

New Benedictine Abbot General

Rome — (RNS) — Father Benno Gut, O.S.B., 62-year-old native of Switzerland, was elected Abbot General of the Benedictine Order, Catholic religious congregation founded more than 14 centuries ago, at a meeting of the General Chapter here attended by Benedictine abbots from all parts of the world.

Formerly head of the Benedictine Abbey at Einsiedeln, Switzerland, the new Abbot General, who was born at Reiden, near Basle, succeeds Father Bernard Kolin, O.S.B., also a Swiss, who was elected in 1947. He will serve for the next 12 years.

THE DELEGATES met in the St. Anselmo monastery here and were received in special audience by Pope John in the consistorial hall of the Vatican Palace the day after the Pontiff had returned from the papal summer residence at Castelgandolfo.

Premier 'Might' Intercede For China-Held Prisoners

Washington — (NC)—Soviet Premier Nikita Khrushchev told President Eisenhower he "might find it possible" to intercede on behalf of five Americans — one of them a Catholic bishop — still held prisoner by the Chinese communists.

THE PRESIDENT disclosed this in a news conference held (Sept. 28) the day the Soviet leader returned to Moscow after a U.S. visit of almost two weeks.

The final day (Sept. 27) of Mr. Khrushchev's U.S. visit saw the Soviet Premier involved in a flurry of incidents touching upon religion. Among them:

• His departure from the United States was marked in the same way as his arrival — by a huge cross emblazoned in the skies over Washington.

• He turned down an invitation from President Eisenhower to go to church, on the grounds that for him to do so would "shock" the folks back home.

• He told a Washington press conference that there is "full freedom of conscience" in the Soviet Union, and that interest in religion there is merely a matter of "curiosity."

of more than 40 years' missionary work in China, refused to leave the country after the communists took over in 1949. The 77-year-old prelate was said to feel his presence lent moral support to the Chinese Catholics in the face of Red persecution.

East December, the communists announced that the bishop had been arrested for unspecified violations of Chinese laws. It was reported at the time that he was in weak health. However, in mid-January of this year the Reds declared him to be in "normal health."

President Eisenhower did not indicate during his press conference if Mr. Khrushchev had set a time for interceding on behalf of the imprisoned Americans. However, it had been announced earlier that the Soviet Premier would attend ceremonies in Peiping on October 1, commemorating the 10th anniversary of the Red takeover of the China mainland.

AS HAD BEEN the case when Mr. Khrushchev arrived in Washington on September 15, skywriters marked his departure by tracing a huge cross in smoke above the city.

They also placed under the arms of the cross an alpha and omega — first and last letters of the Greek alphabet, which are traditional Christian symbols. In St. John's Apocalypse, Christ says: "I am the Alpha and the Omega, the first and the last, the beginning and the end."

The spectacular aerial display, seen also in New York and Los Angeles during Mr. Khrushchev's visits there, was sponsored by Christianism, an anti-communist organization directed by Nicholas T. Nonnenmacher.



Apostolic Delegate Meets President

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Archbishop Egidio Vagnoni, newly appointed Apostolic Delegate to the United States, pays a courtesy call on President Eisenhower at the White House. It was their first meeting. The archbishop said he found the President rested and in good spirits despite the pressure of his recent conferences with Russian Premier Nikita Khrushchev. He conveyed to the President the personal good wishes of Pope John XXIII. In return, the President asked him to express his hopes that the Pontiff will continue to enjoy robust good health.

Holy Childhood Association Report

SEPTEMBER 1958—AUGUST 1959

School	Adoptions	Donations	Dev	Sale	Total
Sacred Heart Cathedral	\$1,415.00	15.00	123.80	380.00	2,053.80
Sacred Heart Academy	35.00	10.00	12.40	172.75	235.15
Annunciation	75.00	...	37.00	62.00	174.00
Blessed Sacrament	5.00	...	75.00	440.00	520.00
Christ the King	15.00	...	25.00	228.82	268.82
Corpus Christi	...	...	52.50	335.25	387.75
Holy Apostles	10.00	6.00	60.00	1,000.00	1,076.00
Holy Childhood School	10.00	...	8.50	...	18.50
Holy Cross	...	...	...	350.00	350.00
Holy Family	1,295.00	35.00	85.60	1,133.00	2,553.60
Plus: \$5.00—Mass Stipends	...	...	...	...	254.00
TOTAL	\$12,085.00	\$1,407.40	\$3,722.88	\$28,391.15	\$45,606.43

American Seminary

(Continued from page 4) futed, we in this country were guided by such great Rome-trained churchmen as Bishops Joseph Rosati of St. Louis and Michael O'Connor of Pittsburgh; Archbishops John M. Hennrich of Milwaukee and Francis Patrick Kenrick of Baltimore; and Martin J. Spalding of Baltimore; and John Cardinal McCloskey of New York.

"Nothing is certain," he said. "The American students in Rome shall have a great and glorious future; and when the centenary of their Alma Mater shall be celebrated they shall have among them many men of renown, men of great power and endowed with wisdom and rich in virtue; and the people shall show forth their wisdom and the Church declares their praise."

God will be the final judge of the effectiveness of the American College alumni. But after making allowances for the rhetoric of Bishop Burke's prophecy, we must admit that statistics alone indicate that the century-old Roman institution has made no small contribution to the Church in our land.

It has provided us with 1900 priests, an abbot, 117 archbishops and bishops, and six cardinals.

These alumni have held their Roman College in deep affection because they have held Rome itself in deep affection. And they have loved Rome so deeply because they have loved to deeply the Ephraim of Rome. Strengthened thereby in their Roman faith, they in turn have, like St. Peter, "strengthened their brethren."

Can there be a better answer than this to the question, Why an American College in Rome? Pope St. Pius X was surely speaking only sober truth when he touched on the matter in his address to the College's golden jubilee audience fifty years ago. The national colleges, he told his listeners with conviction, are "a work willed by heaven."

Singapore Fires Camp Missioners

Singapore — (NC) — Singapore's new government has ordered the Franciscan Missionaries of the Divine Motherhood to leave the government camp for victims of Hansen's disease (leprosy).

No explanation was given for the action. It was understood that doctors, patients and the public, with the exception of a few religious bigots, were satisfied with the work of the Franciscans at the center.

Doubles in 5 Years Youth Crime Sets Grim New Record

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Juvenile delinquency set a grim new record in 1958, the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported here.

Arrest statistics collected from police departments in 1,558 cities with a population of more than 2,500 showed 480,615 arrests involving persons under 21 years of age.

In 1953, only 283,400 arrests were reported of persons under 21.

In 1958, a total of 284,213 arrests involved boys or girls who had not yet reached their 18th birthday. The comparable figure five years before was 149,806.

Of the youth under 18 who were arrested by police, the FBI said, 130 were charged with murder and 78 others with manslaughter by negligence.

Some 3,415 were charged with robbery; 632 with forcible rape; 87,389 with theft or larceny; 1,340 with stabbings or other aggravated assaults; 767 with forgery or embezzlement; 376 with violation of narcotic laws; 1,207 with sex offenses other than rape; 7,748 with drunkenness; 613 with drunken driving; and 9,454 with other violations of liquor laws.

A total of 195 girls under 18 were arrested for prostitution, while 27,765 young people under 18 were arrested for disorderly conduct. This was almost double the number charged with this offense in 1953 according to the FBI's "Uniform Crime Reports."

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