

Holy Sepulchre Plans Progress

Jerusalem—(NC)—Technical engineers representing Catholics and Greek Orthodox and Armenian dissidents will meet October 15 to discuss plans for the eventual rebuilding of the Basilica of the Holy Sepulchre here.

The October meeting was planned at joint meetings of representatives of religious communities having rights in the Basilica. The Basilica is threatening to collapse and Jordan officials have been encouraging the religious representatives to act fast in the reconstruction.

Since the time the Holy Land was in Moslem hands, no repairs may be carried out in the Basilica except by the consent of all three groups who hold services there.

U. S. Protestants Gain 3 Percent, Catholics 4 Percent

New York—(NC)—Membership in the Protestant churches in America has increased by 1,807,325, according to the new Yearbook of American Churches.

While Protestant bodies have grown by three per cent, the publication reports an increase of 1,223,824 members of the Catholic Church, or four per cent, for a total of 31,376,261. The Yearbook is published by the National Council of Churches of Christ in the U. S. A.

(The book's figures mostly pertain to the year 1953. The Official Catholic Directory, issued by P. J. Kennedy and Sons, New York, last Spring, records a total U. S. Catholic population of 31,648,424 for January 1, 1954—a gain of 1,223,409 over the previous year.)

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

A sacrifice of \$1 for the Holy Father's Missions is worth more than a gift of \$2 from a person who merely gives because he is asked. Read this letter and we will tell you why.

"I am not working so there isn't much money coming in, but I would like to do something for the missions. In reading Mission, I saw an article about sending jewelry for resale and I thought of my wife's engagement ring that has been in a box since her death over ten years ago. Although I hate to part with it, I am sending it to you with the hope that it will bring enough to help support some poor soul in the missions."

This husband gave not only a ring; he gave with it all its tender associations and devoted memories. To give up something we love for someone we love more is sacrifice. Thus not only the gift, but the giver are poured into the love of the 1,200,000 pagans in the world.

Only lovers of the Cross of Christ make true sacrifices. Our Lord said that the drink of cold water would have its reward, but it had to be given in His Name and His Name is Jesus which means Savior. The sacrifice of a movie to help the leper in Malaya, the going without a dessert for an abandoned child in Calcutta, a rosary on one's knees for one of the victims of Communist persecution in Indo-China—these acts will sanctify your soul as well as help the Holy Father's Missions.

GOD LOVE YOU to J.M. for \$3.25. "This money was obtained from a back yard Carnival. We thought it would be a good idea to give it for the benefit of the Missions." . . . to K.G.S. "This \$10.00 is in thanksgiving for all the little blessings that I have received from Almighty God." . . . to H.D. for \$10. "I decided not to buy a new summer bag. I have been using my old one and decided to send the money to the missions." . . . to E.E.S. "The enclosed \$5 was given to us as a gift to spend on a holiday dinner. We were invited out instead and want you to use this money to feed some starving child in the missions." . . . to D.S. for \$10.50. "Enclosed is a check for the Holy Father's Mission in Indo-China—these are the results of a loose change drive conducted at our Sodality meetings." . . . to F.M.G. "I am sending the enclosed \$5 in thanksgiving for a favor recently received. I lost my suitcase containing all my clothes in Grand Central Station and was at a loss what to do. I said a few silent prayers and promised to send the above amount to the Holy Father's Mission if I found the bag. I located it just in time to make my train." . . . to N.N. "I promised Our Lord that I would put aside a dime a day for the Missions until my husband was able to find a job. Here is the \$10 in thanksgiving for my husband's new job."

Prayed for China this week? You will find it easier to remember if you have a WORLD MISSION ROSARY. The multi-colored decades are each dedicated to a particular continent. At your request and a \$2 offering we will send you a WORLD MISSION ROSARY blessed by the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and send it to the Most Reverend Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 366 Fifth Ave., New York 1, N. Y., or your Diocesan Director, Very Rev. Msgr. John E. Randall, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

CHRIST AND THE WORKERS



This picture of Christ speaking to the workers, located at the International Labor Organization headquarters at Geneva, Switzerland, bears witness to labor's recognition of the close bond between Christianity and the working man. On Labor Day, September 4, this close bond will again be demonstrated by the large attendance at special Labor Day Masses throughout the country. (NC Photos)

Note Writing Art Dying, Says Professor

Detroit, Mich.—(NC)—The art of letter writing is a dying one, according to University of Detroit Professor John F. Sullivan. Teletypes, radio and TV have taken over the communications fields and are snuffing out man's talents for writing short, pithy notes, he said—particularly barbed ones.

