

# Help Soviet Jews, Nuns Beg the West

New York (RNS) — The Soviet Jewish dissident movement, weakened by isolation and recent waves of arrests, may be completely broken and crushed unless immediate help comes from the West, according to two Catholic nuns who have just returned from a visit to the USSR.

They said Soviet Jews are stunned by the most recent arrests — notably of Vladimir Slepak, a prominent "refusenik" and symbol for Soviet Jews seeking to emigrate. He was considered untouchable. But recently, he was arrested and sentenced to five years in exile.

"Sister Gloria and I are here to give this message: If we do not change the direction of present events, it may be too late to help Soviet Jews," said Sister Ann Gillen, executive director of the National Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry.

She and Sister Gloria of the Cardinal's Commission on Human Relations and the Philadelphia Interreligious Task Force on Soviet Jewry, participated in a briefing here at the headquarters of the American Jewish Committee.

They reported on their

meetings with more than 30 of the key leaders and activists in the Soviet Jewish emigration movement in Moscow, Vilna, Leningrad, Riga, and Tallinn.

Sister Ann, who visited Soviet Jews in 1974, said their situation has drastically worsened. In addition to the arrests of key leaders, she said, the Soviet government is psychologically breaking down the morale of the dissident community by isolating them from each other and not permitting contact among members.

Recalling a visit with Vladimir Slepak in 1974, an optimistic period for emigration due to pressure from the West, Sister Ann said he told her: "When you are strong, we are strong; when you are silent, we can be sent to Siberia."

Sister Ann said Slepak and Ida Nudel — who has been a friend to Prisoners of Conscience — were arrested and sentenced June 21 at a closed trial on charges of "malicious hooliganism." They have been sentenced to exile in the "farthest points" of the USSR. His sentence is for five years; Mrs. Nudel's for four years. Maria Slepak, Vladimir's wife, has been hospitalized but is

expected to face trial when she is able.

Some reports indicate that Maria Slepak and dissident leader Anatoli Schcharansky will face trial in the next few days.

Also awaiting trial is Josef Begun, who recently returned from prison to rejoin his wife in Moscow. He was arrested on the grounds that he had been exiled from Moscow and shouldn't have returned.

Sister Ann and Sister Gloria said immediate massive appeals from the West are crucial, especially on behalf of Ida Nudel and Slepak. They said Soviet law permits appeals on behalf of defendants within 28 days after they are sentenced; thus giving Ida Nudel and Slepak until about July 19 for appeals.

Among the suggested actions was a "thorough review of all the programs of cooperation we have engaged in with the USSR, programs supposed to be based on reciprocity as well as mutual respect. We urge curtailment of any concessions we have made too rapidly, concessions made in good faith which have not been matched with good faith by the Soviet Union."



## Appreciation

Blessed Trinity School, Auburn, held its annual Teacher Appreciation Dinner recently. The evening was highlighted by a check presentation of \$2,700 given to the school fund by the Blessed Trinity Home School Association. Shown above are (left) Mr. and Mrs. Gene Reichard who made the presentation to Sister Walter Anne O'Malley, SSJ, school principal.

## Seminary Gift

Father Frank Lioi, rector of St. Bernard's Seminary, reported last week a gift of \$1,500 from the Ebsary Charitable Foundation, Rochester. The money will be dispensed as "financial aid for students studying for the priesthood and for others who wish to deepen their knowledge of theology and ministry," he said.

