

Plight of Catholics In Italy Red Belt

By JAMES C. O'NEILL

Bologna — (NC)—The plight of Catholics living in heavily Communist areas in Italy has been brought to public notice in a letter written by a parish priest.

The letter was first published (May 28) in Avvenire D'Italia, the Catholic daily of Bologna, and subsequently reprinted by the Catholic daily of Genoa, Il Nuovo Cittadino.

The priest-writer, who remains anonymous for his own protection, is pastor of a small parish 43 miles from Bologna in the Romagna region.

"I write to you from a little parish in lower Romagna where everything is communist: the press, recreation, work, organization, the social club, public pronouncements, public meetings, the local festival, the environment, morals, life and power," he said.

The writer cited the communists' order to strike against a large private farm. He said that "acts of violence and reprisals occur often and are aimed especially against those who rebel against the order to strike. Some of the best are truly afraid as the result of so many threats."

Continuing, the pastor said: "I want you to understand me. I am writing this for the widow who has to give 5,000 lire (about \$8) to the party."

No Island Anymore

Faterson — (NC) — The founder of a lay apostolate group said here that U.S. Catholics "must awaken to the fact that they live in an international community."

"If they don't act to help the underdeveloped countries, the Communists will," said Gerald Mische, founder of the Association for International Development (AID).

Mische made his comments in a statement issued in conjunction with a meeting to be held in Chicago this month by representatives of four national Catholic lay apostolate groups.

Formosa's 1st Cathedral

Taipei — Formosa's first cathedral has been consecrated here by Auxiliary Bishop Paul Cheng of Taipei.

Construction of Immaculate Conception cathedral began after the Taipei archdiocese was set up in 1952, when the hierarchy was established in Formosa.

The cathedral is located on the site of an older church of the Immaculate Conception, once the largest church on Formosa, which was destroyed by Allied bombing during World War II while Formosa was occupied by Japanese forces.

for the family of farm workers who had to give 15,000 lire (about \$24) to the party, for that young man who was 'obliged' to leave his job . . .

"Come and see our Sundays (the congregation for Mass is seldom 20 in number although there are 1,000 souls in the parish). Come and see the network of the Communist party centers, all new and outnumbering the parishes. See all this with Christian eyes and you will not be able to bear the 'scandal'."

The priest appealed to the Bologna paper to make the plight of the small parishes in his area known to Italy's Catholics, calling to "the attention of Italian Catholic consciences the need for the social and religious development of my people."

He appealed to all ranks of the apostolate to come to his area and help break the isolation in which his Catholic parishioners now live.

"In my parish the Communists issue public notices almost every day, whereas our people put out three or four a year. How can I inform the people of Catholic news when over 95 per cent of the families subscribe to the daily edition of Unita the Communist Party daily?"

There are "so many things to be told," the writer declared, such as "the beautiful discourse of the Pope, the encyclical concerning labor and the workers, Cuba without elections, Sicily governed by the communists and fascists."

He also pleaded with the Catholic press to send correspondents "to see, to listen and to report."

Noting that correspondents are often sent to the Middle East and to North and South America, the priest pointed out that "there are only 43 miles between my house and Bologna with a good road all the way."

Such a journalist, he wrote, could produce articles "without polemics, without irony, without compromise . . . but weighty with the same immense passion with which Jesus follows the trials of this church, a small part of the great Catholic Mother, but proud to be able to be here, in ourselves, the image of the (Christian) community of China and Russia."

The letter concluded with the request:

"Dear Editor, make use of this which I have written as you please. You can even publish it, if it is worth it. Act in the best way for the readers of our paper and for the good of my parish."

Commenting on the letter, the newspaper declared:

"This letter is worth more than all the articles we could write because it is the sorrowful and direct testimony of those who pay in daily suffering and sacrifice for a situation for which perhaps we are all somewhat responsible, but the consequences of which we do not all suffer equally."

Prelate Dies In Red Jail

Hong Kong — (NC) — Bishop Joseph Wan Tsu-Chang, O.F.M., of Hengchow has died in a Chinese communist prison, according to word received here. He was 53 years old and had been imprisoned by the Communists for almost six years. The date of his death was not reported.

The Franciscan Bishop was arrested and imprisoned in September, 1955, because he refused to cooperate with the Reds in their attempt to establish a national church in China.

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Squires Elect Officers

New York State Columbian Squires elected officers at the state convention held at Camp Columbus on Owasco Lake, Auburn. Retiring officers and advisors confer (in front) George F. Kelly, Richmond Hill, retiring state chief squire; William R. Basta, Brooklyn, state chief squire; Robert W. J. Wysocki, Brooklyn, state deputy chief squire; Frank A. Rizzo, Lindenhurst, Long Island, Notary; (in back) Rocco Malvaso, Auburn, state vice chairman of Columbian

Squires Youth and advisor to the convention chairman; Rev. Gerald T. Connor, Father Prior of St. Alphonsus Circle 112, host to the convention; Joseph C. Thomassen, Brooklyn, state Youth Chairman of the Knights of Columbus; Joseph C. Kaiser, Auburn, convention chairman; George P. Greule, Auburn, state burser; and Michael A. Bonnacorso, Niagara Falls, state-marshal.

Agency's Tenth Year Of Mercy

Geneva — (NC) — The International Catholic Migration Commission announced that during its 10 years' existence it has provided transportation for 38,000 migrants.

