Progress Cited In Catholic Church Mission World

Pope Pius XII's recent Encyclical (Heralds of the Gospel) highlights progress in the world mission fields of the Catholic Church.

The Pope reports that Catholic Missions have grown from 400 to 600 in the past 25 years, while Catholics living in mission districts have increased from less than 15,000,000 to near 28,000,000.

Bishop Sheen

DURING the same period native and foreign priests in the missions rose from about 14,800 to over 26,900 and in "not a few places," native Bishops have been appointed and Hierarchies established.

The Pope refers specifically to the setting up of Hierarchies a sign that the Church is truly established in Pakistan and some parts of Africa and the holding of three very important Plenary Councils in Indo-China (1944-Australia (1947) and India (1950).

Almost everywhere, Pope Pius observes, the number of schools, colleges, orphanages, hospitals, leprosia, and dispensaries has grown in the past quarter century. He stresses, however that much still remains to be done "Because almost a thousand million people still await the Christian religion and civilization."

America's leading Catholic Missionary Executive, Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York National Director of the Society For The Propagation Of The Faith recently predicted a great missionary upsurge in Africa and the countries of the East.

"A DAY IS coming in the future," Bishop Sheen declared "when the East will receive the blessing of the faith to which our Western civilization has to some extent been recreant.

"China will have its Angelic Doctor who will do with Confucius what Aquinas did with Aristotle; India will have its Eucharistic shrines that will rival Notre Dame and Rheims; and Japan, turning from the man-God will find the God-Man, and catch the full vision of the truth that the rising sun is Christ the Light of the World."

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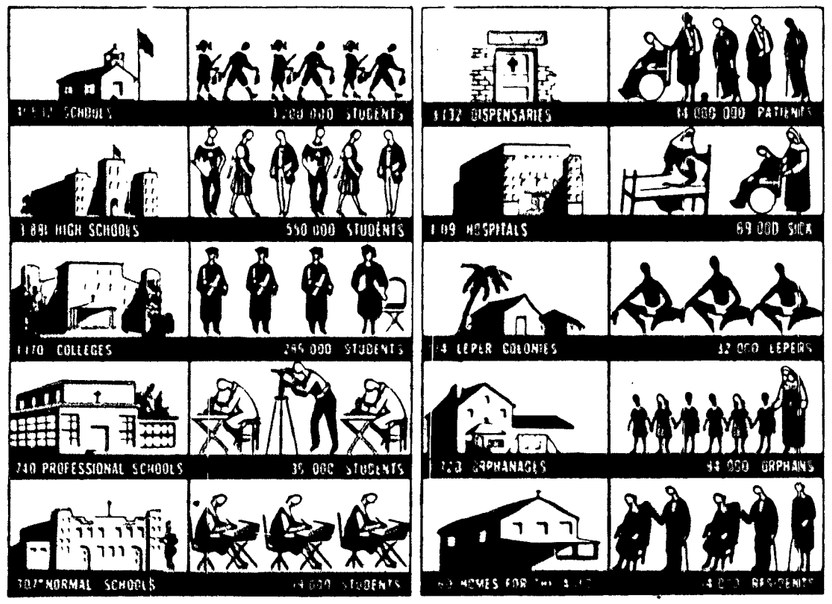
Church Acclaims Missionary Martyrs

The year 1951 saw a number of missionary martyrs of the Far East singled out for Church honors. In February, beatification ceremonies were held in Rome for Blessed Alberico Crescitelli, a priest who was slain in China early in the 20th century. Others beatified were two bishops — Garcia Sampedro, who was massacred in Tonkin, Indo-China, in 1859; and Diaz Sanjurjo, who was beheaded in 1858, after twelve years of mission labors in Indo-China.

What You Help The Holy Father Support



Red China Outlaws Legion Of Mary

London — (RNS) — The Chinese Communist government has issued a decree outlawing the Legion of Mary, a Roman Catholic lay organization, according to the official Peking Radio.

All leaders of the Legion, the station said, will be arrested and tried for "engaging in subversive, reactionary, anti-Communist activities under the guise of religion."

The Legion of Mary has actively resisted efforts by Communist authorities to set up a "National Catholic Church" in China independent of the Vatican.

Home Religion Study Plan Applications Double In Year

Woodstock, Md. — [illegible] applications for a Home Study Course in the Catholic Religion directed by Jesuit scholars [illegible] at Woodstock College here have doubled in the last year and the percentage of those who began the course and later dropped out has [illegible].

