

Behind Iron Curtain**Saints of Tomorrow**

BELGIUM. — (RNS) — His name is "Saint of tomorrow." They are the Roman Catholic bishops and priests who daily risk imprisonment or death to bring spiritual hope and comfort to the faithful isolated behind Europe's Iron Curtain.

To 47-year-old Dutch-born Prelate-monksmissionary Father van Straaten, whose mission is to bring spiritual guidance and consolation to the people who are the victims of ever-increasing material helplessness, there are the saintly heretic partners whose deeds will one day make up the most glorious chapter in the story of the Church of St. Lucia.

Father van Straaten, president of the Dutch-Belgian Aid for Eastern Priests organization which he founded in 1949, gave a press conference here yesterday morning following a secret visit to five East European countries dominated by the Communists.

What he brought back was not a statistical report on how much aid his organization has given or to how many, but a graphic picture of the bishops and priests who are living long, hard lives in a world of hardship and suffering to bring the Sacraments to their scattered flock. He told also of seminarians preparing themselves for the priesthood with just a few theological textbooks under the hardest possible conditions.

Father van Straaten, who acquired the nickname of "the Bacon priest" shortly after World War II when he collected food, especially bacon, from the people of Belgium to distribute among the needy in