

# Right Wing Groups Aid Red Cause

(Continued from Page 1)

Even nations solidly linked to the United States have strong Communist parties — the Reds polled 27 per cent of the vote in recent municipal elections in Rome, center of Christendom. Communists and Socialists mustered 25 per cent of the national vote in France and the Marxist rooted Social Democratic Party of West Germany captured nearly 50 per cent of the vote there this year.

HOW EXPLAIN this lure of Communism? Is not the tyranny of the Kremlin enough to daunt even the most naive of voters? Why does Communism still chalk up hundreds of thousands of supporters even in free nations?

"It is poverty above all which gives it members and troops, a poverty which there is scarcely any need to describe, it is so glaringly obvious," says French writer E. Rideau in the just issued Christianity and Communism, 40th volume of the 150-book series in the Twentieth Century Encyclopedia of Catholicism.

Rideau says, "Paltry wages, inadequate housing which makes a moral life extremely difficult, deplorable working conditions in industry, lack of intellectual culture, practical slavery of mind and body, anxiety as to what the morrow may bring, future insecurity in face of the continuous threat of unemployment or crises, difficulties in family life and the education of the children . . . all this is the result of an immense injustice, of a monstrous inequality."

COMMUNISM thrives in such conditions. Most Americans are not adequately aware of this "mass misery" — as President Kennedy termed it in his January inaugural address — which blights "half the globe."

Pope John in his encyclical Mater et Magistra four months later urged "richer countries to make greater and greater efforts to provide developing countries with aid designed to promote sciences, technology and economic life" — a virtual endorsement of the presidential pledge of expanded foreign aid to the new nations "to help them help themselves."

Authentic anti-Communist activity for Catholic Americans, therefore, is not a "suspicion triggering witch hunt against fellow citizens but a massive assault in concert with private groups as well as with government and international agencies to struggle against the common enemies of mankind — tyranny, poverty, disease, ignorance and mutual fear.

—This article by Father Henry Atwell

## Reds Jam Vatican Radio

Vatican City — (RNS) — Newly-inaugurated Vatican Radio broadcasts in the Estonian language were reported heavily jammed by stations traced to the Soviet Union.

Only a small percentage of the Vatican broadcasts have been able to penetrate the jamming screen. In an effort to counteract this, the Vatican station is repeating its Estonian



## Serra Club Receives Charter

Charter for the newly organized Serra Club of Rochester was presented Nov. 8 to Richard Maurer and Monsignor Richard Burns, officers of the local group. Making presentation are Thomas Hart and Joseph Cunningham, national officers. Serra Clubs promote vocations to the priesthood and develop friendships among laymen. (Chuck Mantelli Photo).

## Top Court to Rule on 22 Words

# Five Parents Protest Public School Prayer

Washington — (RNS) — The U.S. Supreme Court has been asked to rule on the constitutionality of the recitation of a non-sectarian prayer in New York State's public schools.

Five parents from New Hyde Park, N.Y., have filed a petition asking the court to review a 5 to 2 decision by the Court of Appeals of New York which upheld the practice.

The parents (two of whom are Jewish, one a Unitarian, one a member of the Society for Ethical Culture, and one a non-believer) filed suit against the Herrieks Union Free School District No. 9, asking that the district's board of education be enjoined from ordering recitation of such a prayer at the opening of classes.

Approved by the New York Board of Regents, the 22 word prayer is one sentence long. Its words are:

"Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our friends, our teachers, and our country."

The petitioners assert, however, that "the saying of the prayer favors belief in religion over non-belief" and declare that the prayer is contrary to their beliefs and those of their children about religion.

Attorneys for the parents in their brief to the Supreme Court argue that recitation of a religious prayer in the public schools constitutes "religious instruction."

Pointing out that the prayer is not taken from the liturgy of any religion or composed by religious leaders, the attorneys said: "It is an original prayer, composed by laymen who are officials of a State government. It is, petitioners submit, a form of State religion."

THE APPEAL quotes a statement by the Board of Regents, made on approving the prayer in 1951, to show that it is "meant to teach religion."

At that time, the Regents pointed to dangers facing the nation and said: "In our opinion, the securing of the peace and safety of our country and our state against such dangers points to the essentially teaching our children, as set forth in the Declaration of Independence, that Almighty God is their Creator and that by Him they have been endowed with their inalienable rights."

We believe that at the commencement of each school day, the Act of Allegiance to the Flag might well be joined with this act of reverence to God."

Commenting on this, the attorneys declare: "The whole point of the prayer, as the Regents say, is to teach children that God, is their Creator . . ."

The prayer serves as a form of religious education."

The suit was heard originally by Judge Bernard S. Meyer in Court of Special Term for Nassau County. He denied the petition for an injunction after observing that the legal precedents were far from clear.

Judge Meyer said legal research showed that use of prayer or Bible reading has been the subject of 17 decisions in state courts, in ten of which the practice was upheld and in seven struck down. He concluded that if the practice was entirely voluntary, insofar as student participation was concerned, it was not unconstitutional and he refused the injunction.

The New York Court of Appeals upheld this view, with Chief Judge Charles S. Desmond delivering the majority opinion. He observed that if it was unconstitutional to acknowledge belief in existence of a Supreme Being, the Constitution of every state including New York would have to be rewritten, since all contain such references.

