

# Children Join Holy Childhood Centenary Observance With Novena, Stamp Drive

Children of the Catholic Church of the Diocese of Rochester will join thousands of other children of the United States in the observance of the one hundredth anniversary of the founding of the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood. The Holy Childhood Association is a mission organization established primarily for children and in Rochester is under the direction of the Rev. John S. Randall.

Observance of the anniversary will be a spiritual one and will take the form of a novena of thanksgiving in honor of the Holy Child on May 3, the Feast of the Spring of the Holy Child.

### Stamp Drive

The observance in Rochester has been planned by a committee of three for the sale of war stamps to be used for the purchase of a million stamps. The proceeds of the stamp and the mission treasury to which it is to be credited is to be distributed by the way of the school children participating in the drive.

His Excellency, the Most Rev. Amleto Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, commencing the observance of the anniversary by a novena of thanksgiving writes: "It affords me great pleasure to offer my heartfelt congratulations on the occasion of the hundredth anniversary of the Pontifical Association of the Holy Childhood. May the Infant Jesus grant that through this Association the missionary efforts of our Catholic youth will rise to new successes and so reap abundant fruits in the worldwide fields of action of our heroic missionaries."

### Novena Commenced

It is particularly gratifying to learn that the centenary will be observed chiefly by a novena of prayer throughout the nation during the month of Our Lady. I am confident that under the zealous and inspiring guidance of the Directors and teaching religious the children of the Association will by their fervent prayers offer a fitting tribute of gratitude to the Blessed Lord and His associate mother for the blessing enjoyed by the Association during these hundred years, and so also insure the favor of divine protection in the years to come.

In addition to an act of thanksgiving, the novena also will be made in behalf of the spiritual and temporal welfare of the Sovereign Pontiff, the Supreme Head of the Association.

## Holy Childhood Association

Rev. John S. Randall  
DIRECTOR

How many of you have seen the Holy Childhood stamps? We will make some Holy Childhood stamps for you to use in the school, and some of the results of the stamp drive have been turned in. Will you try to send in your stamps very soon, during the Easter vacation if possible? As soon as everyone has turned in his or her stamps and you will receive the money in which the stamps are to be printed and the money.

You perhaps know that the children and the real centers in the present war. Practically every little, healthy, Maryknoll or some other of children, children, orphaned, homeless, and starving, the lot of every such child is a tragedy. The home life of the child has been destroyed.

A Maryknoll priest tells of how he saw children, separated from parents, brothers, and sisters put into trucks to be moved in safety. Many would survive the bombings, the hunger and lack of sleep—many others would not.

Father Johnson, a Maryknoll priest, guided to safety hundreds of these little children. Madame Chiang Kai Shek writes to Maryknoll Superior, thanking him for the work his priests had done in moving and sheltering these little children. The Maryknoll Sisters at Macao opened an orphanage for fifty children only to have this number increased to 100 within a week.

The missionary works to alleviate the torture and trials which they must endure. These children of today are the leaders of tomorrow. If we want them to stand for Christ and His principles tomorrow, we can not forget them today. I know all of you will want to do your share.

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Let's see what the mail has in store for us this week. Here is a letter from Frances Connolly of the Seventh Grade of Corpus Christi School. She tells me that her grade wishes to adopt a Chinese baby, Kuan Marie. I also received a letter from the Sixth Grade pupils of Holy Family School, Auburn. They have saved enough pennies to adopt two babies. They would like to have the boy named Thomas and the girl Theresa. Good work, boys and girls.

Father Keelan has only been in Kweilin a few weeks for he spent last year in a Japanese concentration camp in Hongkong and was only recently released. He has to make a long roundabout journey to get to Free China.

## SHE'S "QUEEN OF US" IN ALASKA



"At a USO Club maintained by the National Catholic Community Service, 'Somewhere in Alaska' service men find relaxation in their waiting hours in the Land of the Northern Lights. At a recent party in their clubhouse the boys are pleased with Miss Bernice Taylor, Queen of the USO, in her royal robes. (N.C.C.C.)"

## Soldiers Give \$108 To Bishops' Relief Fund

MEETING held at the American Legion in the evening of May 1st. The Rev. William J. Sheehan, Catholic Chaplain, held the service in a room at the American Legion. The Rev. Sheehan J. Sheehan, Catholic Chaplain, held the service in a room at the American Legion. The Rev. Sheehan J. Sheehan, Catholic Chaplain, held the service in a room at the American Legion.

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## U. S. Priest Misses Bus In China, Escapes Bombing By Japanese

CHUNGKING, China.—It sometimes pays to miss the bus. At least, so thinks Father Francis Keelan, a Maryknoll South China missionary from Waverly, Mass. Father Keelan was leaving Kweilin, where he is stationed to go to the country to say Mass for a group of university students who are continuing their studies free from the rain of Japanese bombs.

The priest arrived at the Kweilin bus depot just in time to see the machine leaving in a swirl of dust. He was somewhat disappointed but, an hour later, was thanking his lucky stars.

Eight Japanese planes caught the bus on the open road outside the city. They dived and strafed it. When they had finished it was a blazing wreck. Six passengers were killed and the nine remaining occupants seriously wounded.

## PRELATE SPURS SPIRITUAL AND FOR SERVICEMEN

MEXICO CITY.—The Most Rev. Luis M. Martinez, Archbishop of Mexico, has addressed a circular letter to all pastors, vicars and chaplains asking them to make use of every means within their power to interest the faithful in rendering spiritual and material service to those in the Armed Forces, and to collaborate with the directors of Mexican Catholic Action in such assistance.

The clergy are instructed to "support with your authority" the program sponsored for this purpose by Catholic Action in each parish.

We are fighting under colors that have never known defeat.

## Easter Greetings

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