

Status of Catholic Church

Dr. Polikarp Rado, Dean of the Roman Catholic Academy of Theology in Budapest, told a reporter that apart from the six seminaries the Academy was the only educational establishment of the Roman Catholic Church in Hungary that held university rank. It had 135 students - more than in the years before 1950.

"Throughout the world Catholics are finding it difficult to fit into the pattern of things. Wisdom and self-sacrifice is needed by anyone wishing to serve two countries with equal devotion. Difficulties arising from this have existed throughout the history of the Church, and we cannot consider them in any way novel. During the historically important past 12 years, these inner, spiritual conflicts have again been in existence, and they have found various expressions. However, both State and Church increasingly demand a solution to these problems, although ideologies remain in conflict. In the spiritual sphere we can observe many heartening signs. (?Ecclesiastical) life, with which I am concerned, has always been possible and still is. Churches are open, confessionals often visited, churches are being built or embellished, and none of this has been or is being subjected to restrictions of any kind. As far as the faithful are concerned, we can safely say that they receive the sacraments more often than in previous decades. Those who will not have their children christened or their dead given a Christian burial are very few indeed. In Western countries there is a high proportion of the inhabitants not christened, but in our country this applies only to a fraction. The same holds good for burials.

"There used to be shortcomings, and exception might have been taken to many things in connection with religious instruction in schools. The decree promulgated in June and its instructions for implementation offer the hope that optional religious instruction will be possible in schools, based on the free choice of parents."
(Budapest in Hungarian for W. Europe 18.6.57)

The Hungarian Government will this year spend 15,000,000 forints on the renovation and restoration of damaged churches. The first churches to be restored will be the Church of Eternal Adoration, the Holy Cross Parish Church, the Inner City Church and the Church of Egyetem Ter. (Budapest 20.00, 17.6.57)