Honolulu (NC) — Sister Julie Marie, 58, who died of a heart attack at Sacred Heart Convent here while on a visit from California, was the first Island-born Catholic nun to die in the Hawaiian Islands.

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Holy Land Christmas Ceremonies Recalled

By BROTHER ANTHONY BRUYA, O. F. M.
Terra Sancta College, Jerusalem

Unique among Christmas Cribs is that in the little parish church of the Good Shepherd in Jericho.

Occupying most of the Gospel side of the tiny sanctuary is a miniature Palestine sheep-fold, decorated — but with the rough greens to which Americans children are accustomed, for there are no evergreens in Jericho — but by palms and exotic flowers of the Orient.

To pray at this little shrine come veiled Moslem women — ignored in their own religion — to offer their prayers to Mary Mariam (Lady Mary) and her little Son, Issa (Jesus).

One of the most touching parts of the midnight services on Christmas in Bethlehem is the solemn procession with the Bambino from the parish church of St. Catherine, adjoining the Nativity Basilica, to the Holy Grotto beneath that age-old structure.

Although Catholics have long been deprived of their right to celebrate Mass in the ancient Basilica, they still retain the privilege to cross its transcept in passing to and from the Sacred Grotto which it enshrines.

No Mass in Grotto.

Even in the Grotto of Our Lord's Nativity, Catholics are not allowed to offer Mass at the Nativity Altar—above which, as a reminder of the days when these were exclusively Catholic shrines, is an ancient mosaic with a Latin inscription, while beneath is the famed silver star bearing another Latin inscription "Here of the Virgin Mary Jesus Christ was born."

Bethlehem is the only place in the world, and Christmas is the only day in the year, that Masses are celebrated until late afternoon. By virtue of an olden privilege, priests may offer the Holy Sacrifice at the Manger in Bethlehem hour after hour, beginning at the previous midnight, almost until the sun of Christmas Day is setting over the Judean hills. Silently, throughout the night and morning and afternoon hours, crowds in the Grotto attended one Mass after another, the places of those who left being filled by others, anxious to assist at the Holy Sacrifice in the place where the Christ Child was born.

Strange Broadcasts

To Americans, accustomed to hearing the "Adeste Fideles," "Holy Night," and other sacred hymns, even on commercial radio programs, the Christmas broadcast over the Jerusalem station would have seemed strange.

A so-called "Christmas Program" on the Arabic-language hour that day began with a reading from the Mohammedan Koran, while an English-language hour generally devoted to instrumental music, on Christmas afternoon featured Jewish "Chassidic Sabbath Songs and Tunes."

Jerusalem's inns and military hostels being filled with Christmas visitors, Terra Sancta College here became the temporary home of numerous officers and soldiers on leave during the war years. Among the holiday guests of the American Franciscans of the College were: U. S. officers, soldiers, and sailors, British and South African military, New Zealand and Polish cadets, and a member of the U. S. Diplomatic Corps.

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Rites Mark Statue's Return in Portugal

Lisbon — (RNS) — Preparations are being made here for the ceremonial return of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, which for weeks has traveled from town to town during centenary celebrations of the proclamation of the Virgin Mary as Patroness of Portugal in 1646.

The statue's permanent home is in Cova da Irea, center of the Fatima apparitions in 1917. It was first taken to Lisbon in 1942 on the initiative of the Catholic Portuguese poet, Antonio Correia de Oliveira, and is being brought back at the suggestion of Emmanual Goncalves Cardinal Cerepeira, Patriarch of Lisbon.

Richly clad and crowned with gold and precious stones, the statue was displayed at a series of religious demonstrations and processions, climaxed by special rites on Sunday, December 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception. The image will be taken to the banks of the Tagus and placed on a flower-decked vessel for its homeward journey to Cova da Irea.

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The above picture was drawn by a white missionary in Java during five years that he was the prisoner of the Japanese in a concentration camp at Bankalinkin. Because the picture was destined for the edification of the Javanese, the features of the Blessed Mother and the Infant Jesus are distinct from those seen in European and American renditions of the Nativity scene. The missionary, who prefers to remain anonymous, gave the picture to "St. Cleverbond," the publication of the Dutch Jesuit Fathers, which holds the copyright. All the white missionaries in Java and some of the native Javanese priests were imprisoned by the Japanese. The priest-artist was first sentenced to death, but this was later changed to 18 years imprisonment. Eventually, he was liberated by the Allies. Out of 1,500 inmates of Bankalinkin, it is reported, 1,300 died of hunger in one year. The priest began his prison-time art work by drawing a portrait of a Chinese foreman on a piece of paper. This brought other clients, until the priest's drawings were obtaining eggs and small fishes for himself and his fellow prisoners. The above picture was drawn by the priest in thanksgiving to the Blessed Virgin for saving his life.

Second Post-War Christmas Finds Millions in Misery and Want

By MAX JORDAN

This Christmas 1947, the second Christmas after the cessation of hostilities, will be a sad one in many quarters of the world and for vast numbers of suffering peoples.

