

# Catholic Writers in Spain Prosecuted

**Courier News Summary**  
Madrid — Exercising their new "freedom of expression" has meant trouble in at least 10 cases recently for Catholic publishers and writers in Spain.

Two book-editions have been confiscated by police, two writers have been sentenced to jail terms, two editors are being indicted and two more have been fined. In addition, two priests are being prosecuted for their preaching.

In addition, publications of the Falange, Spain's only legal political party, are attacking Catholic-oriented publications.

The reason most often given by government spokesmen for this obvious crackdown is disrespect of the government, or the abuse of "freedom of expression" laws.

In Barcelona, police confiscated the full edition of the book "The Role and Life of the Layman," published by Editorial Franciscana as part of a series on religious and social issues. Indications are that the chapter on "Public Opinion within the Church," by the well-known writer, Pedro Altaras, was considered "offensive" by authorities.

The second book confiscation occurred in Madrid and involved a book on trade unions called "Sindicalismo," published by the Jesuits and written by a Catholic labor leader, Javier Dominguez, and two moderators of the Catholic Vanguard Workers, Fathers A. Martin Sanchez, S.J., and Jaime Castineras, S.J. The books at one point dealt with the right to strike and strike techniques.

Both works had the approval of Church authorities. The publishers had also complied with government regulations regarding the filing of copies prior to publication date.

### Heavy Fine for Priest

A heavy fine has been imposed on Father Mauro Maria Boix, O.S.B., editor of the magazine Serra D'Or (Golden Range) at the Benedictine monastery of Monserrat, for publishing an article last June by Basque separatist Sergio Villar. The article dealing with the Basque movement, was branded by authorities as "an assault against national unity... inciting to public disorder."

In Madrid, the Court of Public Order (for political crimes) fined the junior editor of the bulletin of the Catholic Action Workers Brotherhoods, (HOAC), Cayetano Hernandez, \$143. He had also been sentenced to four months in jail for questioning last summer the legality of reforms to the civil code.

The conviction of another writer, Alfonso Carlos Comin for his opinions on social and political conditions in Spain published by the French Catholic magazine, Temoignage Chretien, early last year is the second instance of jailings. He was given one year and four months for his article entitled "After the Referendum, Repression," in which he criticized what he considered basic failings of the Spanish government on economic and social policies, and denounced a wave of arrests.

(French and Spanish Catholics, including members of the Spanish hierarchy, showed special interest in the trial of

Comin. Bishop Emilio Benavent, Escuin of Malaga and Dom Casiano Just, O.S.B., abbot of the famous Abbey of Montserrat, were among prominent churchmen who intervened with the court in favor of Mr. Comin.)

### Priests Indicted

Prosecutors at Barcelona have indicted Fathers Juan Rufes and Agustin Duras, pastors at San Lorenzo and San Cristobal parishes there, for reading at Masses on Christmas eve a Catholic workers' statement on arrests and police brutality.

Reports from that city say the local authorities are seeking permission from Archbishop Marcelo Gonzalez Martin of Barcelona to bring the priests to civil trial.

Further indication of the tense situation can be seen in recent editorial policies of Arriba, a Madrid daily that speaks for the Falange. The daily has singled out for criticism three Catholic dailies, Madrid, El Alcazar, and Nuevo Diario. All apostolic association of priests are published by Opus Dei, an and laymen.

Arriba charged that Opus Dei members try to hold on to "attractive" positions of opposition to the government "while simultaneously they share in a cryptic participation in the government."

Arriba then said that "these dailies must remove their mask and show their true political identity." It claimed that Opus Dei members are leftists and

pro-Europe, and "brand" others as reactionaries and ultra-rightists, when not as outright nazis." Opus Dei leaders have, however, stated that their movement intends only to facilitate the spiritual orientation and the Christian performance of its members' temporal duties and that it abstains from all political involvement and leaves them full freedom of choice.

Against this background a new government action is causing widespread concern among those responsible for communications media. The Franco government has sent to the Cortes (parliament) a bill proposing a "law on official secrecy," banning access by newsmen to governmental documents and moves broadly classified as "secret."

The Catholic daily Ya has editorially charged that the bill is an attack on the "right of the public to be informed, and the duty of the newsmen to inform the public." Ya added that it was speaking not so much for professional reasons but rather "in defense of the citizen and his right to open information."

Two years ago the government lifted regulations calling for copy to be submitted to censors prior to publication. These regulations had been in force for 25 years. However, during the past two years periodicals and other publications have faced a growing number of restrictions and harsher punitive action, particularly after reforms in the Civil Code introduced more grounds and stiffer penalties for "press crimes."



