

Nuns Operate 'TB' Hospital In Hong Kong

Hong Kong (NC)—We have a waiting list of 800 patients, said Mother M. DeLoovers, superior of the St. Columba tuberculosis sanatorium here. The sanatorium is always full to its capacity of 163 beds. A new wing, now being built, will take another 60.

Tuberculosis claims more victims than any other communicable disease in Hong Kong, where an estimated half-million Chinese refugees from communism have swollen the population. About 500,000 persons dwell in shacks outside the city. Innumerable families live in crowded tenements. Sometimes several families are found living in one room.

New cases of tuberculosis are reported in Hong Kong at the rate of 257 a week. Deaths from the disease have averaged 73 a week since Jan. 1.

Fifteen Sisters of St. Columba, of whom three are graduate doctors, staff the Ruttonjee sanatorium. It is named after its chief benefactor, a charitable Texas resident of Hong Kong. It was opened in 1943 by the Hong Kong Anti-Tuberculosis Association. The Hong Kong government aids the Association, a voluntary organization.

'Trained Brain Works For God' Barnard College Magazine Reports On Brilliant Alumnae Now Carmelite Nun

New York (NC)—How a "vicious and charming young woman from Cape Cod who captivated one and all with her love of fun and life" — an outstanding member of Barnard College's Class of '44 has become a Carmelite nun is told in the Barnard Alumnae Monthly.

Mrs. M. Rossell, a classmate of Sister Joseph's at Barnard, a branch of Columbia University here, related the story in a full-page article in the monthly entitled "A Contemplative Life." She attended the ceremony at which the former sophomore and senior class president took her final vows, and wrote that she left the monastery with the feeling that I was leaving behind an oasis of goodness and happiness.

Sister Joseph, Miss Rossell declared, is putting to good use the "trained brain" Barnard gave her. She has brought her "trained brain" to work for God, the classmate said.

HERE IS THE text of Miss Rossell's article:

Sister Joseph of Jesus Mary, D. C., took her final vows in the Carmelite Order on Saturday, May 4, 1952. At the same time she received her black veil and became a permanent member of the community at the Carmelite Monastery in Terra Haute, Ind.

Sister Joseph — better known to her classmates as Miss Charlotte — is none other than the vivacious and charming young woman from Cape Cod who captivated one and all with her love of fun and life — who couldn't quite get over the habit of saying "oh" for "our." The Class of '44 remembers her well as Sophomore and Senior Class President, as Chairman of Greek Games, and member of Student Council.

AS A full-fledged member of the Carmelite Order, Sister Joseph continues in a vocation chosen some five years ago. She is still the same laughing, vivacious young woman whose looks belie her age. She has a purpose in life. She has dedicated her life to God and is serving Him as she feels she must.

I have heard it said that men and women who enter religious orders do so to escape from the realities of life. I can tell you that she realizes life also exists in monasteries and convents. The religious men and women of the world have not "escaped" from life, they have merely withdrawn from a worldly life in order to experience a deep spiritual life and to serve God according to their laws of obedience.

To many Catholics and to most non-Catholics, this step must, I know, appear to be a less to the world of a friendly, loving, and kind person. I have heard my friends whisper in solemn earnest: "Poor Charlotte, she was such a wonderful person, I could understand it if she had decided to teach or nurse, or even go into missionary work, but a Contemplative Order! And then they would go on to say or infer that her college education had been wasted and all that she had learned at Barnard must be of little value to her now.

FIRST OF ALL, Sister Joseph is still a very lively person. Secondly, she is putting to good use the many things she learned at Barnard. You will not forget Dean Gillespie's insistence upon "trained brains," so that young women could adapt themselves to any situation. You must wonder how this can possibly apply to Sister Joseph, just how she can use that "trained brain." There is a ready explanation, but first let me give you my layman's view of what I know of the Carmelite Order.

As a member of the Discalced Carmelites (a cloistered order), Sister Joseph is dedicated to a contemplative life, that is a life devoted to prayer and devotion to God. The monastery is a self-contained and self-supporting community. At present 16 young women make up that Community. Each monastery is limited to 21 members and the applicants are many.

In order to maintain the Community on a sound economic basis, these nuns make by hand and sell to Catholic Churches in the Middle West, such necessities as linens, vestments, and altar breads. As you know, the

signs on shops in China can be a source of amusement to the visitor, especially when the owners of the shops attempt to write their signs in English.

Two Columban Sisters were walking one of the busy colorful streets of Hong Kong, enjoying the sights and window-shopping. Suddenly they came upon a fashionable tailoring shop. Over the door was a brightly colored sign that said:

"Foreign Ladies can have fits upstairs." — The Far East

Carmelites are famous the world over for their fine needlework. In addition they make religious figures which are to be found for sale in your best shops — these too compete with the finest Hummel. And keep your eyes open for the music box which they will soon have on the market.

THE INGENUITY of these nuns is remarkable and the "trained brains" are constantly seeking for better, easier and faster ways to carry out their tasks. One cannot deny the fact that their life is hard and arduous; rising at 20 minutes to five in the morning with a full schedule of prayer, devotions and work before them, the Carmelites are busy until they retire to their individual cells at 11 in the evening.

As I watched the beautiful and moving wedding ceremony, I could not help but think that Sister Joseph and Sister Clara, who were received into the order on that day too, never looked more beautiful.

ALTHOUGH WE in the chapel who had come to witness the ceremony found our eyes filled with tears, there were no tears in the eyes of these two nuns. Their joy was apparent for all to see — they were completely happy in their chosen profession. I left Mount Carmel with the feeling that was leaving behind an oasis of goodness and happiness.

