

I'm Going to N. Vietnam, Archbishop Says Here

By LAURENCE E. KEEFE

Archbishop Joseph T. Ryan of Alaska announced his imminent departure for North Vietnam at the Jesuit Missionary Dinner last Thursday. The archbishop stopped in Rochester on his way from Anchorage to Stockholm in an ecumenical effort to free American prisoners of war held in North Vietnam.

Archbishop Ryan will travel with a group of prominent Protestant churchmen who hope to be in Hanoi on Easter Sunday. Dr. O. E. Preuss, president of the Lutheran Church-Missouri Synod, invited the Alaskan archbishop to join the effort to secure the prisoners' release.

The prelate said that, in addition to Dr. Preuss, the other members of the effort will include the Rev. William Hecht, executive secretary of the Lutheran Church; Dr. Nathan Bailey, president of the Christian and Mission Alliance Church; and Dr. George Sweazey, the immediate past moderator of the Presbyterian Church.

Archbishop Ryan described their journey as a "private enterprise by church people" who wish to join others throughout the world in calling for the release of American prisoners of war in Indochina.

If they fail to secure the prisoners' immediate freedom, the archbishop said, he and his colleagues hope to win permission from the government of the Democratic Republic of Vietnam to bring home a list of living prisoners.

The archbishop added that the ecumenical delegation would try to visit the prisoners and to bring word of them to their families. His attempt, he said, had the blessings of many American bishops. On the trip to Stockholm, the archbishop added, the group of churchmen would have an audience with Pope Paul.

While in Rochester, Archbishop Ryan celebrated Mass at St. Joseph's in Penfield. After the concelebrated Mass, he blessed the statue of Our Lady, Queen of Peace, in the newly completed chapel at St. Joseph's.

Father John Malley, a long time friend of the archbishop and pastor of St. Joseph's parish, explained that the statue



Archbishop Ryan discusses his trip with Father Malley.

was being dedicated to the memory of the late Bishop John Francis O'Hern, who died in 1933. Bishop O'Hern was the pastor of St. Patrick's Cathedral, which has since been torn down, the parish where Father Malley lived before he entered the seminary.

Archbishop Ryan, at the same time as his blessing of Our Lady's statue, celebrated the anniversary of his elevation to the archbishopric five years ago on the Feast of the Annunciation.

The prelate spoke fondly of his memories of Rochester. He said, however, that he found the climate in Anchorage more congenial in winter than this area. Anchorage lies on the coast, he explained, and suffers less from snow and cold.

Archbishop Ryan has spent much of his life working on both relief work and the military pastorate. He went from the diocese of Buffalo to serve as chaplain for the Marine Corps during World War II. Later he served in New York City as chancellor of the Military Ordinariate.

For several years Archbishop Ryan lived in the Middle East, where he directed the Pontifical Relief Mission for Palestine from 1958 to 1966. This was the first organization to provide material care for the Palestinian

refugees dispossessed by the 1948 Arab-Israeli war.

His present assignment encompasses a larger area than any diocese or archdiocese in the continental United States. Archbishop Ryan said that from the Canadian border to the end of the Aleutians is a distance of 3,200 miles, farther than the distance from New York to San Francisco.

Of the three native American groups in Alaska, the archbishop said, most of the Catholics come from the inland Eskimos whom the Jesuits converted. The Indians and Aleutes, who live on the coast, usually belong to the Russian Orthodox Church.

'Super Star' to be Aired

Bill Givens' popular radio program, "Music for a Sunday Afternoon", set for Palm Sunday, April 4, on WHAM, Rochester, will treat the spectacular folk-opera, "Jesus Christ Superstar", beginning at 1 p.m.

During the 4-hour program of music appropriate for Holy Week, Givens will play the major melodies from the "Superstar" album and discuss the religious implications of the lyrics with Father Richard Tormey, director of communications for the diocese. The album is a musical retelling of the story of the passion of Christ from Palm Sunday through Good Friday.

Father Tormey's own program, "God in the Headlines" is heard every Sunday evening on WHAM at 6:45 p.m.

Scout Leaders Dinner Scheduled

The annual awards dinner sponsored by the Catholic Committee on Scouting will be held April 23 at Bristol 50 Acres.

Bishop Hogan will speak and present awards to the lay and religious leaders in the diocesan Boy Scout program. Otetiana Council, of the Rochester area, will be host. Dinner is scheduled for 7:30, following a social hour.

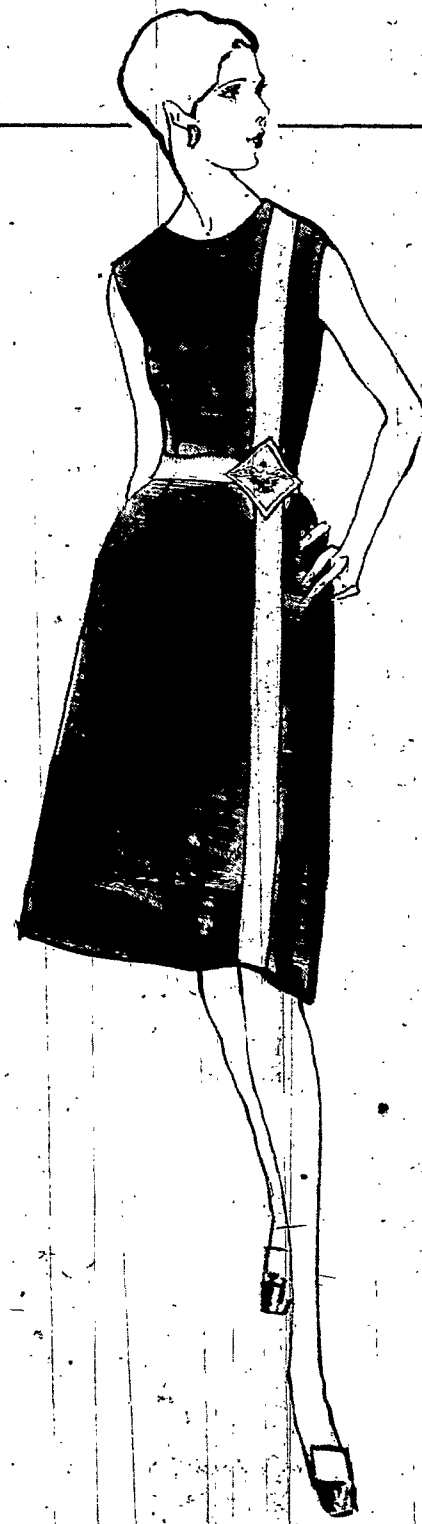
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