"That the First Amendment was ever intended to forbid as naive jargon, after breaking the an 'establishment of religion' his simple declaration of belief in God is so contrary to history as to be impossible of acceptance," he said.

"We were pleased to learn," the Pope said, "that besides discussing matters of an organizational and social nature, you have first of all stressed the highest aims of your association. You wish, above all, to help each other to continue faithfully in your priestly life, which means in contented obedience to your bishops, generous cooperation in their instructions, complete devotion to every soul, and in fraternity and affection with your colleagues."

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## New Jersey's First Catholic Governor

Trenton — (RNS) — When Democrat Richard J. Hughes takes the oath of office on Jan. 16, he will be the first Catholic to serve as Governor of New Jersey.

Hughes, a Trenton lawyer and former judge, defeated his Republican opponent, former Secretary of Labor James P. Mitchell of Little Silver, N.J., in the Nov. 7 election by approximately 40,000 votes. Mr. Mitchell, who held the cabinet post under former President Eisenhower, also is a Catholic and a member of Nativity parish, Fair Haven, N.J.

Gov-elect Hughes and his wife live here and are parishioners of Blessed Sacrament church.

The son of Richard P. and Veronica Gallagher Hughes, he was born in Florence, N.J., August 16, 1909. His mother died in 1938, and his father died of a heart ailment at 85, only two days before Mr. Hughes' election as governor.

A brother of the governor-elect, the Rev. James R. Hughes, pastor of St. James church, Jamesburg, N.J., offered the Requiem Mass for their father in St. Paul's church, Burlington, N.J.

Hughes was graduated in 1926 from Cathedral High School, Trenton, and attended St. Joseph's College, Philadelphia, and the New Jersey Law School, now part of Rutgers University.

## Artist's Blood Colors Work

Maywood, N.J. — (RNS) — Some drops of human blood are mingled with the hardened concrete of the mosaic that marks the 14th Station of the Cross in the new St. Peter's Catholic church in Jersey City.

The blood was shed by the artist, Charles Blase Vukovich, 43, whose favorite medium — mosaics composed of jagged bits of broken glass — often marks the agony of creativity in a very physical way.

In completing the Stations of the Cross for the new church, Vukovich confesses he used five boxes of adhesive band-aids. "When I was doing the 14th Station," he said, "I cut myself badly, but I couldn't stop to bandage it because the concrete was hardening rapidly. That's why, if you look closely, you can see the blood in the mosaic."

This artist gathers his materials from the discard pile of a stained glass window firm (from broken bottles and mayonnaise jars). After breaking the glass to sizes prescribed by his simple declaration of belief in God he sorts out his colors and begins work. He completes the Stations of the Cross in the new church in five months.

## Pledge Payments, Gifts to High Schools Deductible In Income Tax Computing



Pledge payments made to the current Catholic High Schools campaign are tax deductible, fund drive officials explained this week.

A statement by U. S. Treasury Department chief of exempt organizations branch, J. F. Worley, says contributions to the construction fund "are deductible by the donors in computing their taxable income in the manner and to the extent provided by section 170 of the Code of 1954."

Bequests, legacies, devises or transfers to the fund are also deductible as "provided by sections 2055 and 2106" of the 1954 law. Gifts of property are also deductible according to the law's section 2522 (a) and (b).

## Mother for 259 Babies

Emerson, N.J. — (NC) — Mrs. Cornelius Leonard has had 259 babies in the last 21 years.

Now in her 70s, she's a foster mother for Associated Catholic Charities of the Newark archdiocese. Despite her age, the Austrian-born woman—who had two children of her own before turning to foster mothering—now is caring for numbers 257, 258 and 259 in her home here.

The oldest of the three is only 2 1/2 months old. Mrs. Leonard has been with Catholic Charities longer than any other foster mother.

"Her babies show that they get lots of attention. You can tell the way they respond," said Margaret M. Gilhooly, Catholic Charities caseworker.

Mrs. Leonard's own children, Maria and Cornelius, were six and five, respectively, when she became a foster mother. Her idea was to provide her children with company in what was then a sparsely-settled rural area but is now in the heart of a modern suburban settlement.

Maria is now Sister Mirlam of the Sisters of Our Lady of Charity of Christian Doctrine in Suffern, N.Y. Cornelius, an electronics engineer, still shares the seven-room house with his mother — and her infant changes.

Mrs. Leonard recently suggested to Catholic Charities officials that they might want to end her foster-mother career because of her age. But caseworkers on frequent visits find no fault with the care she gives the children and see no reason why she shouldn't continue.

Now she concentrates on infants who will soon be placed with adopting parents. Usually she has an infant for about three months, although in the past she has often had non-adoptable children for many months, keeping them while their mothers convalesced or until conditions in their home improved.

Well-attended despite a down-pour, the rally was regarded as a successful demonstration of Maltese loyalty to the Church against the claim that the island is heavily socialist.

At a recent Rome meeting of the Socialist International the Maltese labor chief, former Premier Dom Mintoff, has I watch them go knowing that where they are badly wanted, I am happy that I have been able to give them a start."

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