

# Faith Survives In Yugoslavia

By BARBARA STIGLMAYR

Zagreb—(NC)—The Catholic Church in Yugoslavia, having resisted the pressures on it by a state-supported program of atheism, is undergoing a renewal of vitality unmatched in most other communist nations.

Even a brief trip through the cities and towns of Catholic Croatia provides ample evidence of the vigor in the Church, a new confidence arising from the knowledge that atheist propaganda has grown flaccid and unsure of itself.

In the Zagreb cathedral, flowers are placed every day at the tomb of Alojzije Cardinal Stepinac, the indomitable enemy of communism who was imprisoned in 1946 and later died in exile from his See. People pray at the tomb, the priests, standing in a circle, chant their Office.

The Yugoslav hierarchy may not be as vocal in protesting against government encroachment on religion as are the bishops of Poland, yet the protests are being made, and they are being listened to. Franjo Cardinal Soper of Zagreb has several times complained to communist authorities of injustices to the Church, and he has instructed priests to make their grievances known to local officials. The cardinal's voice is respected, even feared, within the Tito regime.

One result of the new freedom of Catholics here has been the success of Church publications. Perhaps in no other communist country are Catholics so well-informed of what is happening in the Church elsewhere in the world. The bi-weekly magazine Glas Koncila (Voice of the Council) tells its 110,000 subscribers of Church news in all Western nations. Books, films and radio programs give coverage to religious events.

Besides this, Catholics pick up information from workers returning from stints of employment in Austria, West Germany and France. An estimated 200,000 Yugoslavs are working temporarily in the West at the present time.

Unfortunately, some of the returning workers bring bad reports, too—stories of discrimination against Yugoslav workers, of the high standards of living and low standards of America and her people," he

faith they have found outside the borders.

Despite the vitality of Catholicism here, Yugoslavia is still a communist nation, and its official policy is still directed against the Church. Catholic education continues to operate under severe restrictions. Building materials and land are not made available for church construction.

Catholics get around these handicaps by simply ignoring them. One example of this can be seen in the small town of Zdenca, about 30 minutes drive from Zagreb, where a newly ordained priest was sent to found a parish five years ago for the 800 families of railroad workers. The priest's church was an old stable without doors or windows. He had no money, and none was promised to him.

Today the parish of Zdenca has 1,500 regular churchgoers. The stable has been converted into a usable church where two Masses are offered every Sunday and once each day during the week. The priest gives religion lessons to 130 children each week. He and his church are supported entirely by the parishioners.



## Four Texts for Japanese Sermon

Tokyo—(RNS)—Columban Father Thomas Dowd of West Roxbury, Mass. (right), writes a Japanese sermon with the aid of his teacher, Mr. Watanabe. Composing a Japanese sermon is not a "run-of-the-mill" job, the priest says. "It takes four writings to get the sermon together," he explains. "I write it first in English, then into rough Japanese. I dictate it to my teacher. He puts it into good Japanese style in Japanese characters. Then I write the final version in alphabetic Japanese—and hope the people will understand it on Sunday morning!"

# Jubilee Indulgences Listed

Vatican City—(NC)—The Holy See has clarified the conditions for gaining the plenary indulgences of the post-council jubilee that began on Jan. 1.

A statement issued (Jan. 5) by the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary—the Vatican body in charge of matter pertaining to indulgences—said a number of bishops had asked for a clarification regarding the times when plenary indulgences may be gained. The statement, signed by the Major Penitentiary, Fernando Cardinal Cento, gives a complete list "at the explicit order" of Pope Paul VI.

FOLLOWING is a translation of the Latin decree:

In answer to questions and doubts expressed by several bishops regarding indulgences during the extraordinary jubilee granted by the apostolic constitution, Mirificus Eventus, the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary in order to dispel any uncertainty regarding the constitution's interpretation declares at the explicit order of His Holiness Paul VI, by Divine Providence pope that a plenary indulgence can be obtained by the faithful who fulfill the (usual) conditions of confession, Communion and prayer for the intentions of the supreme pontiff:

—Each time they attend at least three instructions on the decrees of the Second Vatican Ecumenical Council in any church or other suitable place.

## Eastern Rite Exhibit Held

Washington—(NC)—"After Nine Hundred Years" is the theme of an exhibition of Eastern Christian artistic and liturgical items to be held in the library of the Catholic University of America from Jan. 17 through 28.

The free exhibit, held in conjunction with the observance of the Church Unity Octave, will commemorate specifically the mutual withdrawals last month of the excommunications of 1054.

Among the 100 or more items scheduled for display are icons, liturgical vestments and vessels, the ornamented mitre of Patriarch Athenagoras of Constantinople, and delicate porcelain Easter eggs once belonging to the late Tatiana Alexandra of Russia and her daughter, the Grand Duchess Anastasia.