Remember Sister Joseph as the gay and joyous spirit that she has become a beloved member of the Carmelite Community.

She has brought her "trained brain" to work for God.

Bring Your Strait Jackets

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AT CONGRESS OF RELIGIOUS



Co-sponsored by the Sacred Congregation of Religious, the First National Congress of Religious will meet at Notre Dame University, South Bend, Ind., August 8-15, when several thousand religious brothers and sisters, bishops and priests will attend. Mother Mary Gerald Barry, O.P., of Adrian, Mich., is executive chairman of the Sisters' Committee; Very Rev. Francis J. Connolly, C.S.S.E., of Washington, is executive chairman of the men's committee. (NC Photos).

Sacred Heart Painting in Hotel Lobby

Rapid City, S. D. (NC) — An oil painting of the Sacred Heart dominates the lobby of the Harney Hotel, 216 Black Hills. The artist, who served with the U.S. Army in Europe, said the painting was a labor of love.

THE THREE by four foot painting hangs beside a door head with 12-point canisters. Leo J. Shaffner, who is a partner in the Harney Hotel, said "As long as I stay in this hotel that painting stays in this lobby." The Catholic hotel man maintains that "if all Christians professed the faith openly and courageously the world would not be in such a deplorable condition."

ONE OF MR. Shaffner's partners, a 33rd degree Mason, did not object when the painting was put up in the lobby.

Past guests of the hotel include the late President William Howard Taft.

Your Own Danish Proverb

You may call that your own which no one can take from you.

Priest Turns Doctor To Aid Suffering War Victims

Phat Diem, Vietnam (NC) — A two year-old boy, his bandages stained with blood, lay moaning on a bed of matting. "His mother and brother were killed by the shell that wounded him," said the Rev. Robert Willichs, Father Willichs, a Belgian priest of the Society of Mission Auxiliaries, conducts the only hospital in Phat-Diem province. The province has a population of about 400,000. The hospital can take only 70 patients.

NEAR THE wounded child lay a Vietnamese farmer, shot through the jaw and tongue, unconscious. Tearfully, his wife begged Father Willichs to save him.

These are some of the civilian casualties of a war that can flare up in any village where the communists and Vietminh guerrillas infiltrate. Any man, woman or child can be caught in the line of fire. Along the hospital wards other patients lay, gaunt and listless, suffering from malaria, dysentery, tuberculosis, plain malnutrition — all the ills of the Orient.

THIS LITTLE hospital of Father Willichs is a brave but pitiful effort. When I visited it, its medical supplies had dwindled to nearly zero.

A high-ranking French officer told me he had seen its poverty. "Frightful!" he exclaimed. "Frightful!" He had a shipment of medicines sent to Father Willichs. Most of these were used by now.

There is no doctor, except the resourceful priest himself. He knows enough about medicine to give simple treatments and to prescribe standard remedies — if he has them. He has rendered priceless service to the sick and injured. All are treated free.

FATHER WILLICHS has trained two Vietnamese Sisters as practical nurses and a Vietnamese boy to help them when he operates.

Yes, the missionary has performed surgical operations in emergency.

"What was I to do?" he asked. "Let the man die? I could see that the only chance was to operate."

"What were the results?"

"Not one patient has died after an operation."

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Remember Sister Joseph as the gay and joyous spirit that she has become a beloved member of the Carmelite Community.

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Vietnam Reds Told To Lure Catholics

Hanoi, Vietnam (NC) — Vietnamese communists have received instructions to work harder in luring Catholics to the Vietminh side. They have been told how to do it "with a spirit of patience and careful attention to detail."

The instructions appeared recently in No. 31 of Hoc Tap (Education), party organ of the communists in "Interzone IV" of Vietnam. In this publication a writer, signing himself "V.D.," analyzed reasons why Vietnamese Catholics have stayed aloof from "our cause" and promised "fine results" if the tactics he outlined were used.

ILLUSTRATING THE failure to gain Catholic support, the writer pointed to one region where "since April, 1950, more than 2,000 Catholics have left to take refuge in the enemy zone. A small number of Catholics have sold themselves to the enemy, while others remain indifferent or on the fence."

Stating that "action on the masses is the keystone of our organizing work," the writer outlined the following program to win Catholics:

"Our activity must be applied first on the economic viewpoint in order to become political little by little. That is, we must begin by working on the Catholic masses by helping them to improve their standard of life. We must arouse in them the idea of demanding lower rents on their farms and lower interest rates."

Meanwhile he added, the comrades must make special efforts to lead "progressive Catholics" down the Red garden path.

"AT THE SAME time, we must work on a certain number of relatively progressive Catholics without demanding a high degree of radicalism of them."

That means, the communists won't make the tactical blunder of installing lost Catholics become Marxists at once.

Philippine Road

Manila (NC) — The bond of friendship between the United States and the Philippines was stressed in an oil painting of the Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York, given to Archbishop Gabriel Reyes of Manila.

U. S. Seaman Aid Poor in Italy

Naples, Italy (NC) — Catholic servicemen of Admiral Robert B. Carley's command in the Mediterranean have contributed over \$700 to the Crociata Maritima, Catholic center serving the poor in Naples.

The Rev. (Lt. Comdr.) Michael J. MacInnes, Catholic chaplain, presented the contribution to the Rev. Francis X. Davis, S.J., founder and director of the Crociata Maritima.

DO YOU KNOW THE DIFFERENCE?

OPHTHALMOLOGIST ORICOMETRIST OCULIST

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