

Fr. Gordon, O.P., Raised to Rank of Preacher General

Father Frederick Gordon, O.P., of Somerset, O., who arrived in the United States last month, following 25 months of house arrest under the Chinese Reds, has been elevated to the rank of Preacher General of the Order of Preachers.

The ceremonies took place last week in St. Vincent Ferrer Church, New York City.

Father Gordon and two other priests who were recently released by the Reds celebrated a Solemn Mass of Thanksgiving the same day. Father James Joyce, O.P., served as deacon and Father Joseph Hyde as sub-deacon. The Mass was attended by more than 1,000 persons including 150 Dominican priests and nuns.

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New Yearbook Reveals Red's War on Church

VATICAN CITY — (NC)—Communism's continuing warfare against the Church is indicated by the fact that once more the names of about 150 of the Bishops listed in the Vatican yearbook bear notations that they are imprisoned, exiled or otherwise prevented from exercising their ecclesiastical functions.

The first copy of the 1956 edition of the yearbook, called the *Annuario Pontificio*, was presented to His Holiness Pope Pius XII by Msgr. Angelo Dell'Acqua, Substitute Vatican Secretary of State for Ordinary Affairs.

It is a veritable gold mine of information covering the worldwide organization of the Church from the Pope down to the smallest mission area in some corner of Africa or Asia.

The most important statistical changes in the new edition concern residential diocesan sees, which increased from 1,157 in 1955 to 1,212 in 1956. Metropolitan residential sees rose from 293 to 303, while apostolic vicariates decreased from 237 to 202 and apostolic prefectures dropped from 134 to 123. These changes were mainly due to the erection of hierarchies in French Africa, which changed the status of 51 vicariates and prefectures.

The *Annuario Pontificio* lists the death of two Cardinals during 1955—Cardinal Imizter in Vienna and Cardinal De Jong in Utrecht, Netherlands. During the year 52 Archbishops and Bishops died.



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Bible Week Project Discussed



Pupils at St. Gabriel School, Columbus, made preparations last week for Bible Week projects they will undertake beginning Jan. 29. Civics Club president Sandra Rieder, eighth grader, at right, discusses the possibilities for classroom activities with Pres Southworth, third grader, standing at left, and Averil Goode, second grader. Among the projects planned are a Bible quiz show, a playlet entitled, "The Bible in Our Home," a special edition of the school paper promoting the theme of the projects: making the Best Use of the Bible Today; displays and skits. Elementary and high schools of the diocese are participating in a contest sponsored by the Diocesan School Office and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, the purpose of which is to create a deeper interest in the Bible on the part of all students.

God Love You The Heavenly Father Feeds Them Through You

by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen

Did you ever become angry in the springtime when, after sowing expensive grass seed on your lawn, the little birds came in droves to devour some of that which you had planted? Are the birds really "stealing" your seed? Or, when they come to the banquet, do you think of the words of Our Lord: "See how the birds of the air neither sow, nor reap, nor gather into barns, and yet your Heavenly Father feeds them." But how does the Heavenly Father feed them? In this instance, through you and your seed.

It is so with the Missions. The Heavenly Father must care for our sisters who are nursing the blind in India, for our priests who are digging wells for the Moslems, for our brothers who are teaching crafts to the people of Japan. God cares for them by inspiring you to "throw away" some of your seed — a little for the birds of the air, a little for the

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Missions. Maybe, as a result, your own house will have less comfort about it, perhaps the lawn will be less green, the luxuries less refined, the instincts for a smoke or a drink less quickly satisfied — but somehow the Missions are there to be fed. In other words, generous souls are interested in the birds as well as in the lawn; the charitable person, hearing about the Missions, is interested in the Missions, as well as in his own property. The Heavenly Father feedeth them through you — Have you any seed in the bank you would like to scatter on the lawns of Asia?

Did you ever think that you would never have had grass seed for your lawn if the Heavenly Father were not good to you — then give a little to our birds — the Missions. We help all of them through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. Thanks.

GOD LOVE YOU TO M.B. for \$246. "I have been saving this money all year and I hope the Missions like it, so they can buy clothes, food and shoes. Today is my birthday and this is my birthday present to the Missions. I am seven years old." ... to A.F.L. "Promised that if I won at Bingo, I would send you part — so here is \$10 for your Missions." ... to Mrs. J.S.M. for \$80. "Would like you to use this check for the missions. It represents the 'first fruits' of my husband's chosen profession—culinary arts."

