

Excommunication Caps Long Feud of Church, Communism

By WILLIAM F. SUNDERLAND
Sasso Marconi, Italy — (UPI) — Side by side in the village square stand the crosses of the Roman Catholic Church and the hammer and sickle of communism, symbols of a bitter quarrel that divides the town.

On the one side stands Don Dario Zanini, the priest; on the other, Mayor Renato Giorgi, a Communist.

In an interview, Mayor Giorgi made a superstitious gesture with his hands and said grimly:

"I honestly couldn't care less about the excommunication. But his curse is nothing to shrug off. This priest cursed two men before. One of them went bankrupt and the other died of cancer."

When the mayor's words were relayed to Don Dario, the priest said talk of a "curse" was absolutely ridiculous. He had indeed excommunicated Mayor Giorgi and seven of his Communist-socialist councillors, all members of his parish. But, he said, there was no curse.

Not Unique
The battle between the mayor and the priest is between two irreconcilable enemies — the Roman Catholic Church and communism. It is not unique in Italy, an almost completely Catholic nation that has the largest Communist party in the Western world.

Don Dario's conflict with Mayor Giorgi hit the headlines in Italy last month when, on Feb. 24, the priest announced from his pulpit that under Canon 2334 of church law — which provides for excommunication of those who

interfere with the rights and liberty of the church — he was excommunicating the mayor and seven members of the city council.

Hereafter, said Don Dario, the men named would be denied the right of church attendance, baptism of children, religious marriage or religious burial.

Plans Legal Action

The mayor did not take the announcement without protest and now, after consultation with his fellow excommunicants of the council, has announced he will file charges against the priest of "insulting public officials."

Few believe the matter ac-

tually ever will reach court. Under such charges the priest, if found guilty, could receive a fine and prison sentence. The feeling in Sasso Marconi is that Mayor Giorgi threatened the suit as a matter of honor.

The quarrel, if it is ever resolved, probably will come through negotiation, or change of position.

Reasoning Hurts Church

The dispute has been going on for some time, but it reached its peak recently when the mayor pushed through a zoning plan that took church land for a parking lot and "green area" where nothing could be built.

Don Dario had purchased a large area directly behind his church and had planned to build on the land a kindergarten, theater, youth house and soccer field with money obtained from the sale of other church property that bordered on an industrial area.

"This zoning plan," he explained, "is useless to everyone and brought about only by animosity to the church. They have decided to use part of the land behind the church as a parking lot, and declared most of the land I was going to sell to the industrialists a 'green zone' that cannot be used for building. If I cannot

sell the land, there can be no kindergarten and the other things planned."

Don Dario is 38 years old and comes from Bologna. He is the eldest of 11 children whose mother was killed in a World War II bombardment. A self-educated man, he is slightly balding, intense in manner and speech.

Mayor Giorgi is a 48-year-old former resistance fighter, from Padua. He is a college graduate in philosophy and history, and wrote a prize-winning story, "The Bridge." He is heavyset, dark-haired and highly articulate.

Don Dario, with whom I spoke as he sat on a hard

wooden chair in his sacristy, wrapped in an overcoat to keep warm in the unheated room, said, "The excommunication of the mayor and the councilmen was the culmination of a series of events, but what brought it to a head was the zoning plan. It was set up to do nothing more than hurt the church."

Mayor Giorgi was sipping an American soft drink and smoking an American cigarette when I spoke with him in his comfortable apartment. Apart from the "curse," he said, the excommunication didn't bother him except as a matter of principle "because I never go to church anyway."

University Receives Foundation Monies

Eugene — The University of Oregon has received a \$120,000 grant from the Ford Foundation for advisory assistance to the faculty of economics at the University of the Andes, Merida, Venezuela.

Under the grant, the University of Oregon will provide advisory personnel and other services to the faculty of economics of the Venezuelan university over the next two years. Purpose of the program is to strengthen the teaching and research activities of the University of the Andes.

The program is under the general direction of the University of Oregon's Institute of

International Studies and Overseas Administration. The campus coordinator of the program is Dr. Raymond F. Mikesell, W. E. Miner Professor of Economics and associate director of the institute.

The project at Merida developed out of a visit to Venezuela last summer by Dr. Mikesell as a consultant to the Ford Foundation. Following his report to the Foundation on the faculty of economics, University of the Andes, Ford Foundation officials requested the University of Oregon to provide assistance for their teaching and research program.

Salem — (UPI) — The Oregon State Fair this year will include a rodeo and a horse show.

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Experimental Plan Undertaken by UO At Honors College

Eugene — An experimental program undertaken by the University of Oregon Honors College is demonstrating that intellectual activities can be successfully combined with dormitory life and social life, as well.

Four Honors College classes in "Introduction to Social Science" were moved from their traditional settings fall term, to dormitory dining rooms and the College Side Inn, a coffee shop on the edge of the campus.

Dr. Lucian C. Marquis, acting director of the Honors College and assistant professor of political science, holds his class in the McClure Hall dining room; Dr. W. M. Resch, assistant professor of psychology and his class meet in Hendricks Hall.

Classes in Inn
Both Don Dumond, assistant professor of anthropology; and Dr. G. Benton Johnson, associate professor of sociology hold classes in The Side. Thus far, the 20 or so students in each class are enthusiastic over the relaxed surroundings.

When the students voted on whether or not the experimental program should be retained, they "overwhelmingly" preferred the new idea, Dr. Marquis said.

In these classes, "there is less emphasis on lectures and more on discussion," he explained, "and the informal settings are helpful in getting discussions going."

The classroom move is part of an attempt by the Honors College to bridge what is felt to be a gulf between dormitories and living organizations, on the one hand, and intellectual activities on the other.

This is exemplified by the student who views his university living quarters as being completely divorced from the area in which class and intellectual activities take place.

The University's Honors College, established in 1960, is designed for students of superior ability.

Mother Clings To Gate Bridge Girder

San Francisco — (UPI) — A mother of four clung by her fingertips to a metal girder on the Golden Gate Bridge, 246 feet above the Pacific Ocean, Wednesday before two bridge workmen rescued her.

Mrs. Margaret J. Bejar, 42, Daly City, told officers she had planned to jump when she climbed over the railing.

Workmen Marty Slem and Bud Mullins noticed her sitting on a girder a few feet below the roadway. They grabbed for her but she fell, catching the girder with her fingers. Slem and Mullins lifted her to the roadway.

Mrs. Bejar's husband, Ralph, said she left a suicide note. She told officers she had been worried about her health.

Mrs. Bejar was taken to San Francisco General hospital for observation.

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