

Latin America Need Of Priests Stressed

Rome — (NC) — One of the Church's most critical needs today is for volunteer priests from other countries to make up for the scarcity of priests in Latin America.

Attention was focused on Latin America's need in a series of articles in *Osservatore Romano*, Vatican newspaper, which was reported here to have aroused considerable interest in Catholic circles both in Europe and Latin America.

ACCORDING TO the author of the series, the Rev. Eugenio Pellegrino, S.J., about a third of the world's Catholics live in Latin America, but the number of priests there represents only a seventh of all the priests in the world.

The articles recalled that in 1946, the Rev. John J. Conditine, M. M., former Vicar General of the Maryknoll Missioners, on the basis of a tour of Latin America, had estimated that at least 40,000 more priests are needed to serve the estimated 125,000,000 Catholics there.

"It is a known fact, Father Pellegrino wrote, 'that the ratio between Catholics and priests should be at least one priest for every 1,000 Catholics. While in the United States of America, the average is one priest to 622 Catholics and in Canada one to 478, the 25,000 regular and secular priests in Latin America make up the very poor percentage of one priest to about 7,000 faithful.'

Father Pellegrino stressed that in certain Republics, the average is even lower. He cited

Priest, Nuns Sentenced By Czech Regime

Vienna — (NC) — At least one priest and two nuns were among a group of ten people recently sentenced to prison terms by the Czechoslovak communists, it has been learned here.

THE GROUP was "tried" at Brno in what the Prague radio described as the "Vatican spy trial." The priest was the Rev. Otto Madr, who was sentenced to life imprisonment.

The nuns were Sister Zofie Langova, mother superior of the Karel Boromejsky convent in Prague, sentenced to 20 years in prison, and Sister Marie Whitrova, mother superior of the convent at Radhrad, Moravia, sentenced to 17 years imprisonment. Both nuns were charged with giving refuge to "resistance" groups.

ALL THE defendants were accused of organizing groups of former students and other people for "terroristic activity" and "espionage" for the Vatican.

Another defendant whose identity is known here is Zofie Vackova, woman professor of philosophy at the Prague University, sentenced to 22 years in prison.

Papal Envoy III Rome — (NC) — Archbishop Leo P. Kierkeks, C.P., has requested and received permission to resign as Papal Internuncio to India for reasons of ill health.

Father Ginder Pamphlet Draws Queries On Faith

New York — (NC) — More than 4,700 persons are under instruction or have completed the Catholic Information Society course, according to the Rev. Bonaventure Fitzgerald, Capuchin director of the group here.

Father Fitzgerald added "we have no way of knowing how many of our diplomas have been exchanged for baptism."

Most of the non-Catholics have been attracted with a pamphlet, "Come On In,"

by Father Richard Ginder, editor of *The Priest* magazine and an associate editor of *Our Sunday Visitor*.

"The pamphlet has as its back cover a reply card asking for further information about the Catholic Church. All the reader has to do is fill in his name and address and drop the card in a mailbox. The society pays the postage. Father Fitzgerald has estimated that one card has been returned for every 50 copies of the pamphlet circulated.

AS SOON AS the card arrives,

Father Fitzgerald's office writes the person for confirmation, in order to eliminate the frivolous and curiosity seekers. The rest are put in touch with a trained theologian who starts writing to them. The Catholic Information Society has its own correspondence course. The *Confraternity Catechism*, organized and planned in seven units by Father Ginder and rounded out with objective tests.

At the end of the course, if the instructor is satisfied that his pupil has been serious about it all and really learned his matter, a diploma is issued, certifying the candidate for baptism and First Holy Communion.

"All sorts of students apply," Father Fitzgerald said. "Soldiers, sailors, and the Marines; people in isolated places, miles from any priest; people who don't want their families to know that they are studying the Catholic Faith; people too bashful to walk up to a rectory and push the doorbell; and, I suppose, a certain number who think that ours is the normal way of turning Catholic."