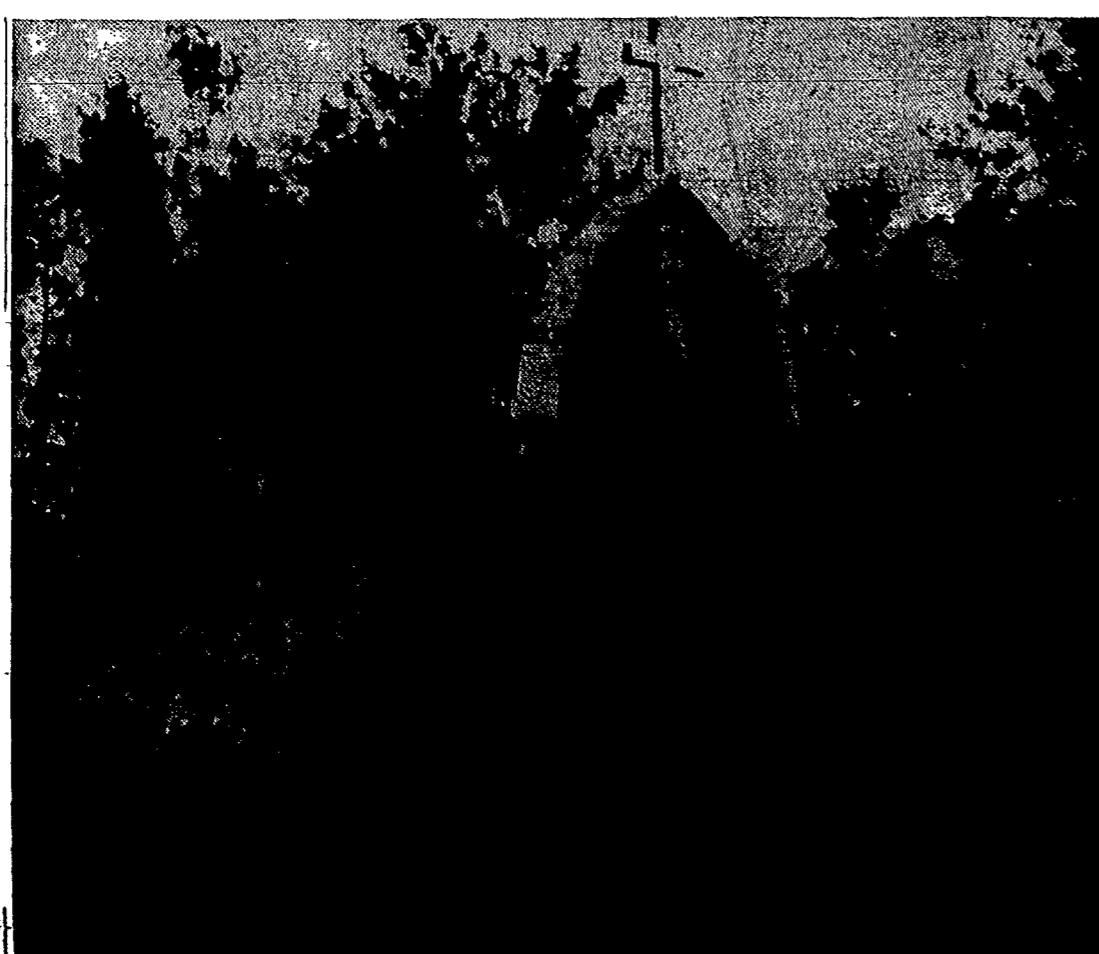
It also reported that it has assisted in various ways more than a half million emigrants who have resettled in new communities.

The article also reported that from the beginning the commission has taken the lead in the humanitarian activity of reuniting families separated by migration. In this respect, it noted, the commission has worked closely with Catholic Relief Services, National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Retiring Officers To Be Honored

Cornung — Mrs. Paul Quattrini and her retiring state officers will be honored at a tureen dinner for members of St. Mary's Rosary Society in the school hall Tuesday evening, June 20.

MRS. JOHN BALDWIN and Mrs. Michael Marmuscak, co-chairmen of arrangements, today urged all members to attend the event which will get underway at 6 p.m.



Alaskan Roadside Mission

Haines Junction. — (RNS) — Summer travelers along the Alaskan highway will find this unique roadside chapel at Haines Junction a handy stopping point. The mission chapel is located in the southern strip of Alaska bordering the Pacific and is near the state capital of Juneau. It is attended by the Rev. Francis W. Nugent, pastor of the Church of St. Terese of the Child Jesus at Skagway.

Rites Honor St. Patrick

Dublin — A candle ten feet high stands above Dublin's main thoroughfare to symbolize the Faith brought to Ireland 15

centuries ago and the honor Dublin is giving the man who brought it.

The candle will burn in O'Connell Street during Dublin's weeklong (June 17-25) celebrations in honor of the 15th centenary of St. Patrick's death.

Dublin has given the freedom of the city to the legate sent by Pope John XXIII to the Dublin Patrician Congress, Gregorio Pietro XV Cardinal Agagianian.

The Irish government provided an escort of jet planes for the airliner bringing Cardinal Agagianian into Dublin Airport.

Expansion

Washington — (NC) — Georgetown University is planning to replace its present law center with new buildings by 1970, 100th anniversary of the law center, Father Edward B. Bunn, S.J., university president, announced.

The cathedral is located on the site of an older church of the Immaculate Conception, once the largest church on Formosa, which was destroyed by Allied bombing during World War II while Formosa was occupied by Japanese forces.

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