

First Catholic Church Built At 'End Of Earth'—Timbuctoo

By FATHER GORDON H. FOURNIER W. F.
(Written for N.C.W. News Service)

Timbuctoo, Sudan — This ancient town, synonymous the world over with the remote, the out-of-the-way, is getting its first Catholic Church. So I found on my visit to Timbuctoo.

A Moslem merchant has come to the aid of the White Fathers while they build their church. He has loaned the missionaries a large roomy house in which to offer Mass and hold other services.

I came to the Sahel region (that portion of the Sahara bordering on the Niger river) by river boat, because Timbu-

too and Goundam, the two leading centers of the Sahel, are situated some 300 miles off the beaten desert path. By stopping off at a little river port called Kabara I found myself only a few miles from Timbuctoo.

Flanked by sand dunes on the north side and difficult of approach from the south, Timbuctoo lives up well to its reputation of being the last place on earth to get to. On the way from Kabara to Timbuctoo we ran into heavy clouds of locusts which have been ravaging the countryside for weeks.

To the tourist Timbuctoo offers little to see, its ghost-like buildings, its narrow sandy streets, the lack of electricity, water or hotels are no encouragement to the tourist to come there again. Yet to take back a photo of the signpost "Timbuctoo" seems to be adequate compensation.

The gesture of the Moslem merchant who provided a temporary church is symbolic of the great sympathy of all the people of Timbuctoo, and for that matter all the Sahel, for our missionaries. It is a place where American missionaries, if there were any to send, would be welcomed.

Mexico City Prelate Sets 'Tithe' System

Mexico City — (RNS) — Archbishop Luis Maria Martinez of Mexico City has called on all Roman Catholics in Mexico to give as a "tithe" to the Church the earnings of one day's work in the year.

His appeal, read in all Catholic churches in the country, stressed the need for the faithful to help in the upkeep of the Church, preparation of priests, and other religious obligations.

It recalled that "tithing" was an ancient practice and that in early days it was taken for granted that the first fruits cultivated went to the Church.

'Prayer Day' Proclaimed In Philippines

Manila — (NC) — President Ramon Magasaysay has proclaimed December 5 as Peace Through Prayer Day for the Philippines.

In an executive proclamation, he stated that peace is the common concern and obsession of all mankind. He added: "There can be no durable peace, peace with justice and dignity, unless it is built on some spiritual foundation in the hearts and souls of men."

The Philippine executive called on all the people and residents of the archipelago, "regardless of race or creed, to take active part in the observance of this Day to the end that we may enjoy the blessings of true and lasting peace."

Washington — (NC) — A Solemn High Mass, with Filipino priests as officiating, will be sung in St. Matthew's Cathedral here in observance of Philippine Peace Through Prayer Day, December 5.

Celebrant will be Father Fernando Mempo, executive secretary of the Catholic Welfare Organization, official organization of the Philippine hierarchy. He will be assisted by Father Elias Poblete, deacon; Father Pedro Bantigue, subdeacon, and Father Laureo Guco, master of ceremonies.

Msgr. John J. Cartwright, rector of St. Matthew's Cathedral will preach the sermon.

Among the invited guests for the event are Catholic members of the United States Senate and House of Representatives and 14 judges.

Haiti Cyclone Hits Church Properties

Port-au-Prince, Haiti — (NC) — Next to helping to relieve the homeless and needy, the main responsibility facing the Church in Haiti in the wake of the recent cyclone-hurricane is the reconstruction of churches, schools and other institutions destroyed or damaged during the catastrophe. Total damage to Church properties was placed conservatively at a million dollars.

Attention was called to the Church's reconstruction needs by Archbishop Luigi Bommarito, Papal Nuncio to Haiti, who said that still incomplete surveys have shown that all the dioceses suffered property losses, the most ravaged area being the Diocese of Les Cayes.

A committee for Academic Aid to the Silent Church, headed by Jean Bourgeois, a member of the Swiss Parliament, has been formed. "In the spirit of Papal directives," its essential purpose is to assure that cadres of intellectuals from countries where the Church has been reduced to silence will be available to those countries when they are liberated from the Reds.

Students Stage Anti-Catholic Riot
Brussels, Belgium — (NC) — Several hundred students of the Free University of Brussels, founded by a Mason, celebrated its anniversary by staging their annual anti-Catholic demonstration.

Violence broke out in the center of the city when Catholics organized counter demonstrations and the police had to intervene. The students erected and mocked a cross on one of the city's main avenues, listened to anti-Catholic speeches and insulted priests and nuns.

Laube Heads Catholic Poets

New York — (NC) — The Catholic Poetry Society of America announced that Clifford J. Laube, who retired last year as the day national news editor of the New York Times, will take over as its president on January 1.

Father-Son Communion Breakfast



Attending the Father and Son Communion Breakfast held by the Holy Redeemer Club last Sunday in the school hall were left to right, front, Dennis Gauger, a new cub; Roger De Bell, den leader; back, Gene Kotowski, cub master; Josephine Stacy, den mother.

RED TERROR Vietnam Refugees' Story Told By Filipino Doctor

Manila — (NC) — The Vietnamese communists are using lies, terror, starvation and violence to keep the people in North Vietnam from using their internationally guaranteed right to choose their place of domicile.

This report has been brought back here by a Filipino doctor who heard it from Vietnamese refugees whom he examined and treated. Dr. Antonio Velasco returned here after serving as head of the Philippine medical mission sent to Vietnam by the local junior chamber of commerce.

In the Geneva agreement signed by a number of interested powers, the Vietnamese Reds pledged to give all residents in North Vietnam the right to migrate to the southern, non-communist zone if they so chose. An international committee headed by India was set up to supervise the observance of the Geneva agreement.

