He Engages in Theological, Social Debate with Captor

This is the third in a series of excerpts from the book "Christ in Communist Prisons" by the Rev. Richard Wurmbrand.

My arrest, in the widespread roundups that were going on at this time, could have been considered an answer to my prayer, but never could I have imagined that the first man to join me in my cell would be Comrade Patrascamu himself.

When the door of my room in Calea Rahova opened, a few days after my arrival, to admit the tall, hawk-eyed Minister of Justice, I supposed at first that he had come in person to question me.
Why was I so honored? Then the door was locked behind him; stranger still, his shirt was open at the neck and he wore no tie. I looked down at his highly polished shoes-no laaces; the second prisoner in my brand-new cell was the man who had brought communism to power in our country.

I tried to show Patrascanu the true source of his convictions, "You're like Marx and Lenin," I said, "whose ideas and actions were also the outcome of early suffering. Marx felt genius within him, but as a Jew in Germany with anti-semitism -ram pant, he could fim no outlet for it except as a revolutionary. Lenin's brother was hanged for an attempt on the emperor's life — rage and frustration made him want to overturn the establishment. It's been much the same with you."

Patrascanu disnaissed the idea. His nerves found an outlet im argument with me and in tirades against the wickedness of the church. The evil days of the Borgia Popes, the Spanish Inquisition, the savagery of the Crusades, Galileo's persecution, were all surveyed.

It was said now in Rumania that life consisted of the four "autos": the autocriticism that had to be recorded regularly in office and factory, the automobile

> The family of Fat her wash to express our very deep

gratitude to the clergy, religious and laity for their kindness

to our brother at the time of his death and for their participation in his requiem.

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that took you to the Secret was worn down by a variety Police, the autobiography they made you write, and your autopsy.

Knowing that torture lay ahead, I resolved to kill myself rather than betray others. I felt no moral scruples: for a Christian to die means to go to Christ. I would explain, and He would surely understand. If St. Ursula had been canonized for killing herself rather than lose her virginity to the barbarians who sacked her monastery, then my duty to protect my friends was also more important than life.

"But it's the crimes and errors of the Church that give us so much more to admire

Patrascanu was startled. 'What do you mean?''

I said, "A hospital may stink of pus and blood; in that lies its beauty, for it receives the sick with their festering sores and possible diseases. The Church is Christ's own hospital. Millions of patients are treated in it, with love. The Church accepts sinners; they continue to sin, and the Church is blamed for their transgressions. On the other hand, the church seems to me like a mother who stands by her children even when they commit crimes. The politics and prejudices of its servants are distortions of what comes from God - that is, the Bible and its teachings, worship and the sacraments. Whatever its faults, the Church contains much that is sublime."

without my being troubled. The Communists reverse normal police methods, which rely on the shock of arrest to make a prisoner talk. They prefer to let him "ripen." The interrogator never says what he wants; he merely Park, died Wednesday, May 8 circles around his prey, creating anxiety and guilt. While the man is racking his brains for the reason of his arrest. tension is built up by other tricks: a constantly postponed trial, the tape-recorded sound of a firing screams from in 1967. other prisoners. He begins to make false judgments. One slip leads to another, until exhaustion forces him to acknowledge his guilt. The interrogator becomes sympathetic. He offers hope and an end to suffering, if the prisoner will admit that he deserves pun-

ishment and tell all. So Appel

the first of my innumerable interrogations began.

returned in a few days, and

Again several days passed

So interrogation continued, month after month. You had to be convinced of your criminal past before Communist ideals could be implanted, and they took root only when you had succumbed to the belief that you were entirely, endlessly, in the party's power and had surrendered every fragment of your life.

Dulgheru's questions were persistent. He thought he had scented something important. In the weeks that followed I

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of means. The beds were removed from the cell and I had barely an hour's sleep a night, balanced on a chair. Twice every minute the spy hole in the door gave a metallic click, and the eye of a guard appeared. Often when I dozed he came in and kicked me awake. In the end I lost all sense of time. Once I awoke to see the cell door ajar. Soft music crept along the corridor: or was it an illusion? Then the sound grew dis-

Vietnam Victim

near Saigon, South Vietnam.

the nickname of "Butch."

Priest Shortage

of Prayer for Vocations.

ley Park, Md.

lived at 206 Colebourne Rd., ulty came to know her.

torted and became a woman's into silence. I was left tremvoice, sobbing. She began to scream. It was my wife! "Please don't beat me. I

can't bear it.