While politicians and statesmen are ensnared by power politics, the victims of their short-sightedness and selfishness—millions of them—are facing a catastrophe this winter which is perhaps without parallel in history.

Jointly with the International Red Cross, the World Council of Churches, the World YMCA, the Swiss International Union for Child Welfare, the Union of Societies for Child Care, Health and Hygiene among Jews and the International Center for Relief to Civilian Populations, the Catholic International Welfare Conference, whose headquarters is in Lucerne, issued an appeal on the eve of the Advent season to call attention to this frightful outlook which is more serious than can be described in words.

Millions Threatened

"This new catastrophe," says the appeal, "threatens millions of starving people in the war-stricken countries. They are without shelter, wretchedly clad and have little resistance to disease and epidemics. Weakened by constant privations these masses will be quite incapable of winning through the coming winter unless they receive substantial help and relief from abroad.

"The harvest of 1948 has helped to improve the food situation in the devastated countries of Europe and Asia, but reserve stocks will soon run out. To the homeless, living amidst ruins, have now been added entire populations transferred from their abodes. Malnutrition has taken frightful toll of the health of entire nations. The number of tuberculosis cases has increased in alarming fashion.

"There is need of breadstuffs, fats, medical supplies, clothing, shoes, bedding. Large sums of money are also urgently required."

Tuberculosis Widespread

This general review is borne out by individual reports received from welfare agencies all over Europe and Asia. The outstanding observation made by most correspondents concerns the increasing rate of tuberculosis among the younger generation, and the most serious effects are not likely to be felt until these young people grow up. In Sicily, for instance, all children suffer from tuberculosis; in Poland, 37 per cent of all school children. Infant mortality is growing by leaps and bounds.

It has reached as much as 40 per cent in Albania, 80 per cent in some districts of Poland and even 80 per cent in part of Rumania. Many of these children are destitute and deprived of normal help because they lost their parents as a result of the war. In Finland, for example, 47,000 children are orphans; in Italy, over 100,000; in Greece, over 200,000; in Poland, one million and a half.

Due to the poor harvest, the physical ravages brought about by the war and disturbed transportation systems everywhere, millions of people still lack adequate supplies of food, clothing and medicine. The situation is aggravated by the effects of the maritime and coal strikes in the United States which have prevented the delivery of urgently needed supplies or, at least, caused serious delays.

"The plight of the Jews, many of whom are still confined to internment camps because they have no place to go, remains one of the most serious problems which faces agencies here to-day.

Northern Undernourished

Reports received by their headquarters in Switzerland indicate that 80 per cent of the newly-born suffer from rachitis while 70 per cent of the children are undernourished. In districts such as Moldavia, only 700 calories are available for the displaced Jews now stranded there. In other parts of Europe anemia is a common occurrence, particularly in Austria and the British zone in Germany. The outlook for the approaching winter could not be more alarming, because requirements are so far above available supplies that welfare agencies are at loss to find a solution.

From Berlin a relief official reports that children born in the German capital and in the German industrial districts are starving, many of them never having seen adequate nourishment in all their life. Heating everywhere is insufficient and people are widely without adequate housing and desperately in need of shoes. "Should an epidemic of a virulent type of influenza break out during the winter," says this report, "the fate of many of Berlin's children would be decided."

Abp. Cushing Asks Return Of Religion to Classroom

Boston — (RNS) — Calling for the return of religion to the classroom and scoring clergymen who openly advocate birth control, Archbishop Richard J. Cushing addressed delegates to the annual convention of the New England Chapter of the National Catholic Education Association here. Several hundred delegates attended the six-state conference.

"God must be restored to education and first of all by those who have taken Him from our classrooms which are the training grounds of American citizenship," the archbishop said. "In restoring to God His place in all our schools, Americans will be faithful not to God alone but to the Republic."

"God must also be restored to religion," he declared. "His altars and His pulpits must not be prostituted to compromise with naturalistic doctrine and easy-going morals, worse still to be a shameless alliance with the huge contraceptive industry which thrives on the dodging of human responsibility and helps to destroy the home, the foundation stone of our republic, helps to demoralize its youth and helps to decimate its forces.

"It is saddening to see Fifth Columnists in the Gethsemane of the Christ whom they profess to serve."

England Once Outlawed Christmas

In the course of the Puritan ascendancy in England an act of Parliament, in 1644, forbade the observance of Christmas, except as a day of fast and a market day. It was provided that shops should remain open, and plum puddings and mince pies were condemned as heathen. The act was restated, and at Canterbury there was bloodshed.

New Mission Nun Community Founded

Detroit — (NC) — A new community of Sisters was founded here in a ceremony at which His Eminence Edward Cardinal Mooney, Archbishop of Detroit, presided. It will be known as the Catholic Mission Sisters of St. Francis Xavier.

This is the second religious community founded in the Archdiocese of Detroit, the first, the Sisters, Servants of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, having been founded in Monroe, Mich., in 1845. Four of the five new members of the society received their habits from Cardinal Mooney at the investiture. The nuns will do medical mission work in India.

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