

# Monsignor Sheen Makes Mission Aid Plea

By MSGR. FULTON J. SHEEN

National Director, Propagation of Faith

Since the news was published that I would have the honor to succeed Bishop McDonnell as National Director of the Propagation of the Faith, these three questions have been asked me: What is the Propagation of the Faith? How can we help? Why is it so necessary? We will answer each in turn.

1. What is the Propagation of the Faith? The Propagation of the Faith is a world-wide organization directly under our Holy Mother the Church. Its purpose is to aid missionaries at home and abroad, so that all men may be unified in the peace of Our Dear Lord and Savior Jesus Christ.

The international society has in each country of the world a national director. Our national office is at 109 East 38th St., New York City. I will repeat that, because you may want to make use of it some time—109 East 38th Street.

Under our national office, there are 126 diocesan offices scattered throughout the entire United States and its possessions. Your diocesan office of the Propagation of the Faith receives your practical manifestations of love for the Missions, and then in turn, hands them over to the national office, where distribution is made under the direction of the Propagation of the Faith in Rome. You may ask more particularly who shares in the charities to the Propagation of the Faith. First of all, all religious communities and religious orders of Priests, Brothers and Sisters in the mission field without a single exception; secondly, all Bishops, diocesan clergy, seminaries, hospitals, and social agencies in the mission field.

Suppose on Mission Sunday, October 22nd, you sacrificed \$1.00 for the missions. Here is the way that dollar is spent: Forty cents is kept in the United States for the more needy home missions, e.g. the building of chapels and churches in Alabama, Georgia, parts of Oregon, Idaho, South Carolina, and so forth. Nine cents of that dollar goes to the Near East, that is, to the Holy Land and surrounding countries. The remaining fifty-one cents goes to the foreign missions of the world.

That brings us to your second question: How can we help? Here I have a surprise for you. You probably think I am going to say: "Give to the Propagation of the Faith" or "contribute generously." That I am not going to do simply because I am speaking a Christian language. Giving is a loss; contribution is the payment of a tribute. Our Divine Lord did not ask us to give up anything that we had; He asked us to exchange it. "What exchange shall a man give for his soul?" He never asked us to contribute. He begged us to barter the material for the spiritual, so as to lay up treasures in heaven.

There are three things you can exchange for eternal merit: Your talents, your prayers, and your alms.

Talents: If you have a reputation as a journalist or professional writer, and would like to exchange that talent for the blessing of Our Lord by writing for the Propagation of the Faith, we will be your broker.

Prayers: As the wounded soldiers in Korea draw on the blood contributed by those at home so you can make intercession to God for the missions of the Church in Africa, and Asia, and India, and for all peoples who are stumbling towards the Light without knowing that he is Christ, the Light of the World.

Alms: The interest rates in our modern civilization are quite low—only a little over two per cent if you put your money in a savings bank or government bonds. Our Lord said that He would pay an interest of one hundred per cent for even a cup of cold water given in His name. How much more will He give to those who support the heroic heralds of the Gospel in the Missions?

THE FINAL QUESTION is: Why is the work of the Propagation of the Faith so necessary? The Propagation of the Faith each year sends aid to six hundred mission territories, each of which is larger than the whole of New England. Suppose now that I stirred your hearts to such charity that every Catholic sacrificed 22 cents on Mission Sunday, October 22nd, for the cause of Christ's peace in the world. That would mean \$6,000,000 for the Mission Sunday collection. The Church would then divide that \$6,000,000 among the 80,000 missionaries in 600 mission territories. Each missionary would get 20 cents per day. In other words, if the average yearly charity to the missions on Mission Sunday was 22 cents, which it is not, we could keep the missionaries one day out of 365.

I will tell you a better way to think about this whole problem. Do you smoke? How many packages a day? One package? Would you be willing to help the missionaries to an equal amount per day to what goes up in smoke? Or do you drink? Do you know that according to the last figures available, the people of the United States spend in one year \$9,600,000,000 on liquor? That is \$103.22 per person over twenty-one years of age.

	Designated Gifts	Holy Childhood	Total
St. Bernard's Seminary	\$3,300.00		\$3,300.00
St. Andrew's Seminary (S.P.F. Membership—\$100.00)	625.00		725.00
Nazareth College	1,570.00		1,570.00
Aquinas Institute	6,740.00		6,740.00
Academy of the Sacred Heart (Mass Stipends—\$4.00)	182.75	19.00	201.75
Nazareth Academy	3,000.75		3,000.75
Our Lady of Mercy H. S.	2,975.35		2,975.35
St. Agnes Institute	139.00	139.50	278.50
St. Joseph's Con. School	5.00		5.00
Emira Catholic H. S.	132.00		132.00
Nazareth Hall		\$14.35	\$14.35
St. Joseph's Villa		58.75	58.75

