Bypassed by Tunnel

Swiss Monks Vow to Stay

By REV. PLACID JORDAN

Great St. Bernard Pass—(NC)—"We will not abandon the cradle of our order," Father Charles Giroud, Canon Regular of the Order of St. Augustine, told me here.

We spoke at his order's famed 8,114-foot hospice on this mountain pass between Switzerland and Italy, under which a 3½-mile tunnel is being completed to link the two nations.

The tunnel, some 3,000 fee' below the hospice, was started four years ago to take care of the large amount of motor traffic between the two countries. It will be opened this fall and be used by an estimated 300,000 motorists during its first year of operation.

When the project was first announced, it was feared that the order's members, commonly known as the "Monks of St. Bernard," would have to end their 1,000-year-old mission because travelers would no longer cross the pass. Also few, if any, travelers now need the help of the famous St. Bernard dogs whose skill saved more than 2,000 lives over the years.

"Nevertheless," Father Giroud told me, "our mission will not be abandoned. We now know that heavy traffic will continue to cross our pass except during the high winter season when the surface road is impassable."

As a matter of fact, a chair-lift now operates from the hospice to the very top of Chenalette Mountain, at an altitude of 9,100 feet, affording a breath-taking view to tourists on clear days of towering Mont Blanc, other Alpine peaks and 27 glaciers. But the dogs in their kennels attract an even greater interest among the numerous visitors.

"We keep them only for breeding purposes," said Father Giroud. "Fourteen of them here, seven at our Simplon Pass hospice."

The hospice now serves principally for the summer vacations of the monks, whose motherhouse is in Martigny, and whose seminary is in nearby Econe. The novices also come up for part of their training, but only four priests remain during the winter.

SERMONETTE

WAR!

By the Rev. Richard Madden, C.C.D.

Everybody knows about war. We've had so much of it. We've always had it. Adam and Eve probably fought over who got the first bite out of the apple. Cain slew Abel. And we were on our way.

As long as there have been men, there have been wars. It will always be this way. We only kid ourselves when we start dreaming of endless peace on this earth.

This is why, in our own time, a war with Russia is quite inevitable. It is not pessimism to admit that democracy and communism cannot function together peaceably on the planet. One must go. And not to the moon. The only solution is war.

When? Well, who can tell. There was a span of 55 years between the Napoleonic Wars and the Franco-Prussian Wars. Then 43 years between the Franco-Prussian Wars and World War I. Between World War I and World War II only 21 years passed. Now it has been about 14 years since World War II (and we are being heartless enough to pass over the Korean War as a minor skirmish during which we lost 35,000 fine young men.

What can prevent it? Treaties, you say! Look, treaties (if we check history) have been nothing but a lot of hot air passed among liars. Between World War I and World War II, 4569 peace treaties were signed. Not one of them meant anything. And in the 11 months preceding World War II, 211 treties were signed. Just a lot of paper wasted.

War is only the result of man's selfishness and egotism. War is the offspring of our wickedness. It cannot be blamed on God. It is not God's fault. We have war because we have people. When we willfully neglect the teachings of Christ, then we willfully set up the ingredients for war.

Indeed, it is a conceivable possibility that wars might end. But in order to expect this, then we are faced with the difficulty of changing people. This is a vast challenge. How do you change men; there are so many of them. One answer is all we have. Men become better one at a time. And the first one to change for the better is not some Communist living on the shore of the Black Sea, or some Chinaman working the rice fields outside of Shanghai. The first one to change for the better is YOU.

Integration 'Quiet' in Atlanta

Atlanta — (RNS) — Six formerly all-white Catholic parochial schools — four in the Atlanta area, one in Marietta and one in Athens, Ga. — have been quietly desegregated.

The first day of school for the fall term marked the first time that racial barriers were dropped in the secondary parochial schools of the Atlanta archdiocese.

IN ALL, 17 Negro children attended six of the 21 schools in the archdiocese. Eight are enrolled in high schools and nine in elementary schools.

Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan of Atlanta said names of the Negro pupils "are not being publicized because they are attending school not as Negroes but as American Catholic children.

"The first purpose of our Catholic schools is a good Christian education. In this framework, all children, white and Negro, will win acceptance by hard work and good conduct," he asserted.

