

# Test of Strength In Poland

London — (RNS) — A trial of strength is developing in Poland between the Roman Catholic Church and the Communist government as the April 16 general elections approach.

The top protagonists are Wladyslaw Gomulka, First Secretary of the United Workers (Communist) Party, who wants a big turnout of voters, and Stefan Cardinal Wyszynski, Primate of Poland, whose attitude toward the elections — so far not disclosed — is regarded by observers as a matter of undisputed concern to the government.

In the 1957 elections, the Polish episcopate advised Catholics to vote in great numbers, in the hope that existing good relations with the Gomulka government would continue.

In the present campaign, however, the hierarchy — concerned over the gradual worsening of Church-State relations, especially during the past few years — has so far refrained from making

its stand clear. This has been interpreted as a sign of hostility by government circles who are worried over the possibility of a low percentage of voters at the polls.

Polish emigre circles here said they had received reports stating that the bishops had already issued secret instructions to the clergy to advise parishioners to ignore the elections. In cases where this would be too risky, Catholics were told they should go to the polls but cross out all the names on the official and only list of candidates.

According to the reports, the government learned of the alleged instructions and decided to recruit groups of so-called patriotic priests to persuade the Catholic faithful against boycotting the elections.

The same reports stated, however, that Cardinal Wyszynski countered by warning leaders of the patriotic priests, mostly members of

Caritas, a social welfare organization, that any collaboration with the Communists would result in their being suspended from their priestly functions.

It was learned meanwhile that about 300 priests belonging to Caritas had voted to disband the organization.

Faced with this development, the government was reported to have offered the priests "protection" and even to have suggested that they break away from the Church altogether.

At the same time, the authorities threatened that if the clergy and the faithful boycotted the elections, the government would tighten the screws on the Church by even heavier taxation, bigger drafts of clergy for compulsory military service, and abolition of the monastic orders.

Informants here said the government is now exerting pressure on various Catholic groups to give public approval and support to the list of candidates. Among these groups, they said, is the so-called Christian Social Association, which broke away from the pro-government "progressive" Pax movement three years ago and can now be described as being a center group between Pax and the bishops.

It is a great many believers abandoning a walled-off attitude and joining in the election campaign.

Cardinal Wyszynski has so far not issued any official statement. However, reports from Poland are that he will shortly issue a pastoral letter or preach a special sermon on the issue.

The cardinal, who recently delivered a challenging sermon accusing the regime of trying to separate Polish Catholics from their historic faith, appeared in a Palm Sunday sermon to his people to profess their belief in God openly and courageously.

Speaking from the pulpit of St. Anne's church in midtown Warsaw, he said courage is necessary when there are more organizations, extremely complicated, for hunting down God in souls and destroying traces of His existence in our personal life. He concluded his sermon by warning believers there were "many difficulties ahead."

14 COURIER-JOURNAL  
Friday, March 31, 1961

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## Priests, Ministers Join Sit-in Demonstrators

Oklahoma City — (RNS) — Two Catholic priests and three Protestant ministers joined about 50 Negro and white demonstrators in orderly racial equality demonstrations in downtown Oklahoma City.

The priests said they and the Protestant ministers were taking part as "interpreters, trying to make it appear as significant a thing as it is." The clergymen said they were present as a group "showing a united Christian front" in behalf of the sit-in effort.

Father William Skeehan, assistant pastor of Sacred Heart Catholic church, and Father Edward Jeep, assistant pastor of St. Patrick's Catholic church, participated in the demonstration along with the Rev. Milton Propp, director of Religious Life at Oklahoma City University; the Rev. James Shields, Wesley Foundation, Norman, and the Rev. William G. Spear-

man of the First Presbyterian Church of Tecumseh. Demonstrators, including about 15 white persons, stopped at four restaurants and then entered a large department store whose basement luncheonette does not serve Negroes. In a two-hour "walkathon," demonstrators went single file past the cafeteria, asking permission to enter. The luncheonette entrance was roped off and two employees refused entrance to both white and Negro demonstrators.

The demonstrators did not go to the Cravens Building where 13 white and Negro participants were arrested in a "squat-in" demonstration recently at the Anna Maude Cafeteria there. A temporary restraining order has been issued by a district court against demonstrators keeping them out of the Cravens Building.

Through new techniques in surgery, damaged heart valves can be repaired, inborn heart defects can be corrected and diseased arteries can be replaced, the Monroe County Heart Chapter reports.

## Legion of Mary Junior 'Acies'

Two hundred eighth grade and high school youngsters held their first rededication rite as members of the Legion of Mary Sunday afternoon in St. Louis Church, Pittsford. Monsignor Richard Burns spoke to the young apostles and encouraged them in their projects of aiding missions, visiting the sick and helping other children to attend religious instructions.

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## Century of Unity

Rome — (NC) — An Italian Archbishop celebrated Mass at 11 o'clock in downtown Rome to mark the 100th anniversary of Italian unification, which was achieved at the expense of papal territories.

President Giovanni Gronchi and Premier Amintore Fanfani were present at the Mass celebrated at the tomb of Italy's unknown soldier by Archbishop Arrigo Pintone, Military Vicar of Italy's armed forces. Other representatives of the Church and the State attended. The Mass, Flags and regiments of the Italian army and navy participated at attention lent solemnity to the occasion.

The tomb of the unknown soldier stands at the base of the white marble Victor Emmanuel monument in downtown Rome, at the head of the Piazza Venezia. Throughout Italy the Te Deum (Ambrosian hymn of thanksgiving) was sung in churches to celebrate Italian unity.

Italian unification is dated to March 17, 1861, when the parliament of the Kingdom of Piedmont at Turin proclaimed the Kingdom of Italy. This new kingdom absorbed the papal "legations" or territories north of the Papal States.

Pope Pius IX excommunicated King Victor Emmanuel and those who had assisted him in the confiscation of the legations. He also raised a volunteer army in a futile attempt to defend the Papal States. The dual absorption of the Church's territories into a unified Italy was accompanied by a series of anticlerical laws making the state supreme in education and marriage and suppressing religious orders.

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He is Father Baudouin, O.C.S.O. who was born Bernard Cordier in 1912 and fought in Britain's Royal Air Force during World War II. After the war he headed Air France's advanced training center for navigation and became president of the Civil Aviation Navigators' Association.

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Oceania is familiar to the Austrian priest since he had accompanied the Trapp family to Australia, New Zealand and Fiji during a 1955 concert tour. After the family disbanded as a singing group, Msgr. Wasner and Baroness Maria Augusta Trapp visited missions in New Guinea, New Britain, the Solomon Islands and Fiji.

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They are: Georgetown University, Washington, D.C.; French; Iowa College, New Rochelle, N.Y.; French and Spanish; Rosary College, River Forest, Ill.; French and Spanish; and the College of St. Teresa, Winona, Minn., French and Spanish.

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