LOOK THROUGH THIS LIST: Bracelets! broken engagement rings! Costume jewelry (in good condition); Cufflinks; Dentures; Dresser sets (silver combs and brushes); Dishes (sterling silver or gold); Earrings; Eyeglass frames (gold); Flatware (sterling knives, forks, etc.); Lockets; Lodge pins; Medals (gold); Necklaces; Pins; Precious stones; Stickpins; Watches; Watch chains; Rings.

Do you have any of the above? Do you know that they have mission value? Any jewelry or old gold that you no longer use can help the missionaries in five continents. If you will send them to us, we will resell them, and the money will go to aid the sick, hungry and homeless throughout the world.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and send it to the Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Father James Kulp, 246 East Town Street, Columbus 16, Ohio.

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Fr. Rigney Describes Red Cruelties During 4-Year Imprisonment

(Following is a resume of a book which Father Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., Divine Word Missionary, wrote in Hong Kong following his release after four years of imprisonment and torture at the hands of China's communists. The Chicago priest went to China in 1946 as rector of the Fu Jen Catholic University in Peiping. Arrested in July, 1951, by the Reds, he was subjected to almost ceaseless tortures until his release last September. Fr. Rigney left Hong Kong this week for New York City, via Singapore and Rome.)

"You are arrested as an American spy." Tommy-guns pointed menacingly as the incredible charge was hurled at Father Harold W. Rigney, S.V.D., in Peiping on July 25, 1951.

That was the beginning of Father Rigney's ordeal—a four-year trial by torture.

The Chicago Sun-Times has released his own fully detailed account of it to the North American press. This is a digest of Father Rigney's story.

"Arrested... as an American spy!" The colossal absurdity of the charge and its terrifying implications raced through the priest's mind as he faced the communist security police who had invaded his living quarters.

For five years Father Rigney had fought to protect the Fu Jen Catholic University of Peiping, which he served as rector, from communist infiltrations and de-



Father Rigney, S.V.D.

structive tactics. He had striven to preserve the university as a citadel of learning and culture, independent of the communist government. Those were his "crimes," the real reason for his arrest.

His captors drove him handcuffed to the Ts'ao Lan Tzu Hutung, where he was stripped of his pocket possessions, most precious of which was his rosary. Soon Father Rigney found himself in a foul, rat-infested cell, 11 by 10 feet. Six other prisoners, all Chinese, were there.

Before he fell asleep that night on the single wooden kang (bed), which all seven prisoners shared, he was aroused and taken before a judge in the "People's" military court.

"Now, tell me," said the judge, "what crimes you have committed against the Chinese people."

This was Father Rigney's introduction to the communist concept of "justice," the first of some 150 court sessions, day and night, he was forced to attend.

Reds Are Finding New Ways to Strangle Religion

BERLIN (NC)—The east German communist regime has taken two new measures to strangle religion.

The Reds have issued instructions to local authorities to halt Church groups from purchasing land or building lots and to stop the erection of any new churches, chapels or rectories.

At the same time the regime has enlarged its program of flooding the market with low-priced editions of the writings of 18th and 19th-century anti-clericals. These include the works of Francois de Voltaire, Denis Diderot, Charles de Secondat de Montesquieu and Friedrich Engels.

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miserable. Never before had he experienced such a feeling of guilt, of confirmed weakness.

"I, a priest, a rector of the Fu Jen Catholic University, making a false confession," he reproached himself. "I have disgraced myself, my religious community, my Church!"

Each time that he confessed falsely under duress, he underwent intense mental anguish. And on each admission, he subsequently submitted a retraction.

Making his painful way to the court one day, with a guard cursing and prodding him, he uttered the only prayer he could think of, the words of our Blessed Lord on the Cross, words he began to understand for the first time:

"My God, My God, why hast Thou forsaken me?" (Matthew XXVII, 46)

On September 21, 1954, he was sentenced to 10 years in prison for a list of "crimes" topped by the allegation that he had been sent by the U.S. government to take over German influence in China.

He was then driven to Tzu Hsing Lu, a prison factory, where he became a match box maker under the continued persecution of the head pen cheng (cell leader) who, acting under instructions of his superiors, proved a faithful communist "running dog" (in former).

The one way in which Father Rigney won favorable consideration was by developing proficiency as a match box maker. He increased his daily output to 4,000 boxes a day.

The recognition of that labor came to serve him in good stead. In mingled hope, bewilderment and dread, he was taken back on July 15, 1955, to Ts'ao Lan Tzu, where his ordeal had begun. Freed of his handcuffs, he faced a new judge, who promptly cited "good reports" on Father Rigney's prison record.

Then, on Sept. 11, he was taken to another court, where the judge read a paper, which concluded with the breath-taking words:

"You are released."
Four years and two months of hell had come to an end!

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