

# Laos Reds Arrest, Kill 5 Priests

Vientiane — (RNS) — Since April at least five Catholic priests in Laos have been killed or believed taken prisoner by Communist rebels.

The latest victim was Father Noel Tenaud, M.E.P., who was reported wounded at his mission in East Central Laos. A catechist also was said to have been wounded along with him during an attack by Pathet Lao troops.

ANOTHER missionary priest, Father Vincent L'Henoret, O.M.I., was killed by rebel soldiers last month when he was returning to a mission at Ban Ban in Communist-held Xieng Khouang Province after celebrating Mass in a village.

Three other French missionaries, Fathers Marcel Denis, M.E.P., Marcel Couquelet, O.M.I., and Louis Leroy, O.M.I., have been missing since April.

Father Leroy is known to have been arrested by Pathet Lao troops in Ban Pa in the Xieng Khouang Province, while Father Denis was seen being led away by Communist soldiers. Father Couquelet's bicycle was found abandoned on the side of a road.



## Summertime Reading

Lorain, O. — (RNS) — Father Andrew Pataski, pastor of St. Nicholas Byzantine Rite Catholic church in Lorain, O., understands completely the vacation joys of teachers. Besides his pastoral duties, he has been the principal and full-time first-grade teacher of his parish school. Here he gives four of his pupils some last minute reminders that summertime does not mean a stop to reading. He hopes to get an order of nuns for his school next year when the enrollment will be doubled. Another priest and two lay women helped him this year when the school was established.

## Home For Incurables

Cophorne — (RNS) — Former Group Captain Leonard Cheshire, V.C., one of Britain's outstanding bomber pilots during World War II and a convert to the Catholic Church, opened another home for the infirm and incurables here under the auspices of his Cheshire Foundation.

Winner of the Victoria Cross, Mr. Cheshire was the R.A.F.'s only official observer at the atomic bombing of Hiroshima in 1945. The experience affected him so profoundly that he resolved to devote the rest of his life to relieving human suffering. He was received into the Church in 1948.

## Meeting In Tanganyika

Dar Es Salaam — (RNS) — Some 60 members of the Roman Catholic hierarchy from various sections of Africa as well as the predominantly Arab countries of Aden and Kuwait will gather here in Tanganyika July 17 to discuss a common approach to problems facing the emerging African states.

# Vatican Scores Hungary 'Terror'

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio denounced as "one more sign of the terror being used against the people in Hungary and the Catholic Church in particular" the recent trial in Budapest of five priests and seven laymen.

Sentences ranging from three to 12 years were given to the defendants for alleged activities against the Hungarian Communist regime. The heaviest sentence was meted out to Father Istvan Tabody, who was charged with high treason. All the sentences involved deprivation of civic rights and partial confiscation of property.

THE VATICAN station declared that throughout the trial no evidence was produced proving that the accused had indulged in treasonable acts.

It said the prosecutor himself admitted that some of the prisoners were guilty only of "spiritual activities," emphasizing, however, that this was "all

the more dangerous because the accused could mislead well-meaning people."

"The methods adopted in the arrests, the accusations, the trial, the confessions of the accused and the sentences," the Vatican Radio said, "correspond to the well-known formula characteristic of totalitarian regimes."

It said the Hungarian State Office for Church Affairs "is obsessed with the desire to impose its (pro-regime) 'peace priests' upon the faithful and a non-existent conspiracy has been suppressed in order to justify the persecution of the Catholic community and to seek its destruction. The campaign has been intensified in recent months and the trial in question formed part of this campaign."

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blood for another? Pope John XXIII adduces these reasons when he says in his Apostolic Letter: "Infinite indeed is the power of the Blood of Christ, the God-Man, and infinite likewise is the charity which moved our Redeemer to shed it for us, already on the eighth day after his birth, when He was circumcised, and more profusely when in the Garden of Gethsemani 'falling into an agony he prayed the more earnestly,' when He was cruelly scourged and crowned with thorns, when He ascended to the place of Calvary and there was nailed to the Cross, when finally the gaping wound of his side was opened, that there should be a sign that his divine Blood flowed forth into all the Sacraments of the Church. All of these considerations demanded that not only is it becoming, but also most appropriate, that all the Faithful who have been born again by the stream of this Blood should adore it with deep devotion and should have a special love for it."

