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**The Society for
the Propagation
of the Faith**

The REV JOHN S. RANDALL
DIRECTOR

Want To Help Build A Church?

A new Church is being built down at the Njikom Mission in Africa—the first one was blown apart by a tornado and the second taken down before it broke down of its own weakness.

The people of this mission are the poorest of the poor, but are more than willing to help in what ever way they can. All the materials are made right at the mission and the natives act as bricklayers and carpenters. They even aid as far as they are able financially.

Thirteen years ago there were only 50 Christians in the district and now there are well over 3,000. The new church is being built to hold 2,000 people at one time. Spiritually, the parish grows rapidly. The missionaries serve 20,000 Holy Communion a month and more than one hundred children are baptized every year.

There is a great need however for funds to carry on this great work. Father L. Jacobs of St. Joseph's Foreign Mission Society, who opened the station in 1927 writes: "Must we send catechumens away because we have no money to pay catechists? Must the school teachers go because we have no money to pay them? Actually everyone in the world is called upon to be a missionary even though the privilege of working in the field is reserved for a limited few. We in Njikom are trying to do our part and we will succeed if American Catholics help us.

Did you forget to make your Mission Offering last Sunday, October 19? If so, it is not too late. Merely enclose your gift in an envelope and forward it to the Director Office of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 39 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y. He will see that 40 per cent of your gift is used for home mission work, 3 per cent for the Apostolate in the Far East and 57 per cent for Missions in every other section of the world.

Wife Buyer

There's a little gray-bearded man in the Bathurst Islands in Australia who has a very unusual hobby—buying wives! This has been going on for twenty-three years and he now claims a total of 121. The man is Mgr. Francis Gaell, Roman Catholic Administrator of Port Darwin. The following explains his apparently strange hobby.

One day in 1914 an old aboriginal came to the mission and demanded his wife who was only ten years of age. A woman of the island is married before she is even born and this child-wife had asked for help from Monsignor Gaell. Being powerless to stop the transaction because of the native law, the girl left with the old man only to return a few days later with a spear wound in her thigh and the angry husband and his tribe close at her heels. Something had to be done! The idea suddenly occurred to Monsignor Gaell that he perhaps could buy her. Spreading out a heap of trade goods—knives, flour and tobacco—he propositioned the irate husband. The deal was made and soon smoke signals sent word around that he was a wife-buyer. Applications were plentiful!

"I have been buying wives for twenty-three years," Monsignor Gaell writes, "and I believe that I have more than anyone in the world. My total up to a few weeks ago was 141, twenty of whom have died, and each of which cost me two pounds in goods."

Mission News Briefs

WUPING, China The Prefecture of Tingchow, in which Wuping is located, promises bright hopes for the future in spiritual matters but little in the way of material comfort, judging from the following statement just received from Msgr. Egbert Peltzer.

"I have been forced to prohibit the use of any but the barest necessities in every one of my mission stations since we have only enough to keep body and soul together for two months more. After that only God knows what will happen to us!"

Parish Marks Centennial

Stringtown, Ill. One of the early parishes in Southern Illinois, St. Joseph's Church here celebrated its centennial today.



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