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The Society for the Propagation of the Faith

The REV. JOHN S. RANDALL DIRECTOR

Mission Baptism

African pagans do not become Catholics by any hasty or sudden process; instead they undergo a long period of preparation before they are admitted to Baptism. In this way the Church protects itself against the admission of any members who might discredit or harm it while the natives themselves understand that membership in the Church of Christ entails certain obligations as well as privileges.

An article in The African Mission by the Rev. James Smith states that the usual catechumenate lasts three or four years. The first stage begins when the native expresses the desire to become a Christian. Then the postulant is questioned by a catechist who, knowing the particulars of his tribe, can advise him as to which of its customs are wrong and must be avoided. At regular intervals the catechumen attends prayer meetings; finally the catechist reports his conduct to the missionary, and if it is satisfactory the second stage begins.

For six months or a year the catechumen boards at the mission, learning the catechism, the prayers and Aynna, the Rosary, and the Stations of the Cross. He is allowed to be present at Sunday Mass until the Gospel. After these instructions the catechumen's knowledge is tested, and if it is sufficient he is given more intensive instruction. For at least one hour a day he is taught by the priest, while a native catechist aids by explaining the points of dogma and morals in a way which the native mind can comprehend.

When this period of preparation ends, the catechumen undergoes a severe examination. Once this test is passed the catechumen chooses his name and makes ready to receive the Sacrament of Baptism, to become an heir of heaven and a member of the Mystical Body of Christ.

MISSION BUREAU USES CANCELLED STAMPS TO BUY DEFENSE STAMPS

WOODSTOCK, Md.—Conversion of cancelled postage stamps into bonds for defense and for the Missions is a process worked out by the Jesuit Mission Stamp Exchange here.

The Jesuits who conduct the Bureau say that after Pearl Harbor many of their regular contributors ceased sending stamps, presumably in the belief that it would be impossible to get funds to some of the missions. In spite of any difficulty placed in the way of getting funds to certain missions, it was pointed out here, the stamps still are saleable and are being sold. So, the Exchange hit upon the plan of putting the money derived from the sale of stamps into the defense bonds. In this way, Uncle Sam gets the money now when he needs it, and the mission will get it later—with interest. A \$500 defense bond already has been bought in this way.

PROMISES MORE CHURCHES FOR NEGRO CATHOLICS

WILSON, N. C.—Officiating at dedication ceremonies at St. Alphonsus Church for Colored Catholics here, the Most Rev. Eugene J. McGuinness, Bishop of Raleigh, told those present there are now 15 churches for Colored Catholics in North Carolina and that there will be more in the near future.

The laying of the cornerstone was followed by a Solemn Pontifical Mass at which Bishop McGuinness officiated. In the afternoon His Excellency conferred the Sacrament of Confirmation on a class of 28. The Very Rev. William T. McCarthy, Provincial Superior of the Redemptorist Fathers of the Baltimore Province, delivered the sermon at the Mass.

Urges Kindergartens

Chicago.—A kindergarten for every parochial school in the Archdiocese of Chicago, was the hope expressed here by the Rev. Stanley Engel, Assistant Superintendent of Schools, before the first session of the Catholic Kindergarten Association of Chicago.

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DON'T use wire or tincl string!

Wire is what electricity travels over. That's why it's bad for kite strings. You could get killed if you hit a power wire.

DON'T fly a kite with metal ribs!

If metal ribs get mixed up with power wires they can cause a lot of trouble, maybe cut off service over large areas.

DON'T climb a pole after a kite!

Nobody but linemen can climb electric poles safely. So if your kite does get caught, don't try to get it. Call up the R. G. & E. (Main 2260) tell them where it is, and we'll send someone to get it for you.

That's straight goods, kids, right from the

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