In stressing and advocating devotion to the Precious Blood, Pope John is but reminding our age of a devotion that has its roots deep in the soil of Christianity. At the Last Supper Christ changed wine into his Precious Blood and offered it to his Apostles as the drink and refreshment of their souls. And ordained them priests, commanding them to "do this in remembrance of Me."

Liturgical Feast

It took many centuries before devotion to the Precious Blood achieved a liturgical status with its own Feast, Mass and Divine Office. There is little doubt that liturgical devotion to the Precious Blood began with feasts in honor of the various bloodsheddings of Our Lord. Documents of the Holy See indicate that Pope Pius V restored the Office and Feast of the Precious Blood to the church of Valencia when he reformed the breviary and missal toward the end of the sixteenth century.

Almost three more centuries elapsed before this limited liturgical cult of the Precious Blood was to achieve universal standing with a Mass and Office for the Universal Church. In the providence of God much of the credit for this accomplishment must be given to a saint who has come to be known as the Herald of the Precious

# Devotion to Precious Blood

Blood, St. Gaspare del Bufalo, and to his devoted followers. On August 15, 1815, Father del Bufalo founded a Congregation of secular priests under the title of the Most Precious Blood. In 1822 he petitioned the Sacred Congregation of Rites to grant the new Community the privilege of a special Feast in honor of the Precious Blood to be celebrated on the first Sunday of July. Graciously the Holy Father granted the request.

## Don Giovanni

It remained for Venerable Don Giovanni Merlino, the second successor of St. Gaspare as leader of the Society, to promote the extension of the Feast to the Universal Church. In the mid-nineteenth century Italy was in the throes of bloody revolution, so much so that the Holy Father, Pius IX, was forced to flee Rome. While in Gaeta he was visited by Don Giovanni Merlino. During the course of their conversation, the Holy Father asked his visitor when he thought the disastrous days would come to an end. Merlino evaded a direct reply but countered by respectfully suggesting that His Holiness solemnly vow to extend the Feast of the Most Precious Blood to the whole world. The Pope would make no commitment. Undaunted, Merlino later wrote several times to the Holy Father reminding him of his proposed remedy for the sad state of political life in Italy.

## Pope Pius IX

Then on June 30, 1849, Pius IX through his secretary, Monsignor Stella, informed Merlino that he was going to follow out his suggestion to extend the Feast universally. As though this had been what Divine Providence was awaiting, the French army attacked Rome on the same day and liberated the city from the revolutionaries the next day, July 1. On August 10, 1849, the Holy Father issued the decree extending the Feast of the Precious Blood with Mass and Divine Office to the entire Church.

Not only the day of the Feast itself, July 1, but the entire month is now commonly devoted to the adoration and glory of the Precious Blood of Christ.

The most appropriate means of honoring the Precious Blood are the practices most appealing to and most frequently carried out by the faithful Catholic. By right of superiority and grandeur, the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass stands in the first place, for the Mass is in all reality the renewal of the

whole family of mankind. Litany of the Precious Blood. A third manner of honoring the Precious Blood is through prayer, both vocal and mental. There are many approved prayers in honor of the Precious Blood, among which the newly approved litany must hold a significant place.

Even more beneficial than vocal prayer is meditation on the mysteries of the Precious Blood. This includes loving and thoughtful consideration of the mysteries of the Faith which are in any way associated with the Precious Blood of Christ. No doubt the most familiar are the Sorrows and Mysteries of the chief bloodsheddings in the life of Christ. From them one can learn many of the glories of the Precious Blood; for example, its proof of Christ's tender mercy for sinners, of his infinite love for each of us, of his humility and obedience unto death. To quote again the Apostolic Letter of Pope John XXIII: "Would that they who are distinguished by the name of Christian would turn their thoughts more frequently to the paternal exhortations of the first Sovereign Pontiff, who wrote: 'Conduct yourselves with fear in the time of your sojourning. You know that you were redeemed . . . not with perishable things, wit' silver or gold, but with the Precious Blood of Christ, as of a lamb without blemish and without spot' (1 St. Peter 1, 17-19). Would they would turn a more attentive ear to the Apostle of the Gentiles: 'You have been bought at a great price. Glorify and ever. Amen.' (Apocalypse Hebrews ix, 14) acquired for God and bear Him in your i, 6).

## Father Ray Minder's Report



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