

American Mission Gifts 63 Percent Of World Total

Newark, N. J. — (NC) — Catholics in the United States contributed 63 per cent of all the money given to the 614 missionary areas of the Church throughout the world last year. But that only amounted to a Catholic per capita contribution of 16 cents.

Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York says that while that figure could be a lot better, it is better by five cents than the per capita figure of the next best country, New Zealand. The average donated by all of the world's Catholics is just two cents.

While his television work and duties as Auxiliary Bishop of New York take up a lot of his time, Bishop Sheen has as his main job the work of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith, of which he is national director. In an interview with a reporter for The Advocate, official weekly of the Newark archdiocese, Bishop Sheen said that the society "is the largest humanitarian service in the world." During 1952, he said, "the society cared for 60,000,000 people in thousands of institutions all over the world... 80 per cent of them pagans."

Not even the United Nations has an agency so vast or, with so many technical experts, he declared, adding wryly: "And yet, we were not even listed in a recent publication of world social organizations."

The most successful area in the mission field right now is Africa, according to the prelate. "Even including the 60,000,000 Moslems in the north in the overall population of 180,000,000, the Catholic population is eight per cent," he said. "And just think of Africa's size. It's 8,000 miles long and 3,000 miles wide..."

Citing progress being made in African missions, he said that Uganda is 25 per cent Catholic. He went on to say that Nigeria has 16 per cent Catholics, Sierra Leone 30 per cent, Rhodesia 10 per cent, Ruanda-Urundi 27 per cent, and the Belgian Congo 23 per cent.

Key To World
New York — (NC) — Missionaries are "holding the key to the salvation of the world," Bishop Fulton J. Sheen told a group of 50 missionaries from many parts of the world here.

First Ordinations On TV



Brighton, Mass.—Three future priests lie prostrate before the altar in the chapel at St. John's Seminary here during televised ordination rites presided over by Archbishop Richard J. Cushing of Boston. The service, broadcast over WBZ-TV, marked the first time in the history of the Catholic Church that ordination rites were seen by a television audience. Ordained in the service were: Fathers Francis Xavier Barrett, Murray G. Duffy and Paul Lee Toland. (Religious News Service Photo)

Mexican Catholics Ask Anti-Clerical Laws Repeal

Mexico City — (RNS) — A permanent commission to work for repeal of Mexico's anti-clerical laws was established by the First National Congress of Catholic Culture, which met at Guadalajara.

Repeal of all such laws would permit the Church to take part in Mexican education and would, further, amount to official recognition of the Church-State relationship that has been developing quietly for several years.

Some 15 bishops and archbishops, scores of Catholic lay intellectuals and representatives of Catholic social and professional societies attended the Congress. Many delegates were from youth and student groups.

The six-day session was the first public meeting of Catholic leaders on a national basis since the Mexican revolution.

As such, the Congress itself was an indication of how far Mexico has departed from its once-violent anti-clericalism. The meeting would not have been scheduled without tacit government approval.

In recent years, the authorities have ceased to enforce most of the stringent laws passed against the Church in the 1920's by the Calles regime. But

Report Given On Clothing To Germany

New York — (NC) — War Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference has sent 750,000 pounds of clothing and shoes to Germany since December 1, according to Msgr. Edward E. Swanstrom, executive director of the agency.

Of this total, Msgr. Swanstrom said, more than a half million pounds have been given directly to the new refugees fleeing Soviet oppression. "The relief materials were delivered personally to these unfortunate people by WRS NCWC delegates and their assistants at Berlin," he said.

The relief director announced that the total of clothes, shoes and blankets collected for overseas relief work in the Bishop's Thanksgiving week campaign has now reached more than 10 million pounds. This is "proof positive," Msgr. Swanstrom said, "that American Catholics are more alert than ever to the sad plight of their cousins overseas."

First Seminary
Singapore, Mal Island — (NC) — Newest mark of Church progress on this romantic isle is the opening of a minor seminary here for native Balinese. Eight promising young natives have already enrolled in the school being conducted by the Divine Word Missionaries.