STARTED DURING World War II as a temporary measure at the request of many chaplains, the course has grown so that applications are now on file from 40 States, Brazil, Great Britain, Nigeria, Germany, Canada, Australia and India.

Two young women who took the course are now nuns, praying for its success in the spiritual life of others. The course consists of six lessons with tests and accompanying literature.

One woman, requesting the course, wrote: "My husband is reported missing in Korea. I am not a Catholic, but he is and I want to bring up our children as I promised him I would."

Other letters come in from busy priests, who want help in instructing their scattered flocks, from the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, and from study groups who use the Home Study Course to inform themselves so they can inform others.

The number of "drop outs" in the course has fallen from 35 to 26 per cent.

Philippines Seen Key To Orient's Mission Growth

In [illegible] Hierarchy was set up for the first time in 1946, a Communist Regime bodes ill for the future of the missions. In other mission lands, however, there is one of growing expectation and progress.

For many are ready to write off China, be cause of Communist advances, Monsignor Randall Director of the Propagation of the Faith in the Rochester Diocese comments. He says that the Church is truly suffering Her Calvary but like in the past she shall have her Easter Sunday. Then the forces that beat against her will be withered and died and the Church will rise triumphant.

Monsignor Randall

Catholic leaders believe that the Philippine Islands are destined to play a key role in the Christianization of the entire Orient. Last year Pope Pius [illegible] as a Diocesan [illegible] the total [illegible] as a province. [illegible] the end of the war, [illegible] a full percent [illegible] a [illegible] Mass.

Progress is [illegible] by the fact that thirty new mission centers have been launched there since the war. Numerous new parishes have been organized. A Japanese branch of the Young Christian Workers Movement (Jocists) is now in operation and a new radio station sponsored by the Pious Society of St. Paul has been begun. Japanese Catholics now number about 145,000 and their cultural institutions include two university colleges, five junior colleges and six seminaries.

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African Missions Spreading Faith

According to the Fides News Agency in Rome, there are at present 13,400,000 Catholics in Africa as compared with 2,000,000 in 1920. Two of the biggest events in the history of Catholicism in Africa were the establishment of five hierarchies in West Africa — the first in 1,400 years — in 1950, and the holding of the First National Gold Coast Eucharistic Congress at Kumasi early in 1951.

