice and injustice.

Laymen To Take Over Apostolate

Paris—(RNS)—Laymen, instead of clergy, to continue the apostolate among workers in factories was proposed in the Vatican message dissolving France's worker-priest movement.

This was revealed here when the text of the message was published by Le Monde, an afternoon daily. Publication of what was termed a "strictly confidential" document reportedly has upset the French hierarchy, who hinted at a possible "leak."

Sent to Maurice Cardinal Feltin, Archbishop of Paris, and other members of the hierarchy, the message was signed by Giuseppe Cardinal Ezzardo, Secretary of the Sacred Congregation of the Holy Office.

The cardinal declared that the Holy See considered factory work "incompatible with the priestly life and obligations." He suggested that "secular institutes" composed of priests and laymen be set up to replace the movement.

Laymen, instructed by the priests in the Church's social doctrine, would continue to spread Catholicism in factories, Cardinal Ezzardo explained.

With laymen as intermediaries, priests would concentrate their ministry outside factories among workers and families.

In 1953 the Vatican restricted the movement (after some priests had been accused of taking part in leftist activities, succumbing to Communist propaganda, and placing too much emphasis on material rather than spiritual welfare).

No Tolerance In Red Russia

Vatican City—(RNS)—Observatore Romano, Vatican City daily newspaper, issued a strong warning here against any hopes that Christians in Russia are facing "better times."

The paper said that it would be "a mistake to believe" that the Communist-uncompromising attitude toward religion has softened and that a period of "tolerance" has begun.

It added that the Communist program remains unchanged and the only question is what new methods the Reds will use.

Blood Red Altar Stone

Mie-Ken, Japan—(NC)—A blood-colored stone, quarried by slave labor in Siberia, will become the altar table for a new church.

On a trip to the marble center at Ogaki in search of a suitable piece of marble for his new altar, Father Mark A. Tennien, M.M., of Pittsford, Vt., a former China missionary imprisoned and expelled by the communists, found the stone.

"As soon as I saw its blood color and learned that it was quarried by slave laborers in Siberia, I knew it would make a fitting symbol for an altar," Father Tennien said. "It will serve as a lasting tribute to the millions of souls denied freedom and religion in Russia."

The Protestant leaders called on the President to pledge their prayers for peace and to join him about a peace education program the National Council is sponsoring.

Universal Of Prayer

Washington—(RNS)—President Eisenhower said here that he has been assured by Francis Cardinal Spellman that the prayers of American Catholics will be with him and other government leaders during forthcoming international visits and discussions.

"He assured me in a very emphatic manner on that," the President said, "and I thought you might like to know about it."

We Turned To God Parents Told Let Child Die

Indeclinable—(RNS)—The telephone rang in the Charles Matthes home early one Sunday. The baby woke up startled and crying.

Most parents would be disturbed at the intrusion into the quiet privacy of the morning. The Matthes couple, instead, was overjoyed.

This is what they and their friends had been praying for. It was the first sign that their daughter, Barbara Ann, was going to live.

Before that telephone call there had been little, if any, hope that Barbara would live beyond eight months. Eight doctors had examined the child, and reached the same diagnosis. A tumor in the cranial area of the brain was inoperable. Treatment would be futile. It would be best to let the child die.

Barbara was deaf. She was blind in one eye. Her paralysis grew worse. Mrs. Matthes, the girl's mother, takes up the story here.

"We never really give up hope," she says. "We turned to God with our prayers and asked our friends to help us pray for Barbara's recovery."

The Matthes took Barbara to church with them every Sunday. From St. Michael's Catholic church in Independence, the prayer requests spread to the Marycrest School for Girls, operated by the Sisters of the Good Shepherd. The sisters started making novenas for Barbara Ann.

Then came the telephone call on the Sunday morning and the beginning of her return to apparent normalcy. For the last six months, Barbara Ann has seemed completely well. Now a year old, she is learning to walk, has normal hearing, good sight, and no sign of paralysis.

A neurosurgeon who examined Barbara Ann recently said he could not explain the recovery from the brain ailment. He said that perhaps there had been an error in the original diagnosis or maybe the tumor had altered itself.

"How eight doctors could make an error, I don't know," says Mrs. Matthes. "To us, Barbara's recovery is a miracle which altered itself."

Postage Stamps Stir Religious Squabble

Roman—(RNS)—Dr. Richard Stuecklen, Federal Minister for Post and Telecommunications, has urged Protestants and Roman Catholics in West Germany to respect each other's decisions regarding the issue of special stamps by the post ministry.

His appeal was in reply to Protestant sources which had criticized the issue of the Holy Robe stamp to mark the exposition in Trier of the reputed garment of Christ, Church and Man, organ of the Evangelical Men's Work, had censured the West German postal authorities for approving the issue of the stamp.

Ike Relies On Old Friend's Word

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The Protestant leaders called on the President to pledge their prayers for peace and to join him about a peace education program the National Council is sponsoring.

"HE IS AN OLD, OLD FRIEND of mine and a good one," the President explained. "And I can assure you that our Catholic brothers are joining you in these hours of prayers for peace—with the hope that those of the government who have to direct affairs in relationship with Russia and with others, can have some guidance that will come about because of this universality of prayer."



Once blind, deaf, paralyzed Barbara Ann Matthes.

Memorial Plaque To Honor Bishops

A memorial plaque honoring the four deceased bishops of Rochester will be blessed at Holy Sepulchre cemetery chapel Sunday, Sept. 20 at 3:30 p.m.

Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence P. Casey, who will bless the plaque, will also lead prayers for all who are buried in the Lake Avenue cemetery and conduct the annual ceremony of the Blessing of the Graves.

The FAITHFUL are invited to meet at the chapel and then join the procession as it moves through both sides of the cemetery.

Knights of St. John in full dress uniform under command of Col. Emil G. Eckert will escort Bishop Casey in the procession.

Students of St. Bernard's and St. Andrew's seminaries will also participate in the annual rite of praying for the faithful departed.

The ceremony will be held "rain or shine."

The knights are to report to St. Bernard's Seminary at 2:45 p.m.

The four predecessors of Bishop Kearney in the twelve county Diocese of Rochester are Bishop Bernard J. McQuaid who headed the See from its founding in 1868 to 1909; Archbishop Thomas F. Hickey, Bishop from 1909 to 1929, who died in 1940; Bishop John F. O'Hern, 1929 to 1933, and His Eminence, Edward Cardinal Mooney, bishop here from 1933 to 1937, who died just a year ago.

Jungle Doctor

Dr. Thomas A. Deesley, a native of St. Louis who has established two hospitals and a clinic in Laos, has been named winner of the \$10,000 Mutual of Omaha Crisis Award for his outstanding contributions in the field of health.

He returned to the U.S. for an operation for cancer, but immediately announced that he would continue his work in Laos.

Federal Funds OK'd For Fisher

Federal funds were made available this week to aid deserving students at St. John Fisher College.

Under the national defense loan fund program, the Basilian-run men's college will get up to \$2,500 and add another \$1,000 of its own for students to borrow needed amounts for school expenses.

Father Charles Lavery, college president, said a committee will determine applicants' need and scholastic ability in granting the loans.

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