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'Christ in Communist Prisons'

Tortures Begin... First Physical, Then Mental

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So, at last, my tortures began, tortures common to all Secret Police prisons: a dreary round of indignities and pain. First I stood for hours, long after my arms had lost all feeling and my swollen legs had begun to tremble. Then I was allowed to collapse on the floor, given a crust and a sip of water, and made to stand again. One guard relieved another. Sometimes two or three would share the sport of forcing me to adopt ridiculous or obscene postures and this went on, with short breaks, for days and nights. Always there was the wall to look at, only the wall.

I began to pray for the guards. I thought again of the Song of Songs that tells us of the holy dance of the Bride of Christ in honor of her bridegroom. I said to myself, "I will move with as much grace as if this were a dance of divine love for Jesus." For a while it seemed to me that I did. If a man wills to do everything that he has to do, then he does only the things that he wills—and the hardest trials, being voluntary, become easier. And, as I circle the cell, it seemed as if everything revolved around me. I could no longer distinguish one wall from another, or a wall from the door—just as in divine love one does not distinguish between good and evil men and can embrace everyone.

my head and I was forced to squat with my arms around my knees. A metal bar was thrust between elbows and knees and set between trestles, so that I swung head down, feet in the air. They held my head while someone flogged the bare soles of my feet. Each blow sent an explosion of agony through my whole body. Some fell on my thighs and the base of my spine. Several times I fainted, only to be revived by buckets of icy water. After each drenching a voice would say that if I gave just one of the names they wanted, names of secret enemies of the state, the torture would stop. When at last they took me down from the spit, I had to be carried to my cell, my feet a mass of dark red pulp.

Sometimes they were not removed until my return to my cell to increase the terror of the beating. When you see a blow coming, you tense yourself to receive it. But blinded, not knowing when or where it will fall, you shrink into yourself in fear.

Usually four or five men used boots and clubs on me at once, while I rolled in torment on the floor. With the blindfold off, I saw Brinzaru hand over to a guard what he called "my latest acquisition from your American friends," a nylon whip. It came whistling through the air, lacerating the flesh. Three strokes and I lost consciousness. Once a knife was held to my throat. "Talk," said Brinzaru. "Talk, or you'll die." The two men holding me down tightened their grip. I saw the blade rise and fall several times and fainted. I awoke with my chest covered with blood.

I do not know how many days and nights I spent in the 'manege.' As I moved,

I was taken to a nearby cell. A hood was pulled over

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Signs of the Times. A thousand parochial school children demonstrated quietly on the grounds of the legislative buildings at Winnipeg, Man. They carried signs calling on Manitoba's legislators to provide aid to church-related schools. The demonstration called on the Canadian province to provide aid to such schools, as now provided by the country's other provinces under the North American Act. Manitoba withdrew support to private schools in 1987, but distributes textbooks and provides transportation to private school students under legislations passed in 1964. (Religious News Service)

End to Chaplaincy Urged. Miami (NC)—The American Jewish Congress has called for an end to the present military chaplaincy system. It suggested a system in which civilian chaplains would be paid by their respective churches. Some 500 delegates to the organization's national convention here unanimously approved the resolution. It calls on the National Council of Churches, the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, and the Synagogue Council of America to ask the administration for "an orderly termination" of the present chaplaincy system.

Priest Heads Merged Colleges. Louisville, Ky. (NC)—Msgr. Alfred F. Horrigan has been appointed president of Bellarmine-Ursuline College which will come into existence June 1. The merger of Bellarmine College, a Louisville archdiocesan institution, and Ursuline, conducted by the Ursuline nuns, was effected last February. Msgr. Horrigan was president of Bellarmine during its 18 years.

Deaths. Muriel Thomas. Miss Muriel Thomas, a nurse and teacher of nurses for 50 years, died May 11 at St. Ann's Home. The requiem Mass was celebrated there May 14 by Father Leo Lynch. Miss Thomas, a member of the first class graduated by the former Rochester General Hospital nursing school, served in France for two years during World War I with the Army Nurse Corps. Later, she earned a Doctor of Philosophy degree at Columbia University. She taught at St. Mary's College, Indiana; Adelphi College, Long Island, and various hospitals. She retired four years ago. Owner of a bell collection valued at \$10,000 Miss Thomas frequently lectured on this hobby. She was a native of Ithaca.

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Fleeing 'Evil' Mennonites Go To Bolivia. Mexico City (RNS)—More than 2,000 Mennonites have decided to abandon their colony near Cuauhtemoc in northern Mexico and emigrate to Bolivia to "escape civilization and all its evils." A spokesman said the group consisted of 200 families numbering about 10 to 14 members each. He said the Mexican government had insisted that Mennonites, like all others, perform military service, despite an old treaty to the contrary signed by Mennonite elders and the government. Last year more than 100 Canadian Mennonites left for Bolivia to seek "greater fulfillment" of their customs and traditions. Mennonites in Mexico number about 25,000. The majority of them are citizens of Canada, Germany, Holland and the United States. They speak an ancient German dialect mixed with Dutch. The sect bars education of children beyond the elementary school level. Its members travel in covered wagons. They refuse to drive cars or tractors, listen to the radio or watch television.

Archbishop Casey Elected by Alumni. Chicago (RNS)—Alumni of the North American College in Rome have elected Archbishop James V. Casey of Denver as their president. More than 500 priests, including three cardinals and many archbishops and bishops, attended the three-day annual meeting here. Other officers elected were: Msgr. George Evans of Denver, vice president; Father George M. Spehar of Leadville, Colo., vicepresident; Msgr. Michael O. Driscoll of Jacksonville, Ill., secretary; and Father James P. Burke of Mount Vernon, Ill., treasurer. New Acting Dean. Washington (NC)—Roland J. B. Goddu, director of the master of arts in teaching program at Trinity College here, has been named acting dean of the School of Education of the Catholic University of America.

Part of Florence. Florence, Italy—One of the world's most treasured cities is Florence, steeped in the history of Europe and the repository of some of its greatest treasures. Although the city was hit by a disastrous flood, special efforts are being made.

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WEEKLY CROSSWORD. ACROSS: 1. Prophet, 2. Observes, 3. Girl's name, 4. Fortions, 5. Secret, 6. Disease, 7. Seed, 8. Vessel, 9. Man's nickname, 10. Hebrew letter, 11. Canvas shoe, 12. Resort, 13. Underworld god, 14. Dairy product, 15. Reviews, 16. American inventor, 17. Flow, 18. Contend, 19. Theatrefares, 20. Man's nickname, 21. Hasten, 22. Surface cloth, 23. Male singing voice, 24. Girl's nickname, 25. Marsh bird, 26. French river, 27. Driven obliquely (of a mail), 28. Venture. DOWN: 1. An Englishman, 2. Avoid, 3. Old times, 4. Cereal grain, 5. Lance, 6. Merit, 7. Unit of work, 8. Plug, 9. Lizard, 10. Cuts of meat, 11. To be worthy of, 12. Fruit drinks, 13. 10, 14. 15, 15. 16, 16. 17, 17. 18, 18. 19, 19. 20, 20. 21, 21. 22, 22. 23, 23. 24, 24. 25, 25. 26, 26. 27, 27. 28, 28. 29, 29. 30, 30. 31, 31. 32, 32. 33, 33. 34, 34. 35, 35. 36, 36. 37, 37. 38, 38. 39, 39. 40, 40. 41, 41. 42, 42. 43, 43. 44, 44. Answer: 35. Expectation, 36. Aegean island, 37. Middle, 38. Man's name.

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