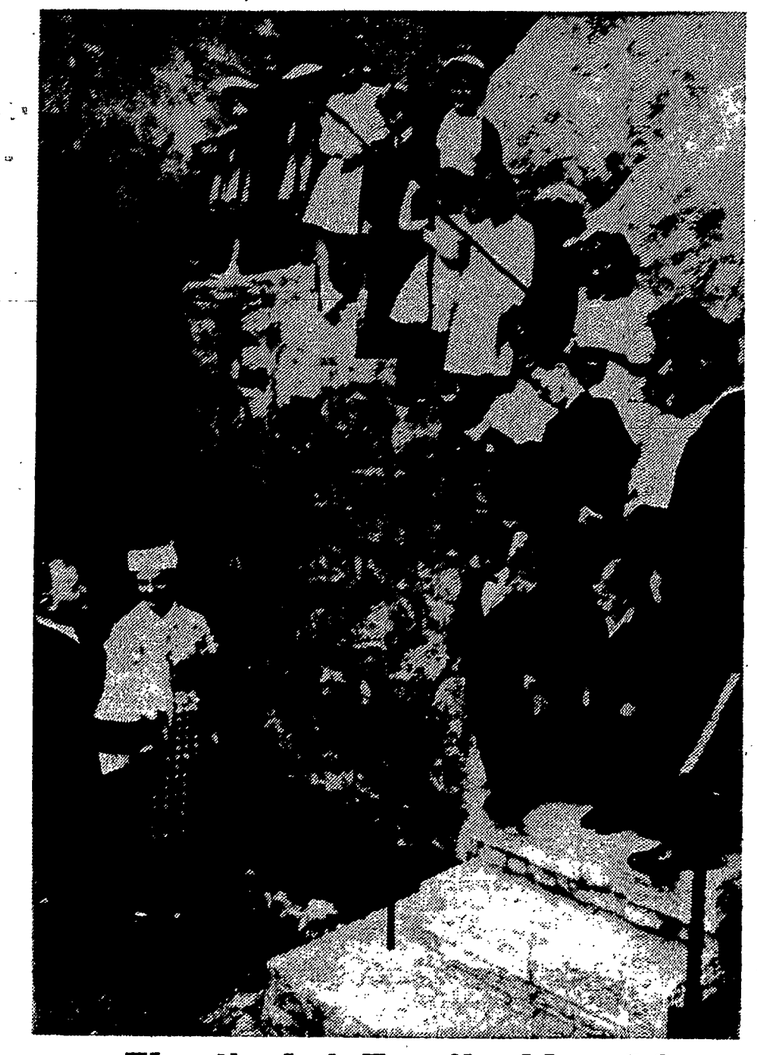
Archbishop Hallinan had words of praise for the students, priests, teachers, parents and public officials for the peaceful integration.

"I want to congratulate these children and wish them well," he said. "I want also to commend all of our priests, teachers, parents, and children. They have proved themselves good citizens and good Christians, good members of the mature, progressive community in which we live."

"Our public officials have been wise and helpful. I wish every city in our beloved South had leadership of their caliber and dedication," Archbishop Hallinan concluded.

Land Reform In Chile

Santiago — (NC) — Another step in the Chilean Church's program of turning over its farmlands to tenants will take place at Melipilla near here on September 18, when the first of 26 parcels of grazing and wheatlands will be transfered from the Santiago archdiocese to the new owners.



Fleet's In! Family Has 19

Carmel, Cal. — (RNS) — Meet the Francis Louis Beardsley family — all 21 of them. Eighteen children look down approvingly at their newest brother, Joseph John, after he was baptized at the Basilica of San Carlos Borremo at Carmel, Cal. Mr. Beardsley is a veteran chief warrant officer in the U.S. Navy. The 19 Beardsley youngsters include four sets of twins. Ages range from three weeks to 18 years.

Latin America

Less Tension With Churches

Paris — (RNS) — Signs of better relations between individual Protestant and Catholic churches in Latin America were noted here by a Lutheran official from Argentina. In an address to the Central Committee of the World Council of Churches, Professor Rodolfo Obermuller, a member of the executive committee of the Evangelical German Synod of Rio de la Plata, mentioned the following examples of this new spirit of friendliness.

In Brazil, professors of the Jesuit College and of the Lutheran Theological College in Sao Leopoldo are inviting one another to lectures.

In Buenos Aires, Argentina, theological professors are meeting quietly and unofficially to exchange ideas and study the Bible.

In Peru, a Catholic archbishop invited some Protestant pastors to his cathedral during a week of prayer.

"There are indeed hopeful signs that the enmity which was so bitter in quite recent times in Colombia and Mexico will be overcome ecumenically," Prof. Obermuller said.

He warned, however, that Protestants will not be able to work effectively toward unity until they have found it among themselves.

"While, on the one hand, our unity in service and witness is becoming ever more visible, on the other hand, the signs of division are increasing," Prof. Obermuller said.

He pointed out that at last year's Conference of Latin American Churches in Lima, Peru, a motion to set up a permanent conference office was defeated and it "was only just possible to have a kind of continuation committee."

Vatican Radio With A Brogue

Dublin — (RNS) — A former Irish International Airlines hostess has been named the Vatican Radio's first woman announcer.

She is Dublin-born Eilis Johnston, who will work part-time with the Vatican station's English-language section. She is still employed by the Irish airline as a sales representative in its Rome office.

Miss Johnston's first big job with the radio station will come in October, when she will broadcast special English bulletins dealing with the Second Vatican Council.

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Precious Blood School Bus Dies, Victim of 'Old Age'

The venerable sixteen year old school bus of Precious Blood School died at work last Thursday.

It just "gave out" — fortunately near the school —but its 145 young passengers must now walk to school or have their parents drive them there in private cars.

