



FIDENE, Italy — Pope Paul VI offered Christmas Mass at the church of this Roman suburb, and accepted a gift of this baby lamb from the grateful parishioners. The Holy Father promised that a local child will be among the children he plans to invite to the Vatican to be his guests at lunch on Epiphany (Jan. 6).

Reds Tighten Control Over Religion

Hong Kong — (NC) — Red China's campaign against religion begun in 1950 is still going strong at the end of 1965.

As in past years, stories with Peking, Shanghai or Canton datelines describing Christmas eve and Christmas church celebrations are being filed by foreign correspondents in China and the New China News Agency.

But these are "showplace" churches — like puppet theaters with the Chinese communist authorities pulling the strings.

According to reliable sources, the Chinese Communist party is actually tightening control over religion as well as over every aspect of traditional peasant activity—weddings, funerals, festivals, and ancestor worship.

"Feudalist" ceremonies including Taoist rituals, have been eliminated according to a Janton Radio

broadcast which stated that six of China's largest cities had achieved results in a campaign to introduce funeral and burial reform. It cited this reform as representing a "socialist revolution on the ideological and cultural fronts."

Serra Club to Hear Talk on Holy Shroud

The Winston-Salem Serra Club will hold a Family Night for members and invited guests on Sunday, January 9, at Town Steak House No. 1.

Dr. William Rabil will present a program on "The True Shroud of Turin," including the medical and scientific aspects of Christ's passion and death.

Guests at the dinner meeting will include: Rev. Jesse Creel, chaplain of the Serra Club; Rev. John Wall, Rev. Kevin Farrell, Rev. John O'Brien and Rev. Joseph Showfety.

An attendance of approximately sixty members and guests is expected.

Recent arrivals from China report that there is also a fresh order forbidding peasants to worship their house gods or pay respect to ancestors. They said that as a result, many peasants have simply hidden their house gods and ancestral tablets, and conduct their religious ceremonies in secret.

Contrary to some recent reports, Catholic priests are not allowed to receive bibles and breviaries. Prison or death is the fate, according to sources here, of priests found to be in secret possession of these visible testimonies to their faith.

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Alumni Come to Support Of St. John's University

Jamaica, N. Y. — (NC) — The leaders of the alumni federation of St. John's University have defended the firing of 30 teachers as in the best interest of students and faculty.

The officers, directors and executive committees of the alumni federation said in a statement which they adopted unanimously that dissident faculty and students had abused the right of free dialogue expression and protest.

The alumni accused "some members" of the faculty of "slandorous, offensive, false and unprofessional statements and on occasion unprovoked violations of reasonable university statutes and regulations."

The statement said the federation acted "after a study of the events of the last year and extended discussion and consideration thereupon."

St. John's, the nation's largest Catholic university, with some 12,500 students, fired more than two dozen teachers during the Christmas holidays as an out-

growth of administration-faculty disagreements.

"We believe," said the alumni, "that the recent measures taken by the board of trustees resulting in the separation of certain members of the faculty, which were conceded within the board's power, were taken with the best interest of students and faculty in mind and not out of vindictiveness or as a device to frustrate the reasonable right of expression."

The alumni held that the Vincentians who administer the university have taken "effective steps toward a fair solution of existing problems."

The statement said that "the alumni . . . pledge their complete and wholehearted support . . . and are in complete accord and affirm the administration's action and policies as promulgated by the board of trustees and carried out by its officers and administrators."

Judge John T. Ryan of the Criminal Court of New York heads the alumni federation, according to a St. John's spokesman. There are some 30,000 alumni.

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