PRIVATE SCHOOLS' REPORT 1950

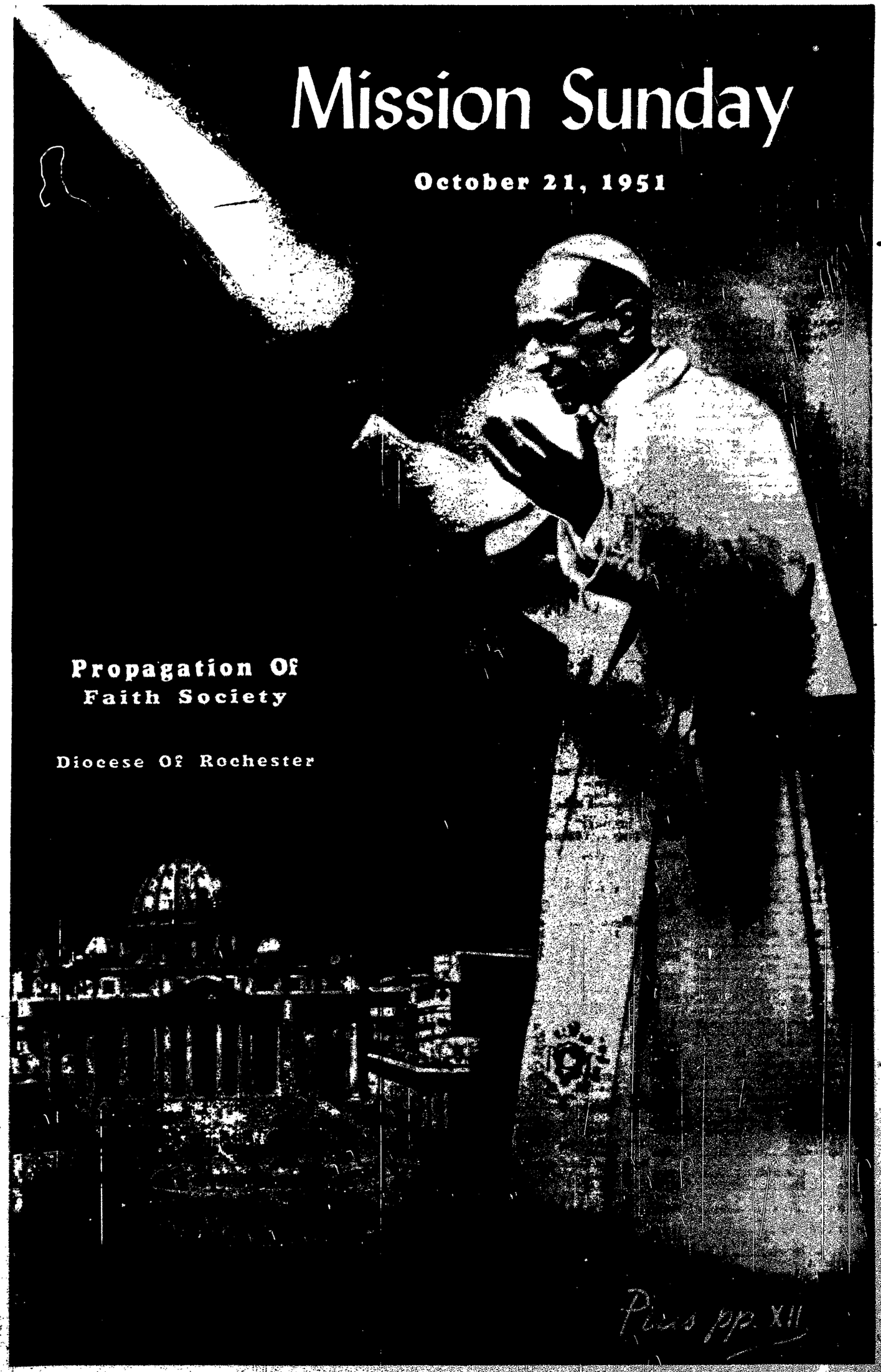
	Designated Gifts	Holy Childhood	Total
St. Bernard's Seminary	$ 3,334.25	$	$ 3,334.25
St. Andrew's Seminary	523.00		675.00
(S.P.F. Membership—150.00)			
Nazareth College	1,615.00		1,615.00
Aquinas Institute	11,100.00		11,300.00
(Donation—$200.00)			
Academy of the Sacred Heart	236.70		236.70
Nazareth Academy	1,955.40		1,990.40
(Donation—$32.00)			
(Mass Stipends—$3.00)			
Our Lady of Mercy High	4,107.96	185.00	4,292.96
St. Agnes Institute	12.50	141.25	153.75
Nazareth Hall		923.25	923.25
St. Joseph's Villa		19.00	19.00

1950 Report—Propagation of Faith Society—Diocese of Rochester

RECEIPTS		DISBURSEMENTS	
Mission Sunday	$ 56,327.99	Foreign Missions	$ 31,180.19
Wills	6,782.94	Home Missions	14,011.54
Miscellaneous Income	53.68	Catholic Near East	1,430.17
Designated Gifts	39,983.83	Donations	198.00
Mass Stipends	52,704.04	Designated Gifts	37,835.79
Missionary Plan	59,978.76	Mass Stipends	52,804.04
Holy Childhood Association	21,431.83	Missionary Plan	51,061.79
		Holy Childhood Association	12,227.31
Total	228,263.07	Office and Promotion Expenses	16,417.71
		Total	217,076.54
		Undistributed Balance	11,186.53
			228,263.07

RECEIPTS: Mission Sunday Receipts Include: Ordinary Memberships, $23,624.00; Special Memberships, $6,675.00; Perpetual Memberships, $7,000.00; Missionary Union, $417; Collections, $18,609.99; Envelopes, $3,001.99.

HOSPITALS, INSTITUTIONS, MISSION GROUPS

(1950 Report)

	Mission Sunday	Designated Gifts	Total
St. Anne's Home	$ 327.00		$ 351.00
Mass Stipends	$ 24.00		
Veterans' Hospital, Bath	60.00		60.00
Veterans' Hospital, Canandaigua	2.00		2.00
Soldiers' Home, Bath	130.00		130.00
St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira			300.00
Mass Stipends	$300.00		
Catholic Mission Guild	532.00		532.00
Mass Stipends	$ 6.00		
Little Flower Guild	300.00		300.00
St. Monica Sodality Holy Trinity Parish, Webster	75.00		75.00
Our Lady's Sodality (To Holy Childhood)			15.00
St. James Mercy Hospital Hornell, New York