Parish Priests Changed By Czech Reds

Vienna — (NC) — The Hungarian regime had adopted a practice long used successfully by the Czechoslovak Reds to isolate priests from their people.

In a new order issued by the Budapest Office for Religious Affairs that office has arrogated to itself the right to transfer the clergy from one parish to another according to reports reaching here.

The new practice is aimed at uprooting loyal Catholic priests from parishes where they are popular. They are sent to strange towns and parishes where the Reds hope their influence will be less pronounced with the people.

The transfer orders, it is reported, actually come from the diocesan chancery offices where they are issued by "patriotic" priests installed by the communist authorities.

This Red practice of constantly transferring and reshuffling parish priests was initiated in Czechoslovakia some years ago.

REPORTS FROM that Red land stated that priests are suddenly pulled out of bed at night by Red officials and taken to a different parish. They have no opportunity to tell their flock that they are leaving or where they are going. The following Sunday a new priest appears at the altar.

The parishioners never know whether their former pastor has been imprisoned or not, or whether the new "pastor" is really a genuine priest or a fake planted in the parish by the Reds.

Catholic Teacher Association Formed

San Juan, Puerto Rico — (NC) — A Catholic teachers' association — first of its kind in Puerto Rico — has been organized here under the auspices of Jesuit priests in charge of St. Ignatius of Loyola school.

A constitution for the new association, which will comprise public as well as parochial school teachers, was adopted at a general meeting held at the University of Puerto Rico at Rio Piedras.

Religion Important To Most Americans

St. Paul, Minn. — (NC) — Seventy-five per cent of the American people believe religion is very important — but twenty-four per cent believe their children should be free of religion until they are old enough to make up their own minds.

These are two of the figures from a survey made by the Catholic Digest. This section of the survey asked: "How important is religion to Americans?" The answer — "tremendously important."

AT THE SAME time, the survey attempted to find out just what Americans of different sects think about each other. The general conclusion: "Bigotry and intolerance of persons" aren't so extensive as to be a real threat to our national unity.

Based on the survey, an article in the February issue of the Catholic Digest asks and answers the following questions:

Are Protestants and Catholics opposed on the importance of religion? There are no great differences, according to the survey. Among those who think religion is unimportant are 3% of the Catholics and 4% of the Protestants. Among those that go to no church, however, 30% are indifferent to religion.

Who are the more religion-conscious, men or women? In the U. S. it's the women with 97% serious about religion. The men — with a far better showing than the males in other countries — have a 90% score.

Does age increase regard for religion? Interest in religion definitely increases with age. By the age of 65, 85% of the people think religion is important.

Does schooling matter? It does. College graduates think less of religion than folks with less education.

The Catholic Digest's conclusion: College education is failing to establish a record for religion.

OTHER FACTS: Farmers think more of religion than city folk. The country's largest cities value religion least.

The great majority of people plan to raise their children as church members. But 25 million Americans think their children should be free of formal religion until they are old enough to make up their own minds.

"If the 24% who think their children should be free to make up their minds follow through with their declaration, they pose a serious problem," the Digest article states. "Their children would grow up with no religion from which they could derive an early moral sense..."

"Twelve million children could well become problems of society." Education is the solution, the Digest believes. If children are left to make up their own minds on religion while following early studies of reading, writing, mathematics, etc., it is tantamount to teaching them that religion is of little importance in their lives.

India Doctor Raps Bid For Birth Control

Patna, India — (NC) — Doctors attending the All-India Medical Conference heard one of the strongest denunciations of birth control that has been made for some time in this country.

DR. B. V. MULAY of Sholapur, in his presidential address to the 27th session of the Conference here, severely attacked birth control as a sure means of "destroying the culture of India."

"The idea of contraception," he said, "has been revolting to the people of the world in general and especially to the people of India. Shrewd propagandists are trying to popularize it by finding fresh synonyms to express the idea. Contraception changed to birth-control, then became family planning and has at present settled down as planned parenthood."

"JUDGING FROM the social evils that have arisen from the use of contraceptives in western countries," he declared, "I feel it will be the surest way of destroying the culture of India."

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