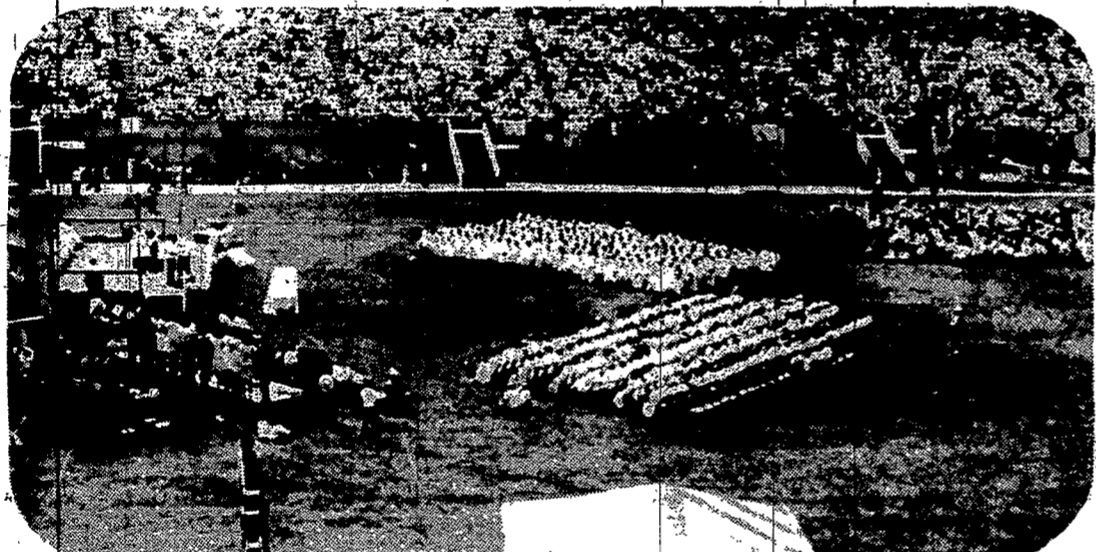
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## ME Gathering

Part of the overflow crowd of 18,000 couples, priests and religious leaders from 34 countries, are shown attending the recent convention of the Worldwide Marriage Encounter in Amherst, Mass. The gathering, which focused its attention on the future of the world's families, featured a procession of 400 priests and their concelebration of Mass. (RNS)

## Deaths

### Charles J. Latus, Priest's Father

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated this morning, Wednesday, in Blessed Sacrament Church for Charles J. Latus, who died in Bluff Pt. on Saturday, July 8, 1978.

Among the concelebrants of the liturgy were his son, Father Charles J. Latus, Bishop Joseph L. Hogan and Father Kevin Murphy, who preached the homily.

A life-long newspaperman, at the time of his death Mr. Latus was secretary of Frank Garnett Newspaper Carrier Scholarships.

Besides his son who is secretary to Bishop Hogan, he is survived by his wife, Marie Isaac Latus; his daughters, Mrs. Henry (Mary) Grandpre of North Olmstead, Ohio, and Mrs. William B. (Ellen) Buffan of Fairport; one other son,

Gerard M. Latus of Glen Ellyn, Ill.; his brothers, Edward W. Latus of East Weymouth, Mass., and William F. Latus of Rochester; seven grandchildren; and many nieces and nephews.

### Mary F. Walsh Priest's Mother

Geneva — Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated on June 28 for Mrs. Mary F. Walsh who died in Silver Springs, Md. on Sunday, June 25, 1978.

The Mass was concelebrated by her son, Father John Walsh, pastor of St. Paul Church in Webster, and Bishop Joseph L. Hogan in St. Stephen's Church.

Mrs. Walsh, the widow of John F. Walsh, was born in Ireland and lived in Geneva for most of her life. She was a

member of the Catholic Daughters of America.

She is survived by Father Walsh, one daughter, Mrs. Juan (Mary) Cabrero of Silver Springs, Md.; one granddaughter, Mrs. Michael (Sheila) Heaviside of Williamsburg, Va.; one sister, Mrs. Anna Flynn of Geneva.

### F. J. Schwab

Mass of Christian Burial was celebrated Monday, July 3, at Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church for Frank J. Schwab who died June 28, 1978.

Msgr. Richard Quinn, pastor of the parish, presided at the liturgy.

Mr. Schwab is survived by his wife, Mrs. Marion (Staub) Schwab; two daughters, Mrs. Steven (Catherine) Plane, Miss Mary Schwab; one son, Nicholas J.; his mother, Eda Schwab; one sister, Miss Lisette Schwab; and two grandchildren, Barbara and Christopher.

Vivante Arique photo



## Repeat after me...

This missionary is learning to speak the local African dialect so he can tell the people about God's love for them as manifested through Christ. Like missionaries everywhere, Father has much to learn—to understand not only the language, but customs and the people's way of thinking as well. The Society for the Propagation of the Faith supports the work of missionaries such as this one in Asia, Africa, Oceania and Latin America—wherever the Church is poor and not yet able to support itself.

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