There was the sound of a Every muscle in my body was taut with horror. Slowly the voice began to die away, whip on flesh. The screams rose to an appalling pitch. with venom, "that I can order moaning; but now it was the your execution now, tonight,

bling, sweat-drenched, drained of feeling. Later I learned that the screams had' come from a tape recorder, but every prisoner who heard it believed the victim to be his wife or sweeth eart.

"Do you know," he said voice of a stranger. It faded as a counter-revolutionary?'

Mercy's "Aunt Molly Gave Sweet Advice

heroine, Hetty Pepper, in the in a momentary turbulent short story "The Third Ingredi storm. ent," refers to her as a "shoulder." He explains that people | Faculty members passing her intellectual advice are a physical are a "hand"; those fort are a "shourlder."

in life as "Aunt Molly," was a shoulder." Whatever the doc How does that little crippled with may have said in diagnos, girl get up the stairs? Can she ing the cause of her death, the use the convent elevator?" truth is, she died from "heart trouble"; a heart enlarged from

Lt. Donald Mattaro For more than a dozen years, her? the students, faculty and school staff of Mercy High School rest-Aunt Molly's "shoulder," from into more activities?" time to time. From the day she A former Rochesterian, 1st first stood smiling, behind the Lt. Donald Mattaro Jr., has been killed in action in fighting

rondequoit, and at 520 Central It was somehow fitting that while? Lt. Mattaro, 23, was a graduate of St. John's Military Academy in Washington and of Virginia Military Institute.

Aunt Mony snourd have been Aunt Mony wasn't officially in the guidance department, but she was an important member in her own right. And she brought a unique background brought a unique background a loving Christian.

He was assigned to Vietnam he attended School 52 and had work even and descrivingly slow. to her directly. Sometimes she His parents now live in Lang-ling hair, and beatific smile be-they chatted to each other in reveal. She was probably in simply by looking at a girl's her 70's, but anyone descend face. ing the stairs from the side front door of the school, to her "world of candy," would have Still Big Problem undoubtedly estimated her 2

In addition to giving out Facing the Church candy, (and she knew all the favorites) Aunt Molly also gave Vatican City — (NC) — The Catholic Church's priest shortage remains one of the major problems facing the Church, four missing the Church, four missing the church for missing cardinals told a Roman press misunderstanding. Aun't Molly conference (April 26) on the eve of the annual World Day problems: a real family crises -perhaps excessive drimking or

a financial burden; an unnerv-The unusual press conference ing personality clash between was given by Gabriel Garrone, a student and a teacher; a vision prefect of the Congregation for clouded because of wavering Catholic Education; Gregorio faith, a demanding bosyfriend, Cardinal Agaganian, prefect of or social failure. the Congregation for the Evan-

gelization of Peoples; Ilde-Though seemingly unchangbrando Cardinal Antoniutti, pre- ing herself, change was a cause feet of the Congregation for of great concern to Aunty Religious and Secular Institutes. Molly: especially that which and Maxmilian Cardinal de Fur-steinberg, prefect of the Con-vet often insecure with who gregation for Oriental Churches passed in front of her counter yet often insecure, girls who Cardinal Agagianian, speak each day.

ing of the missionary picture. said "statistics show that the President Kennedy's death number of missionary priests cast a great pall over the spirit does not exceed 30,000. They of the school. No one worked must care for more than 50 harder to bring renewed faith million new Catholies in mission and substitute to the lands, to say nothing of attempted students than Aurat Molly. ing to bring the Gospel to an In January 1966, when the 45 other two billion non-Chris-sisters on the faculty walked into the classroom wearing for Cardinal Agagianian explained the first time a modernized habit, the event had a strange effect upon the girls. All of their spiritual attractiveness them stared. Some giggled, "has been obscured by the style some talked in hushed whispers

of life of our times. The young in corners, and several, notica-

listen less to the call of Christ bly shaken, paced up and down

an atmosphere of materialism

and naturalism which dimin-

Get it off your chest. Write

Letter to the Editor, Remem-

oer to keep your letters clear

ind concise and limit them to

Prince

Egg Noodles

is Prince

Spaghetti.

that leaves

oodles of time for

noodl**es.**

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ishes their native generosity.

to pastoral service, caught up in in front of the candy counter. Forgetting her own, some-

O. Henry, in describing his Molly became a stable anchor

are helped by three kinds of counter during the day would friends; those who give sound be summoned with a whispered 'head"; those who do something "Psst," a beckoming finger, and in outstretched closed palm on who listen to problems and compressed a "secret" pack of chewing gum into the sister's Like O. Henry's heroirne, Mary hand, she would inquire anx-A. Birmingham, better known wisly about her latest worry

