

Faith Spans Iron Curtain

Cincinnati — (NC) — An Eastern Rite prelate who is in constant touch with Catholics behind the Iron Curtain called for renewed dedication to Christian ideals as a sure means of conquering Communism.

Byzantine Rite Bishop Nicholas T. Elko of Pittsburgh spoke to nearly 1,000 Knights of Columbus and their wives at the 62nd Ohio State K. of C. convention banquet.

"We must be optimistic enough to convince others that Christianity is the good news, and see what we can do in our era to make God better known," the Bishop said.

Communism will be conquered, he said, "when we dedicate ourselves to prayer, to penance, to our faith."

The 51-year-old Bishop said

his experience of preparing weekly broadcasts to Iron Curtain countries has convinced him that the oppressed people "are hungry for the truth."

As a result of the Radio Free Europe broadcasts, "we are in touch with 1,126 families" under Moscow rule, he said, and with 112 Catholic priests, living behind the Iron Curtain as foresters, miners, millhands, and laborers.

One of the Soviet newspapers recently devoted an entire page, he said, to denouncing the work of "Elko-Vatican Agent." It carried letters from a Russian family who had received aid from the Pittsburgh Exarchate saying, "We don't need your help," and "Give it to the underprivileged in America."

"However," the Bishop noted, "they believe they will win our minds . . . that they won't need an army to conquer us," the Bishop said.

"But if organizations such as the Knights of Columbus remain in America," he added, "I don't believe the communists will come over here. They didn't come into the nations of Europe until religion and the people dedicated to religion went out."

Bishop Elko emphasized the importance of lay participation in the work of the Church. But the greatest need for the future, he said, is to "teach our young people to appreciate their religious and their American heritage."

"Don't let anyone tell you that you can't do anything with today's young people," he said. "They're full of vitamins. And by 1970, a sociologist has predicted, one-half of the population of this country will be under 27. We must show them that they have to dedicate themselves to the future of our nation."

To convince the rising generation of this need, the Knights of Columbus and other adult Christians must themselves "show a dedication to a great cause," the Bishop said.

Tax Cut OK'd For Charity

Washington — (NC) — The House of Representatives has passed and sent to the Senate a bill liberalizing the tax deduction allowed for contributions to charitable organizations.

Present law permits taxpayers to deduct up to 30 per cent of adjusted gross income for direct gifts to churches, operating schools, hospitals or related medical research institutions.

However, a tax deduction of only 20 per cent is allowed for gifts to foundations established to support such organizations.

The bill (H.R. 2244) passed by the House (June 14) would raise to 30 per cent the amount of the deduction allowed for gifts to foundations, all of whose earnings go to organizations for which the present 30 per cent deduction is allowed.



Indian Leaders Meet

Chicago — (RNS) — Sister Inez Hilger of the College of St. Benedict at St. Joseph, Minn., gives her rapt attention to Chief Whirling Thunder of Wisconsin's Winnebago tribe, as leaders of Indian tribes from throughout the nation gathered at the University of Chicago to discuss Indian problems. Sister Inez, who teaches anthropology, is an adopted member of the Blackfoot tribe.

Edinburgh — (RNS) — Another historic milestone in relations between the Roman Catholic Church and other Churches may be reached next year when the moderator of the Church of Scotland (Presbyterian) pays a courtesy call on Pope John XXIII.

Possibility that Dr. Archibald Campbell Craig, top official of the Scottish Church, would visit the Pope was seen here when the General Assembly, by a large majority, instructed its Inter-Church Relations Committee, together with the General Administration and Colonial and Continental Committees, to study the advisability of this unprecedented gesture.

DR. CRAIG will be in Rome next year to take part in celebrations marking the centenary of the Scots Kirk (St. Andrew's Church) there. Should he utilize the occasion also to meet with Pope John, he will follow in the footsteps of Dr. Geoffrey Francis Fisher, who last December became the first Anglican Archbishop of Canterbury to visit the Vatican and converse with Pope John.

The Assembly took its action after Dr. Roy Sanderson of Glasgow had praised the "new ecumenical attitude" shown by Pope John and suggested that Dr. Craig take advantage of his stay in Rome to meet the Pontiff.

His recommendation stirred a heated debate during which a counter motion was submitted by the Rev. J. Walsh Wemyss of Fife, who declared

Press Hears Negro Prelate

Washington — (RNS) — Laurian Cardinal Rugambwa, Bishop of Bukoba, Tanganyika, told a National Press Club audience here that Christianity is "the most precious thing Africa has received from the West."

In a luncheon address before the Washington newsmen, the first Negro to be elevated to the Church's Sacred College of Cardinals asserted that the progress of Christianity in Africa, particularly in recent decades, has been "fantastic."

