

AROUND THE WORLD



Prelate Released By Russians Visits America

Josyf Cardinal Skipyi, Ukrainian prelate who spent 15 years in Russian prisons, is on a two-month tour of Ukrainian communities in North America. Here, he speaks at St. Nicholas Cathedral, Toronto. The cardinal was released by the Russians through the efforts of Pope John XXIII. (Religious News Service Photo)

A 'Vatican II' Seen As Society's Need

Maynooth, Ireland — (NC) — The alienation of man from society often stems from disenchantment with technology, empty forms of amusements and meaningless status symbols, William Cardinal Conway of Armagh, Northern Ireland, said here.

Speaking at St. Patrick's College, Cardinal Conway said that society presents "problems which call for a serious public debate in the light of principles of the Gospel and in the light of the known facts, which should neither be suppressed nor exaggerated. In a sense it could be said that civil society has yet to have its Vatican II."

Worker-Priests Banned In Pamplona

Pamplona, Spain — (NC) — Archbishop Enrique Delgado y Gomez of Pamplona has forbidden his more than 1,500 priests to participate in the worker-priest movement.

Three priests had taken jobs without consulting him. About 100 priests in Spain are now engaged in factory work and other jobs.

In a pastoral letter announcing the ban, the archbishop said that fulfilling priestly duties will use up all of a priest's time.

Students Win Power in Chile

Santiago — (NC) — New statutes approved by the governing council of the pontifical Catholic University of Chile assure students of a strong voice in administrative policy.

The statutes, which are subject to final approval by Raul Cardinal Silva Henriquez, S.D.B., of Santiago, give students one-fourth of the seats on all electoral and decision-making bodies.

Student strikers last year complained against what they called the "rapid deterioration" of the university. Cardinal Silva acceded to their demand for the election of the rector by students and faculty. The pro-rector, professor of architecture Fernando Castillo Velasco, was elected and approved by the Holy See. The university has 10,000 students.

'Sacramental Work' Pointed Out

Barquisimeto, Venezuela — (NC) — In a talk to the national convention of Chambers of Commerce and Production, Bishop Crispulo Benitez Fontuvel of Barquisimeto told businessmen they have some "sacramental work" to do.

"As Christians," he said, "you cannot remain indifferent to the fate of the family, nor in the face of inequality between rich and poor, nor toward justice, fair wages and work; you cannot remain indifferent toward private initiative in business and its part in development and progress." All these things, he said, "are sacramental to some degree."

The bishop called for redoubled efforts at fostering self-help among the poor, "so that men and women in Venezuela can be the agents of their own progress."

Viet Religions Seek End To 'Massacre'

Saigon — (NC) — Religious leaders of South Vietnam have called for an end to the "massacre of the innocent" in their country.

In a plea addressed to "supreme heads of religions, chiefs of state and the secretary general of the United Nations," they accused the communists of the north of "lacking good will for a negotiated peace," and of carrying on a terrorist campaign of extermination since May 5.

The declaration was made in the name of the Council of Religions by representatives of Confucianist, Buddhist, Catholic, Cao Dai and Hoa Hao Buddhist religions.

Ceylon Catholics Fight Ghetto Spirit

Kandy, Ceylon — (NC) — A desire to abandon the ghetto spirit that has beset Catholics in this country was expressed at the National Pastoral Convention here.

Both Religious and laity attending the session said that Catholics should be better integrated into the life of the nation.

Participants included 10 bishops, 78 priests, six Brothers, 40 Sisters and 97 lay persons, including six women. The purpose of the convention is to implement the decrees of the Second Vatican Council.

Mass Indonesian Conversions Explained

By FATHER HARRY HAAS
NC News Service

Jakarta, Indonesia — Mass conversions to the Christian faith in Indonesia have been publicized in the West as a "miracle."

It is amazing indeed to see hundreds of thousands of Indonesians become Christians every year. One Catholic parish in central Java has more than doubled its membership, from 7,000 to 15,000 in two years. In another parish in the same area, 1,000 new members were received all at one time. A Jakarta parish consisting of mainly Chinese gained 1,000 adult converts in one year. I myself assisted at the Baptism of a whole family, including servants.

In many areas, especially where Islam—the religion of about 90 per cent of Indonesia's more than 100 million people—has not established itself, a good number of dioceses register several thousand adult Baptisms a year. The island of Flores is the outstanding example. Its population of more than 1.5 million is becoming rapidly Christian, mainly Catholic.