"I'm terribly worried about

that freshman with the disfigured face; are the girls nice to "That group of colored girls

ed their collective "head" on are so polite; can you get them "You know, Miss Burkett

school candy counter in the fall doesn't want me to sell candy to of 1955, until her death in the girls during the day—just Lt. Mattaro, who formerly young girls and a changing factory of the solution o think it's all right once in a

> from one's earliest childhood to her role a loving Christian heart, years of happy marriage She stood only a little more and an informal attractive ofthan five feet, was plump, fice. Sometimes the girls talked yet sure and dexterous manner, warded off tragedy because of her smooth skin, slightly grey what she heard indirectly as lied any guessing of her age—a front of her post. And somefact she steadfastly refused to times she sensed a problem

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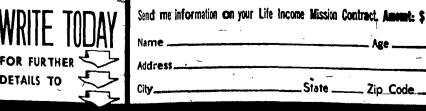
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Challenges Facing Church

St. Louis —(RNS)— A new priests, religious and laity; ciation composed of 107 Roman Catholic clergy, religious and laity, calling itself the National Committee of the Catholic Clergy (Catholic clergy) (Catholic Committee on Catholic Con-accountability"; erns, ended a three-day meet An open, autonomous ng here by adopting a 14-page press: consensus paper on the prob-

and desirous of living the Gos-

"You fool, Georgescu," he to mold public opinion. said. "Can't you see that you're completely at my mercy and that your Saviour, or whatever you call him, isn't going to open any prison

I said, "Colonel, here you have the opportunity for an

experiment. You say you can

can. So put your hand here

on my heart. If it beats rap-

idly, showing that I am afraid,

then know there is no God

and no eternal life. But if it

beats calmly, as if to say, "I

go to the One I love,' then

you must think again. There

is a God, and an eternal life."

Dulgheru struck me across

the face, and immediately re-

gretted his loss of self-control.

out replying.

leaving.

zaru told the guard before

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have me shot. I know you

On his nightly round of inspection, he flicked the spy hole cover back to watch me for a moment. "Still there, Georgescu? What's Jesus do-I said, "He's praying for you?" He walked away with-

The next day he was back again. Under his supervision, I was made to stand facing a wall with my hands raised above my head so that my fingertips just touched it.

consensus report were:

ierarchial body;

lections in organizations of students.

lems of the American Church. • That the forms of liturgy Among the Church's assets grow out of smaller groupings. The paper listed a large and rel"Although more priests may be atively active membership, "in needed, the need could be creasingly educated, creative filled with married clergy"; pel"; a high degree of organizaion, "in some degree favorably come accessible. "In the name influenced by the heritage of of justice, procedures should be

demoncracy, idealism, plural-established to ensure due procism and pragmatism"; material ess within the Church"; wealth and wealth of power

ber of reform-minded Catholics by the Gospel, resting on a bewho may be able to energize lief, not in authority, but in the Church in its capacity to Christ." criticize itself and society to many and varied types of be done, the paper said, the

The document said the Amer-tion. can Church needs some type

of organism which will contain built-in principles of self- evalulation and self-correction if we are to meet the problems which exist today." "Just keep him there," Brin-

from the bishops to the commu-more than \$51,000 a year to nity of the faithful;

natural to the community would

• Teaching and sanctifying

need new, contemporary forms. "There is an increasing num "The goals should be fashioned

Although there is much to Church reform, the paper said through continuing education of Despite all its strengths and all the people in the Church, assets, the paper said, the through a more effective em-American Church is "beset with ployment of priests and reliproblems . . . is turned inward, gious free to experiment in life more concerned with form than style, through the involvement with realities." It also pointed of retired people with special out several other "problems." skills and the increased use of

Other points urged in the

• Encouragement of personal to teach in the public schools nitiative arising outside of the beginning in September.

Nuns to Teach

Wabasha, Minn. — (RNS) — Three Roman Catholic nuns, teachers in parochial schools here which will be closed next fall, have been given contracts

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Bourke's work cover the

ings of many thinkers schools which have for been passed over in si Divided into five chronol sections, the treatment objective without attempt evaluate it in the terms author's own Roman Ca Paid Servant by E. R. waite (\$4.95; McGraw) T

mer teach of "To Sir ment of Child Welfare Again, he tells his story no literary pretensions bu consummate human intere

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collection of the spoken Good Viewin

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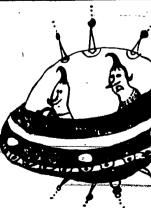
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