2—Each time they devoutly participate in at least three public assemblies during the preaching of sacred missions in any church.

3—Each time they devoutly attend Mass celebrated with some solemnity by a bishop in a cathedral or in another church designated by the Ordinary in accordance with the decree of the Sacred Apostolic Penitentiary of Dec. 22, 1965.

4—On one occasion only during the period of the extraordinary jubilee by visiting with piety the cathedral church or another church designated by the Ordinary as above, provided they renew the profession of faith, using any legitimate formula.

5—If they receive with devotion the papal blessing to be given once only on the occasion of the principal jubilee celebration by the local bishop, his coadjutor or auxiliary or any other bishop duly delegated.

It is fitting that the local Ordinary, if he should wish to designate one or more other churches besides the cathedral for gaining jubilee indulgences, choose principal churches of the diocese, such as for instance the main church of a deanery or a noted sanctuary.

It is especially fitting, above all, that instructions on the decrees of the ecumenical Council, though laudably scheduled for parish churches or other localities, conclude with a pilgrimage to the cathedral church or other churches designated by the local Ordinary as explained above. When possible these pilgrimages should be planned on a group basis, either by area or organization.

All confessors by virtue of Canon 935 of the Code of Canon Law can commute the conditions imposed for gaining Jubilee indulgences as regards the pious practices listed above in favor of those of the faithful who are legitimately impeded from carrying them out.

## Concordat With Spain Contrary to Council Laws

Madrid—(NC)—The Spanish ambassador to the Holy See has suggested that the 1983 concordat between Spain and the Holy See may have to be "renegotiated" because of "variances" between it and the decrees of the Second Vatican Council.

Ambassador Antonio Garrigues said, however, that the treaty remains in effect because "concordats now in force could not unilaterally be discontinued but continue to maintain full validity and force."

The 1983 concordat recognized Catholicism as the only religion of the state and declared that teaching in all schools must be in conformity with Catholicism at all points. It bound the Spanish government to provide financial support for the Catholic Church and clergy, and granted the chief of state the right to nominate all archbishops and bishops.

Garrigues, a famous law professor and jurist who was former ambassador to the United States, spoke out in an interview with the Madrid monarchist daily, ABC. He said his statements were personal, and that he was speaking only as

a "close observer of the council."

The Church through the Council has shown, he said, that it discriminates against no one, but rather bears in mind the good of all and at the same time the good of each of its branches.

"Each national Church must submerge its own problems into this common principle if it wishes to be truly Catholic, in addition to being national," he said.

## 'Index' Future Now in Doubt

Vatican City—(NC)—The Index of Forbidden Books as it now stands may become "simply a historical document," an official of the recently re-named Doctrinal Congregation has asserted.

The official said that in giving a new shape and name to the former Congregation of the Holy Office, Pope Paul VI abolished the office of the censor of books. However, he did specify that the reorganized congregation would still examine books and if necessary disapprove of them formally.

# JFK, Peace Corps Boost U. S. Image

Wichita—(NC)—The late President John F. Kennedy and the Peace Corps have been major factors in increasing American popularity in Venezuela, one of the Wichita diocese's first missionary priests to that country said here.

Father Joseph Bergkamp, assigned to Venezuela two years ago with two other Wichita priests, said: "We were told when we arrived that we were very fortunate to have come after the administration of President John F. Kennedy.

"His image, his magnetism, that indefinable quality of his made the people love him, America."

Harold McCormick, and Father Colin J. Boor run Christ the King (Christ the King) parish in Barquisimeto.

"There are 26 sites at which we offer Holy Mass," Father Bergkamp said. "However, 10 of these sites don't have chapels, and all except one of the chapels now standing need repair.

"Most of the churches have only an altar. There are no stations of the cross, no statues, no benches. The people of Christ the King do not even know what a pew is."

Poverty is widespread, he

said. Prices are high and wages are low, about two or three dollars a day. He said 70 percent of the people live in one-room, cement and tin houses.

But the people "are eager to help themselves, willing to improve the poverty-stricken situation in which they find themselves."

Serves Lunch. Lisbon—(NC)—Manuel Cardinal Goncalves Cerejeira observed his 37th Christmas as patriarch of Lisbon by personally serving luncheon to all members of his staff and two specially invited poor men.

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Bishop Kear and preach at cation for the Sacred Heart O Jan. 16 at 4:30

Auxiliary Bishop Casey, Cathedral celebrant of the

Other clergy include: Monsignor J. K. Casey; V. George Cocuzzi; Sheehan, C.S. honor; Rev. J. master of cere

Monsignor W. will be assistant op Casey; Rev. J. will be deacon J. McCarthy, Gerard Appell, ter of ceremon

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