

## POPE SAYS SOVIET BARS FREE CHURCH

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working with all their power to the end that they [Ruthenian Catholics] leave the bosom of the mother church and join the dissident."

Political considerations, he said, are the pretext under which this program is being carried out, with the suggestion that Catholics are enemies of the state.

### Cites Appeal of Alexis

To substantiate his charges the Pontiff asked, "Who doesn't know that Patriarch Alexius [of Moscow], recently elected by the dissident Russian Bishops, directed a letter to the Ruthenian Church, which wants nothing to do with the dissidents, in which he openly preached desertion from the Catholic Church?"

The Pope also cited the fact that when the Ruthenian Catholic clergy dared to address a letter to Soviet authorities, pointing out the difficult conditions under which their church was trying to exist, all Bishops and many priests were imprisoned.

Today's encyclical, constituting one of the most outspoken criticisms of the Soviet religious policy voiced during the present pontificate, commemorated the 350th anniversary of the reunion of the Ruthenian Church with Rome, which gave members equal standing with the Latins in regard to all rights while permitting them to retain their Slavic liturgy.

The anniversary emphasized the present plight of the Ruthenian Catholics in the opinion of the Pope, who described it in the encyclical as "a day of tribulation and an affliction of calamity and misery." To the Ruthenian bishops in prison he addressed words of comfort.

He then invited the priests to bear courageously the brunt of the struggle for the faith and exhorted the faithful to suffer any difficulty or persecution to preserve the faith.

### Recalls Ruthenian Return

The encyclical, which required thirteen and two-thirds columns for its publication in the *Osservatore Romano*, was divided into three sections. The first gave an account of the Ruthenian reunion with Rome, which took place after leaders of the Ruthenian people, headed by the metropolitan and six bishops, called for the recognition of the primacy of the Pope.

The peasants themselves had sought reunion with the Holy See and the fact was accomplished when two bishops, sent as dele-

gates, were received in a solemn audience by Pope Clement VIII. The first synod was held the following year at Brest in 1596.

Today's encyclical said that the Ruthenian church was flourishing at the time of the third partition of Poland, but after that event regions annexed by Russia were so subjected to Czarist persecutions that they were forced to join the schismatic church, a movement that drew the protests of Pope Gregory XVI.

It was apparent from his message today that Pope Pius XII was concerned lest a similar situation develop with the new movement trying to draw Ruthenians from any organized religion.

The second section of the encyclical described the benefits that the Ruthenian church had derived from its reunion with Rome, while the third expressed the Pope's anxiety over the conditions, as he believes them to be today. An English résumé of the Latin text was provided by the Secretariat of State.

## POPE SAYS SOVIET CURBS CATHOLICS

20.7.46

Sees Moscow Move to Make  
Church in Ruthenia Sever  
Its Ties With Vatican

By VIRGINIA LEE WARREN

By Wireless to THE NEW YORK TIMES.

ROME, Jan. 19—Pope Pius XII, in one of his longest encyclicals, expressed growing anxiety today over the present state of the Ruthenian church, most of whose members live within the Soviet borders, and said that while international assemblies were proclaiming freedom of religion such right was being denied in Ruthenian territory.

He declared that regions that recently had come under Russian rule, in this instance Galicia and sub-Carpathia, were suffering "grave vexations for their fidelity to the Apostolic See," and the Pope continued:

"There are even forces that are