## "Thank You for the Jolt!"

People often ask me, "What sort of reaction do you get from your advertising?" "Are you getting your point across?" These are difficult questions to answer, for our success cannot be measured only in dollars and cents. It is your reaction — and action that is our aim. The following letter sent to one of our Diocesan Directors is a good example of what I mean:

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Why is a letter like this a laurel wreath on our efforts? Because it confirms that the words, "SALVATION AND SERVICE," are not just a slogan. They belong to you — all of you — the Church! There must be a conscious "why" behind every human act. The missionary in the field can tell you why he is there. His very presence is a sign to the people among whom he works. But for every missionary in the field there are anywhere from one to several hundred "missionaries" at home for whom he is the sign of their service to their fellow man.

We are as repelled by pictures of destitution and poverty as you are. We show them to awaken the slumbering affluent of this land to the condition of their brothers, the other two-thirds of the world. Because they are "under-privileged" does not mean that God has failed them — it means that we have failed to be co-missionaries with Christ, for it is only through us that the mission of Christ on earth can be completed.

The spirit of this letter is the spirit in which so many older people send us sacrifices from their pension checks; so many children give carnivals to raise money for the poor; so many ordinary everyday people deny themselves little unnecessary luxuries to buy the necessities of life for their brothers in mission lands. Join them — your action speaks louder than our words.

SALVATION and SERVICE are the work of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Please cut out this column and send your offering to Right Reverend Edward T. O'Meara, National Director, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York, N.Y. 10001, or directly to your local Diocesan Director.

Rt. Rev. Msgr. John F. Duffy  
50 Chestnut St.  
Rochester, New York 14604

### Rutgers to Host '68 Newman Meet

Newark, N.J. — (NC) — The 1968 national Newman congress will be held at the Douglass campus of Rutgers University in New Brunswick, N.J. It was announced here by the office of the state province chaplain.

Father William J. Daly, chaplain for the New Jersey province, said the convention is scheduled for Aug. 26-30. Its theme will be "Search for a Christian Identity."

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### Beatles' Spiritual Guide

New York — (RNS) — Maharishi Mahesh Yogi, an Indian guru — or religious teacher recently addressed a capacity audience of about 3,600 at the new Madison Square Garden's Forum in New York. The prominent holy man of the Hindu religion advocates the practice of "transcendental meditation" in everyday life to bring about world peace. His disciples include the Beatles, British musical group.

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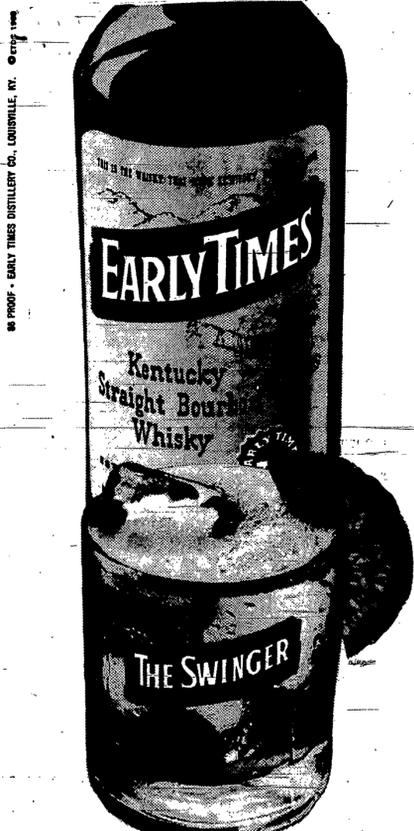
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THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID TO THE ORIENTAL CHURCH

This column's happiest readers are the men, women and children who know they're needed. The days we're busiest helping others are the happiest days of our lives. . . Who needs you most? Surprisingly, God needs you — for instance, to help an abandoned orphan become a God-loving, responsible adult. Lepers need you (there are still 15-million lepers in the world), blind children need you, and so do we. . . Here in New York we are your agents, telling you where the Holy Father says your help is needed, and channeling your help promptly and safely to the people in need. . . Want to feel good right now? Do without something you want but do not need, and send the money instead for one of the needs below. You'll feel good, especially if your gift is big enough to mean a sacrifice to you. This is your chance to do something meaningful for the world — it's God's world — while you're still alive.

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Becket Hall:  
Recently, it seems that a great emphasis has been placed upon the apostolate of the poor in the inner city. Many priests, nuns and interested laymen are spending a good deal of their efforts on the problem of the "inner city". However, is it not true that there is an apostolate to the "outer city"?  
Dear Nancy:  
It is true that "inner-city" work has been emphasized to a greater extent in the past few years than ever before. This is as it should be, for there is much that must be done to instill the Spirit of God into people's lives there. While work among the poor in any area has always been the concern of the Church, it seems that the point of focus, at present, has to be the inner city, due to the problem of the slums.  
Generally speaking, the inner city parishes cannot raise either the money or the manpower to meet all their needs. The individual parish in the inner city does not have the number of dedicated workers necessary at homes of the people in the

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