## 1949 Report—Propagation of Faith Society— Diocese of Rochester

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Balance	\$ 17,014.20		
Mission Sunday*	\$ 57,218.05	Foreign Missions	\$ 62,791.12
Wills	38,822.90	Home Missions	15,820.26
Miscellaneous Income	160.86	Catholic Near East	1,422.02
Designated Gifts	37,545.68	Donations	136.00
Mass Stipends	42,292.07	Designated Gifts	52,113.99
Missionary Plan	49,829.83	Mass Stipends	42,192.07
Holy Childhood Association	20,440.07	Missionary Plan	48,015.23
		Holy Childhood Association	16,154.83
		Office and Promotion Expenses	16,016.41
Total	246,309.26	Total	254,661.93
	263,323.46	Balance	8,661.53
			263,323.46

\*RECEIPTS: Mission Sunday receipts include Ordinary Memberships, \$29,295.00; Special Memberships, \$6,000.00; Perpetual Memberships, \$3,518.00; Missionary Union, \$16; Collections, \$15,500.26; Donations, \$2,496.79.

DISBURSEMENTS: The figure of \$32,113.99 includes \$14,568.31 in Designated Gifts held on deposit and placed in 1949.

## Pontiff Stresses Magnitude Of Task In Mission Areas

New York (NC) Mission Sunday is the day on which the Pope, through The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, appeals to all Catholics to help the missions of the world by their prayers and sacrifices.

This year His Holiness Pope Pius XII, in his Mission Sunday message, calls upon the faithful to contemplate the magnitude of the Church's missionary problems and looks for, above everything else, an increase in membership in the Society and other Pontifical Mission Aid Societies.

THE COMPLETE text of the Holy Father's message follows: "Confident that this Holy Year will have deepened in the hearts of the faithful the sense of their obligation to work hard and constantly for the building up and increase of the Mystical Body of Christ of which they are members. We look forward, to provide more adequately for the spreading of the glad tidings of salvation, so that this Jubilee may truly mark a great return for countless multitudes in mission lands, who will come to see Jesus living in the Church which He founded as the One Shepherd, the house of prayer and reconciliation and peace for all nations."

"BUOYED UP BY this confidence, we exhort the faithful to devote Mission Sunday to the prayerful contemplation of the magnitude of the Church's missionary problem, so that in the light of prayer they may see the particular measure of personal cooperation which they can give to the solution of that problem. We look above all for an increase in the membership of the Propagation of the Faith and other Pontifical Mission Aid Societies, as it is through them that the faithful can make the most effective contribution to the work of the Missions in general.

"The splendid zeal and the magnanimous generosity with which the Hierarchy, clergy, religious and laity of the United States have promoted the interest of those Societies, sustain us in the hope that this coming Mission Sunday will be productive of fruits worthy of a Holy Year. In that hope and as an earnest of Our paternal interest, We cordially impart to the di-

cesan directors, cooperators, members benefactors and to all those who contribute to the furtherance of the Pontifical work of the Propagation of the Faith in the prayerful celebration of Mission Sunday, our special Apostolic Blessing.

From the Vatican, September 2, 1950.  
PIUS PP. XII

## Legion of Mary Active In Japan

Kyoto, Japan — (NC) — Ten young men of the St. Francis parish, here, formed a committee of the Legion of Mary and called on 810 homes in one month to distribute Catholic literature and promote frequent recitation of the Holy Rosary in Catholic and partially Catholic families.

## School Children In Japan Lead Parents To Faith

Yokosuka, Japan — (NC) — Modern Church history here is providing numerous instances of the young teaching the old, as school children lead their elders to the true faith.

A 13-year-old student at the junior high school conducted by the Sisters of the Handmaids of the Sacred Heart wanted to become a Catholic. She was told by the Sisters that a 13-year-old would be refused Baptism until another member of her family agreed to study with her. She persuaded her brother and eventually both were baptized at the same time.

The father attended the baptismal ceremony and was so impressed that he and the remaining members of the family are preparing themselves for the Sacrament of Baptism.

In an elementary school where the Sisters were telling some of the six-year olds about God for the first time, a regular teacher of one of the classes, not being a Catholic, was unable to fulfill the children's request on how to pray to God.

Coming back after recess she found some of the tots who were Catholics leading the others in prayer. The teacher was so impressed that she had herself enrolled in a catechumen class.

	Mission Sunday	Designated Gifts	Total
St. Anne's Home	\$ 209.25		\$ 209.25
St. Mary's Hospital	352.65	76.00	428.65
Soldiers' Home	60.00		60.00
Veterans' Hospital	45.00		45.00
St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira		472.00	472.00
Catholic Mission Guild		544.00	544.00
Little Flower Guild		182.00	182.00
League of the Sacred Heart, St. Jerome's Parish, East Rochester		75.00	75.00
Sacred Heart Mission Group, Newark		150.00	150.00
L.O.M.A., Holy Trinity Parish, Webster		75.00	75.00
St. Monica Sodality, Holy Trinity Parish, Webster		75.00	75.00