THE REFUGEES told Dr. Velasco that the Vietnamese had spread rumors that they would be dumped into the sea after boarding American navy ships, he related.

The doctor also talked with some refugees who had escaped by land. They told him, he said, that the Vietnamese had herded groups of refugees together and kept them without food for a number of days. Some of them caped suffered physical violence from the Vietnamese. Dr. Velasco was told, but he did not personally meet any who had suffered violence.

THE BROTHERS of St. John of God told the Filipino doctor of terror around the refugee camps at Bienhoa near Saigon, he said. They said there was much shooting around the camps during the night scaring the refugees and causing confusion. The instigators of these difficulties have not been apprehended, the doctor was told, but Vietnamese agents are suspected.

Field Army Tea Set By Cancer Society

The American Cancer Society will hold its annual field army tea on Dec. 7 from 2 to 4 p.m. at the Chamber of Commerce. Reservations must be made, but there is no charge. Call Hamilton 2184.

ADVENTURE TOPIC LISTED AT MUSEUM

Dr. Arthur A. Allen of Cornell University will present his observations in "Hunting With a Microphone and Color Camera" at the Rochester Museum of Arts and Sciences on Saturday, Dec. 11, at 10:30 a.m. He will appear on the Audubon Screen Tour in the Rochester Museum Association Youth Lecture Series.

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Efforts In Hospital Fire Bring Praise To Staff

Hornell — High tribute was paid to the staff of St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell, following the fire that broke out there Friday evening, Nov. 26. While firemen battled the blaze which started from an incinerator, hospital attendants calmly removed 20 patients from the danger area.

In an editorial in the Hornell Evening Tribune, the staff received high praise. The article said in part:

"THE CALMNESS and efficiency of a hospital have seldom been more eloquently demonstrated than by the staff of St. James Mercy Hospital during the fire there last Friday.

"If there was any excitement or confusion, it must have been entirely outside the institution among the hundreds of spectators who thronged the area. Inside everyone was cool and orderly as the firemen worked while nurses and nuns quietly and quickly moved patients from the vicinity of the fire to other parts of the hospital.

"There were some patients unaware of what was going on so near them; a baby was born on one floor; an expectant mother was admitted; victims of a nearby accident arrived by ambulance. It was a busy night, but the hospital staff took it in stride.

"Hornell can be proud in the knowledge that it has in its midst institutions with such well-trained and well-disciplined staffs."

Extent of the damage has still to be estimated. Flames were confined to a small area, but smoke and water damage is expected to be heavy.

Clifton Springs Church To Hold Marian Triduum

Clifton Springs — A Triduum honoring the close of the Marian Year will open at St. Felix Church on Sunday and close with the observance of the Feast of the Immaculate Conception on Wednesday, Dec. 8.

The only Mass on Sunday morning will be a low Mass at 9:30 a.m. Services will start at 7 p.m. on Sunday, Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday with the High Mass preceded by recitation of the Rosary and sermon by the Rev. Edmund Dougherty, pastor.

There will be no morning Mass on Monday and Tuesday. Low Mass will be said Wednesday at 7:30 a.m.

Geneva Clothing Center To Close Tomorrow

Geneva — The clothing collection center at St. Francis de Sales School, Geneva, will close tomorrow, Dec. 4. Contributions may be tomorrow from 1 to 5 and 7 to 9 p.m.

The drive is under the sponsorship of the parish Rosary Society with Mrs. Stewart McMillen as chairman.

Howell Named Chairman At Annual Meeting

At the annual meeting of the Pleasant Valley Wine Company held at the offices at Rhetna, Hammondsport, Robert Howell, formerly president of the Pleasant Valley Wine Company, was named chairman of the Board.

Harry A. May was elected President to succeed Mr. Howell.

Romulus Organization To Hold Benefit

Romulus Organization of Rochester will hold its 8th annual benefit dance on Saturday, Dec. 4 from 9:30 p.m. to 2 a.m. in the Columbus Civic Center Ballroom.

Proceeds will be used to purchase some needy equipment for the handicapped children.

General chairman is Frank Mirabella; ticket chairman, Lily by Luciano, Vicky Britz; decorations, Carl Arena, Rose Zamuto; publicity, Rose DeGregorio. Couples will dance to the music of Dan Foley's Orchestra. Tickets may be secured from the members or at the door that evening, \$3 per couple.

KNIGHTS SCHEDULE QUARTERLY MEETING

Quarterly meeting of the First District Commandery of New York Knights of St. John Rochester Regiment will be held tonight (Dec. 3) at the club rooms on Andrew St. at 8 p.m.

Postmaster Suggests Methods To Aid Speedy Deliveries For Christmas

Postmaster Louis B. Cartwright believes that with a three-cent stamp your Christmas cards will win more friends and influence more people than if they are mailed with a two-cent stamp. "First-class postage," he explained, "eliminates any worry about whether or not your season's greetings were received. Your own return address on the envelope will help others keep their address books up to date. Then, too, Christmas cards sent with three-cent stamps may carry written messages, a custom everyone enjoys."

Odd sized envelopes, require cancellation by hand, and must carry first-class postage. Christmas cards addressed outside the state should be mailed by Dec. 15; local delivery at least a week before Christmas. Christmas cards should be tied in two separate bundles, with each address facing the same way. Then attach the postal labels "ALL FOR LOCAL DELIVERY" and "ALL FOR OUT-OF-TOWN DELIVERY."

Parcel post should be mailed even earlier. The postmaster recommends Dec. 5 for out-of-state gifts, and Dec. 10 for those with local addresses. Information is available at the Postoffice.

Gift packages may not be sealed, unless the return address and this notice appear: "Contents, Merchandise—May be opened for postal inspection."

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