FEEDING THE HUNGRY—Feeding the body (photo above) as well as the mind is part of Sister Jane's daily role as a teacher in the mission school of the African Gold Coast. Sister Jane, Rochester-born missionary, has been in Africa for seven years and is currently on a visit home. Photo right shows member of Sister Jane's community, Servants of the Holy Spirit, making visit from the mission clinic to impoverished home of sick native.

Gold Coast Missions Need Some (gold), Says Nun

Sister Jane, S.Sp.S., energetic Rochester-born missionary working in the African Gold Coast, goes along wholeheartedly with the humorist who stated that "whether you are rich or poor money is very necessary."

Lack of material means and the poverty of the natives are chief drawbacks to the boundless ambition of the Gold Coast missionaries, according to Sister Jane who is currently visiting in Rochester.

The former Evelyn LeFrois of Rochester, Sister Jane is a graduate of St. Boniface Parochial School and the Academy of the Sacred Heart. She has been stationed in Accra, capital city of the Gold Coast, for the last seven years.

A member of the mission community known as the Servants of the Holy Spirit, Sister Jane is superior of her community's seven Gold Coast mission stations which include four schools and three medical clinics.

"OF COURSE, our schools are not as elaborate as schools here in America," Sister Jane laughed. "Our school buildings in Africa are very simple. Sometimes we just start a school under the trees," she explained.

"Most of our people are too poor to be able to pay for education. Tuition is out of the question. The Sisters must give the children who come to them everything, textbooks and even food."

SISTER JANE smiled when she explained the problems involved in trying to teach a class in science. "This means," she said, "that the Sisters must provide the textbooks, if possible, and beg or borrow any equipment such as an old microscope. The children and their families are too poor to help."

She expressed the wish that the African children could enjoy a few of the advantages of children here. "If only we had some of the things that American children throw away it would mean so much to our children," she said.

IN THE ACCRA missions, the priests teach the boys and the nuns teach the girls almost exclusively. Describing the Sisters' efforts in behalf of the girls, Sister Jane grimly explained: "We try to keep the girls under our care as long as we can in order to save them from the common fate of ending up in the streets."

Besides the schools the other important feature of the Sisters' work in the Gold Coast is operation of three medical clinics. The Sisters' clinics cared for over 100,000 patients last year, according to Sister Jane.

DESPITE THE struggle of the infant missions, all started less than seven years ago, the enthusiastic little missionary has another dream—establishment of a native Sisterhood.

"We don't know how soon it can be done but a native Sisterhood is necessary for the work of the Church among our people."

Cardinal Names Education Head

New York — (NC) — Msgr. Edward J. Watterson, principal of Cardinal Hayes High School, has been appointed secretary for education of the Archdiocese by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

Monsignor Watterson has headed the Bronx school since August, 1945. He succeeds Msgr. John S. Middleton, who has been appointed pastor of Old St. Peter's on Barclay Street and a member of the board of consultants of the archdiocese.



Bernard LeFrois of the Society of the Divine Word Fathers, will make the sermon appeals in the churches in behalf of his sister's mission. Sister Jane's brother, the Rev. St. Boniface, Rochester, St. Anne's, Rochester, St. Patrick's, Elmira, St. Paul of the Cross, Honeyoye Falls, (St. Catherine, Mendon), and St. Pius, Cohocton. During her two-month stay before returning to the Gold Coast, Sister Jane is residing at St. Ambrose Convent in Rochester. Sister Jane's sister, Sister Alphonsa Marie, S.S.J., is principal of St. Ambrose School.

Franciscans Win Tax Exempt Court Ruling

Concord, N. H. — (NC) — Property in Pittsfield, N. H., used by the Franciscan Fathers for religious purposes should be exempt from tax even though the church there, the New Hampshire Supreme Court has ruled.

The Franciscan Fathers have a retreat house in Pittsfield. They sought an abatement of a local property tax levy. The local officials contended that the religious Order was subject to the tax because it did not have a church or a regular congregation in Pittsfield.

The Supreme Court ruled that those buildings and so much of the land as was used by the Order were exempt from taxes, although 50 of the 118 acres on the farm were held subject to taxation because they were not used by the Franciscans for their religious program.

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