To a great extent this phenomenon can be explained by the impact of the Church's services, especially schools and hospitals. Moreover, the coherent system of Christian doctrine, catechism classes and lay apostolic activities, promotes a powerful radiation whose influence results in group conversion.

The tight texture of Indonesian

society helps to give any conversion a social impact. Whole families, even clans and tribes are affected by the step of one member. In the Christian schools, small groups of pupils or students, and even individuals, can cause a stream of conversions. One year, almost 25 per cent of one academic institution where government servants are trained became Catholic.

From the ideological point of view, Christianity fills a void left by crumbling "primitive" religions and even by highly developed religions like Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism, wherever these religions have become ritualistic, feudalistic and authoritarian.

The increase of the number of converts started immediately after the fall of Sukarno and the crushing of

the Communist party in Indonesia in 1966.

There was a strong need for a safe identity. Not only that one had to prove infallibly that one was "on the good side," one also sought compensation for the lost ideals which had been determining the social and nationalist trends fostered by the communists' prophetic appeal and Sukarno's charismatic leadership.

In Christianity — firmly anti-communist, but socially progressive — many Indonesians, Moslems as well as others, have found a new haven.

The discovery of the vastness of the chaos left behind by the Sukarno regime and the crumbling of the powerful Communist party structure, pointed indirectly toward the body which seemed to offer a way out of the chaos: Christianity.

Canada Faces Major Battle On School Aid

Ottawa, Ont. — (NC) — A major educational battle is shaping up as Catholics step up their current campaign to secure more tax aid for Catholic schools in Ontario, most populous Canadian province.

Protestant and Catholic groups are marshaling all kinds of evidence and arguments to make their respective positions known to an uneasy provincial government, caught in the middle of the struggle.

As things stand now, Catholic school grades one to eight receive full tax support; grades nine and 10 get limited grants; grades 11 and up get no official money.

Catholic high school students in grades 11 to 13 are educated from the pockets of Catholic parents, who also have to pay the full public high school tax.

Catholics in this province of 6.5 million persons, account for 30% of the total school enrollment.

This double system of education, each with its own school boards, is enshrined in the Canadian Constitution of 1867. It gives Catholics the right to tax aid for their so-called separate schools.

The Association of Catholic High School Boards, has launched an all-out drive to extend the separate school system to cover Catholic children from kindergarten to grade 13.

Protestant and Catholic groups are marshaling all kinds of evidence and arguments to make their respective positions known to an uneasy provincial government, caught in the middle of the struggle.

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There must not only be economic growth, but a growth of the whole man in South Africa to avoid the dangers of an unbalanced society, the Cardinal said. A development program is needed to reduce inequalities and fight against discrimination so that each man can guide his own destiny.

Those in the lower income brackets are forced to leave their families to make a living, Cardinal McCann said, and they are separated from their families from 12 to 18 months. This has led to the breakup of families, with delinquency problems and moral evils, he said.

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New French Bishop

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI named French Father Jean Francois Motte, O.F.M., auxiliary bishop of Cambrai. Father Motte has held various high posts in his order in France before being named bishop.

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A rare ceremony: a father as priests of the Benedictine right, they are Father Benedict John and Matthew Archibishop Edward Ignatius John his sons principal, land appraiser Mildred, died of lung cancer celebrated their Mass Abbey in At...

Court Ruling
Boston — (RNS) — "terribly disappointed" uphold the arrest of ch...
The Institute, an alcohol problems, was...
The Rev. David A. Court's 5-4 decision "ment agencies, health f...
wished for a great new alcohol offender."
The Court ruling Powell of Austin, Texas for public drunkenness arrest violated the Eight and unusual punishment...
Book Lo...
Trenton, N.J. — textbooks and other in parochial schools has Senate.
Sponsor of the m... County, who said it is upheld by the U.S. Su...
Books to be loane... Districts would be rein grade school students...
A similar bill die...
Observers see littl... because the Republica fitting students at non the school busing prog...

Nineteen S...
Frederick, Md. — of the United Church ing the lowering of th to 19.
A petition asking delegates to the con District of Columbia, and Maryland.
One of the youth 18 was suggested. "W into the world and ge...
Americans
New York — (R Council of Churches tion of the new Copt this week.
They are Dr. Ro... vision of Christian u World Service direct...
Enroute, Dr. D... Athenagoras, spiritual...
Racial Pea...
Grand Rapids, M... Reformed Church has members to fast and...
Members, declar... repentance and to pu ferent races may be e the atoning blood of...
Those who adv... in the denomination tions, the Synod stat obedient to Christ at of the Church Order