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# "TEARS FLOW..."

*said Cardinal Wyszyński, the Primate of Poland, preaching to the Catholic people of Warsaw at Corpus Christi this year: "Tears flow from your eyes, but it may be that I shall ask for your blood as well as tears".*

## BISHOP KACZMAREK

has not shed a martyr's blood; his is the living martyrdom of long imprisonment in a Communist gaol. On Tuesday, September 22, 1953, a Military Court in Warsaw sentenced him to twelve years' imprisonment: three priests and a nun were sentenced at the same time.

Cardinal Mindszenty, the Primate of Hungary, and Archbishop Beran, the Primate of Czechoslovakia, are in such gaols already. So also are many hundreds of other Bishops and priests of the Catholic Church in Communist-dominated Europe. In Poland the entire Hierarchy of the Catholic Church in the Eastern rite was wiped out immediately after the end of the war, and several Bishops of the Latin rite have been silently removed. But Bishop Kaczmarek of Kielce is the first Bishop of the Latin rite to be publicly pilloried in this manner. It may well be that this means the beginning of a new and even darker chapter in the life of the Church in Poland.

PLEASE PRAY FOR THE ARCHBISHOPS, BISHOPS AND FAITHFUL OF THE CATHOLIC CHURCH IN POLAND, THAT GOD MAY GIVE THEM STRENGTH TO MEET WHATEVER MAY LIE AHEAD, AS THEY HAVE MET WITH SUCH NOBLE FORTITUDE THE TRIALS AND TREACHERIES OF THE PAST.

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## FOR THREE LONG YEARS

Bishop Kaczmarek was in prison before they brought him to trial. Why was this? It was because it took three years to reduce him to a state in which he would talk such nonsense in the court. He was as strong in his resistance to the Nazis during the war as now to his Communist tormentors; had it been otherwise the Communists would of course have brought him to trial eight years ago, when the war ended.

## THE TRIAL OF BISHOP KACZMAREK

was of the same order as the other trials of Catholic Bishops before Communist tribunals. The Italian Communist daily *l'Unita* has referred to Chromecki, the chief "witness" against him, as "an unprincipled adventurer". The Bishop came to the court in the same condition of bewilderment as did Cardinal Mindszenty in Budapest four years ago, freely "confessing" all that was alleged against him, however absurd it might be.

He began by accusing himself of striving, in 1939, to bring about an understanding between Poland and Nazi Germany, and of thus undermining the will of the Polish people to resist Nazi aggression.

What actually happened in 1939? As every Pole will always remember, the man who sought and found an understanding with Nazi Germany was no Catholic Bishop but Molotov, then the Foreign Minister of Soviet Russia. It was Molotov who warmly shook the hand of Ribbentrop, as they agreed to tear Poland apart. Catholic Poland, it has been said, was crucified between these two thieves. But Catholic Poland was nevertheless the only nation of Nazi-occupied Europe that never produced a quisling. Her strength came from her Catholic Faith, and from the leadership in that Faith which the Catholic Bishops gave.

*This leaflet is distributed without charge by the Sword of the Spirit, 128 Sloane Street, London, S.W.1 (Telephone SLOane 4469) from whom further quantities may be obtained. Costs are being met by voluntary donations.*