Favorite examples of the art which Mr. Sullivan says will be no more include the following note from playwright George Bernard Shaw to Winston Churchill:

"Herewith are two tickets for the opening of my new play; one for you and one for a friend of yours—if any."

And Mr. Churchill's reply: "A previous engagement prevents my using the opening night tickets which I am returning herewith. I would appreciate it if you would send me tickets for the second performance—if any."

Mr. Sullivan's top example of the short, pithy note went from John L. Lewis to William Green of the American Federation of Labor. It read:

"Green: I disaffiliate, Lewis."

Abp. Bernardini, Vatican Aide, Dies

Rome—(RNS)—Archbishop Filippo Bernardini, secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, died at his birthplace of Pieve di Uscita, Central Italy, of a heart attack at the age of 69.

French Rural Apostolate Directly Subject To Rome

Paris—(NC)—The Holy See's great solicitude over the French rural apostolate is reflected in a new Apostolic Constitution setting down regulations for the apostolate.

Under the terms of the constitution a special diocese—technically a prelate nullus—has been set up to embrace the priests in this apostolate, known as the Mission of France. The prelate will be headed by a prelate nullus or bishop who will be immediately subject to the Holy See.

THE MISSION OF FRANCE is not to be confused with the French priest-worker movement, known as the Mission of Paris. The Mission of France was established to send priests as reinforcements to the diocesan clergy to evangelize rural and urban areas where there are not enough priests to staff all the parishes or where the parishes are too scattered.

The prelate nullus for the Mission of France will be set up at the abbey of Pontigny and carved out of the Archdiocese of Sens. The prelate nullus or bishop of this independent jurisdiction will be chosen by an episcopal commission specially charged with giving its constant attention to the Mission of France.

4,755 Americans Work In Catholic Foreign Missions

Washington—(NC)—American Catholics, who supply more than 70 per cent of the money for the missions of the Church, contribute only four per cent of the foreign missionary priests, Brothers and Sisters.

A new handbook of U. S. Catholic missionary personnel overseas reveals that as of last December 31, there were 2,771 American priests and Brothers and 1,984 Sisters stationed at missions outside the states.

The publication, put out by the Mission Secretariat, gives a country-by-country breakdown for all the 54 religious institutes of men and the 78 women's institutions which had U. S. missionaries in fields outside the country.

IN AN ANALYSIS of the current contribution of American missionary personnel, Auxiliary Bishop Fulton J. Sheen of New York notes that the 1953 total of 1,782 American missionaries in Latin America and the West Indies constitutes 37 per cent of the U. S. personnel overseas.

According to Bishop Sheen, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and director of the Mission Secretariat, five of the 54 religious congregations of men supply 57 per cent of all the male personnel overseas.

Way out in front are the Jesuits, whose eight U. S. provinces supply a total of 678 (24.4 per cent) of all American missionaries. Next come the Maryknoll Fathers with 403; then the Redemptorists, whose two provinces have 194 overseas; the Franciscans, whose eight provinces have 160 overseas; and the Society of the Divine Word, with 140 overseas.

OF THE 78 U. S. women's communities represented in the missions, the leaders are the Maryknoll Sisters, with 410, and the Marist Sisters, with 115—jointly supplying 32 per cent of the total U. S. overseas Sisters.

While Latin America and the West Indies accounted for the greatest proportion and greatest area increase—with 155 priests and Brothers and 358 Sisters stationed in Puerto Rico alone—the big decline, of course, was in China.

OF THAT PICTURE, Bishop Sheen has this to say: "The communist campaign against the Catholic missionaries in China is reflected in the continued decrease of American missionaries in that country. From the peak year of 1940

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