Four youngsters couldn't arrange transportation so had to skip classes a few days this week.

Father Sebastian Contegiacomo, pastor, who doubles as driver for the four trips before and after classes daily would welcome donations for a new bus. The school is located at 171 Stenson St., Rochester 6, N.Y.

Young Refugees

Many Homeless, Few to Adopt

Hong Kong — (RNS) — Despite the flood of refugees from Communist China to this densely populated British Crown Colony, a shortage of orphans eligible for adoption has developed, a Roman Catholic nun said here.

Most of the children in orphanages are not available for adoption because they are not really orphans, according to Mother Helena da Silve of the Canossian Institute.

"Most of them have one or both parents living," she explained. "The parents are unable to look after them at present." She said her orphanage takes care of the children until the family becomes self-supporting.

Some 2,500 Chinese children are housed and fed by 10 orphanages here, according to a government spokesman. He emphasized that only genuine orphans or abandoned children are legally eligible for adoption in Hong Kong.

To qualify for adoption, a child must be in good health, mentally and physically. Some of the children in the orphanages are mentally retarded or physically handicapped.

A majority of Hong Kong orphans go to the U.S., many under the auspices of the Catholic Committee for Refugees of the National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Recently 11 Chinese orphans, 10 girls and a boy, were sent to families in the U.S. through the Catholic agency. The Committee already has arranged for placement of approximately 5,000 orphans of various nationalities. More than 300 of this number have come from Korea and Hong Kong.

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Lithuania

Reds Shackle Clergy Work

Berlin — (NC) — Priests in Lithuania are now under a surveillance by the Red regime's Commissar of Cult that extends even to visits to neighboring parishes, according to reports reaching here.

This harassment is intended to destroy the Church's administration and replace it with a leadership independent of the Holy See and completely under the thumb of the communist commissar, Eugenijus Rugienius, reports said.

At the top level, Rugienius recently forced Bishop Juliionas Steponavicius from his post as Apostolic Administrator of the Panevezys diocese. When the Holy See appointed Canon Povilas Sidlauskas as his successor, Rugienius forbade him to accept the position and deported him to the town of Markine.

THE COMMISSAR has also rejected parish appointments made by the legal Church administration and made his own appointments, choosing priests he believed sympathetic to the Red regime. However, he has been rebuffed in this, as his appointees have refused to take the new posts. The effect, however, is to leave a number of parishes without resident priests.

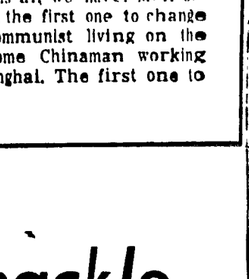
Rugienius has decreed that a priest must get a permit from his office if he wants to go to another parish to officiate at a religious service. These permits are usually granted only to one priest in a parish.

Such a restriction is aimed at pilgrimages and festivals, such as those held annually in Zemaicia Kalvarija and Siluva. Last year only four priests got permits to join the pilgrims at Siluva. To keep the people away, the Red authorities at first refused them transportation. When many came on foot, they were subjected to personal searches and checks of documents. The regime claimed this was necessary to stop speculators.

THE REGIME has also made it unpleasant for parishioners who visit priests publicly or receive them at their homes. The priests themselves are reluctant now to visit parishioners for fear of endangering them.

Use of boys as Mass servers has been forbidden and in some places priests have been sentenced for "luring children and teaching them superstition."

But the Commissar of Cult is not achieving results at the rate the Red regime expects. Lithuanian anti-religious propagandists, while asserting that Mass attendance has dropped 50 per cent in recent years, have complained that Church christenings and funerals have declined only 10 to 15 per cent. "Religious cobwebs are difficult to tear," a communist publication admits.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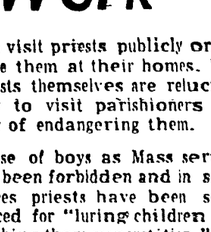
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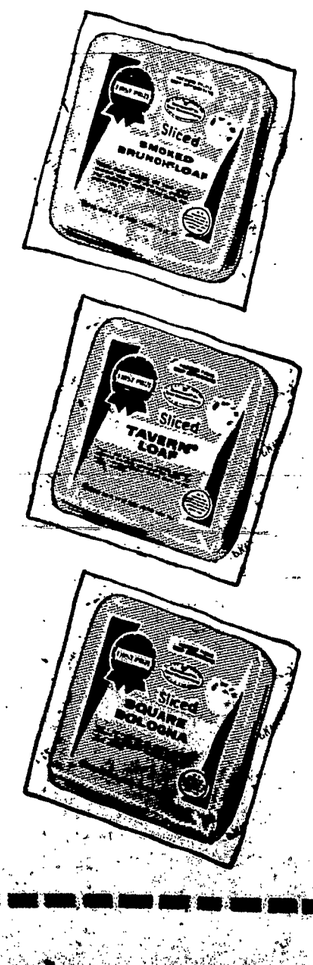

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