The soft-spoken African prelate, resplendent in red robes and skull cap, read his address in fluent English in a serious vein, but smiled warmly during a question period that followed. He was applauded enthusiastically by the reporters several times.

"Christianity has brought many benefits to the Africans," he declared, telling his audience that "the greatest of these has been a strong faith in God." He added: "Africa has always accepted the existence of a one true God, Creator of Heaven and Earth. But this belief was clouded by superstitious preoccupation with a world of lesser spirits. Christianity has liberated Africa from the century-old servitude of superstitious fear and practice."

Cardinal Rugambwa also contended that Christianity has given Africa "a concern for the whole man, not merely his spiritual and moral welfare, but his physical, economic and social welfare as well." He attributed this to the self-sacrifice of Christian missionaries there.

Praising the Catholic Church's

policy of establishing a native African episcopacy, he noted that the Church is beginning to take root in native structures. He observed that there are presently 40 African prelates in the Church's hierarchy.

Replying to a newsmen's question, the prelate said Tanganyika would welcome Peace Corps representatives provided they are "well-trained and carefully selected." He did not elaborate.

In his text he said that Africa needed more monetary aid and technical assistance, but that this should be done "in a spirit of brotherly love and understanding, in a spirit of cooperation and not of domination." He observed that the African wants "recognition of his basic dignity and of the values in his own culture and tradition" from the western powers.

Cardinal Rugambwa stated that "it is in the field of education that the missions have brought perhaps the greatest contribution to the elevation of the African peoples." He praised American generosity, appealing for more funds to be applied to school construction in Africa.

Citing statistics of the Church's growth on the African continent, he said there were 50,000 Catholics there in 1800, in 1890, 377,000; and in 1907, 750,000.

"Then," he said, "began the amazing period of growth; three-and-a-half million in 1931; 13 million in 1950; and today the 20 million mark has been passed."

Cardinal Rugambwa called on the press "as powerful moulders of public opinion" to study deeply the traditional African family concept. "You must recognize the differences that exist between your own tradition and ours with regard to the family," he told the newsmen.

The African prelate was the first high-ranking member of the hierarchy to speak before the National Press Club in 25 years. The last one was Eugenio Cardinal Pacelli, the late Pope Pius XII, who addressed the Washington press corps during his 1936 visit to the U.S. when he was Papal Secretary of State.

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GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

WHAT ARE SOME WAYS BY WHICH WE, IN UNION WITH OUR LORD, CAN HELP REDEEM THE PEOPLE OF AFRICA AND ASIA?

The Scriptures have always recommended fasting. Our Lord fasted for forty days and nights. And not because He needed to do penance. He was fulfilling what had been pre-figured both by Moses and by Elias who, themselves, fasted for forty days. Indeed, many Old Testament figures supported their prayers of adoration and petition with fasting. Esther and the Jews fasted for three days before she went into the king's presence to intercede for her people. Esdras proclaimed a thirty-day fast on behalf of a safe journey. When Nehemiah learned that Jerusalem was in ruins he fasted and prayed to God. This tradition continued throughout the New Testament. There was fasting when it was necessary to choose a new Apostle, in particular he who was to become St. Paul, and before the ordination of priests.

It is important to note these conditions concerning fasting:

1. It need not be excessive.
2. It must be done with love of God.
3. It must be in accordance with one's circumstances of life. There need not be the same kind of self-denial for all.

Readers, stop dieting. Fast! What is the difference between the two? Materially, none. You will lose ten pounds either way. But there is a spiritual difference which lies in the motivation. You diet to make your body beautiful, if that is possible; you fast to make your soul beautiful, which is always possible.

Food for thought: Why not lose ten pounds by sending the Holy Father the money you now spend on snacks and sweets? But make sure you are fasting and not merely dieting. If we are to bring Christ to Asia and Africa we must first take away from ourselves. Deprive yourself for His sake and then send your fasting-savings to The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

GOD LOVE YOU to Mrs. C.B.R. for \$5 "I am 83 years old and not able to work hard, but I collected this donation by selling address labels. Please use it to help our missionaries buy food." . . . to A.M.B. for \$5 "In thanking to St. Anthony for favors received." . . . to A Third-Grade Catechism Class for \$13.08 "This represents pennies, nickels, dimes, quarters and a few half-dollars sacrificed for the poor children of the mission lands." . . . to Lt. and Mrs. J.L.N.V. for \$50 "Every pay day we put part of our pay in the church envelope of our budget book. This offering is what was left after our parish obligations had been met for the year. It does not seem like a sacrifice as we had never thought of it as ours. We are simply returning to the Lord a small part of what He has given us."

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