

**Jesuit Has Apostolate In Hovels.**

**'Ragpicker's Priest' Serves Tokyo's Slums**

Tokyo — (RNS) — President Eisenhower now owns a deed to 49 square inches of land in Japan.

He was sent that gift, along with a letter, by the ragpickers of Tokyo in appreciation for American surplus rice and powdered milk given to them through Catholic Relief Services - National Catholic Welfare Conference.

Behind the deed lies the story of an unusual missionary. He is the Rev. Francis X. Meyer, S.J., better known to the unfortunate of this city as the "Ragpicker's Priest."

FATHER MEYER'S "parish" is a squalid, foul smelling settlement of hovels spread throughout the Adachi Ward of Tokyo. Living within the gloomy confines of those huts are some 15,000 Japanese who make a living collecting trash and reselling it to junk dealers.

Between six and eight people live in each vermin-infested eight by eight hut. The average family income is 75 cents a day. When it rains, the ragpickers earn nothing.

Into this miserable scene Father Meyer comes every day from Sophia University, the Jesuit institution here. He does no preaching or converting. He couldn't give away religion to

people whose main drive is for bare survival. He tries to help them get a living wage, to keep their daughters from the curse of white slavery and to make their life worth living in some small degree.

Father Meyer has conceived a unique aid plan. He believes that giving food now and then to people who are always hungry is only a temporary solution to the problem.

"FIRST THEY need free medical help," he said. "The death rate among ragpickers is 30 percent above average for adults and a staggering 60 percent above average for children who survive birth. Then they need legal aid to help them obtain benefits they have a right to but know nothing about. Next comes housing, cheap prefabricated housing they can construct themselves; then cooperatives so that they can get a more favorable return for their labor."

The priest plans to finance his scheme by selling deeds similar to the one that was sent to President Eisenhower. It shows theoretical ownership

to 49 inches of land in Christmas Village, a modest institution to be built on the outskirts of the ragpicker's settlement.

Father Meyer hopes to collect enough money through this plan to construct a building to house the medical and legal facilities needed by these Japanese "untouchables."

THE DEED sent to President Eisenhower was a gift from the ragpickers who paid for it themselves out of their meagre income.

Father Meyer's project is great and his faith is immense. He believes he will succeed although he is fighting against custom and tradition in a country where both are firmly embedded.

If the Jesuit had his way he would move into a shack with his beloved ragpickers. As it is he spends most of his waking hours with them, sharing their misery.

Observers think he is a counterpart of Abbe Pierre of Paris, the "ragpicker priest" who has housed and fed many of the homeless in that city.



IN THE HEART of Formosa, the Catholic ceremony for the dead joins with the ages-old Chinese burial rites. Many become interested in the Faith through these ceremonies. The Rev. Louis J. Dowd, S.J., of Rochester officiates.



A CHINESE CHILD called "poowee" comes to give Father Dowd, "a little instruction on the meaning of Christmas."

**Father Dowd Sent Donation In Formosa**

In response to an appeal from the Rev. Louis J. Dowd, S.J., native of Rochester and missionary in Formosa, the Mission Group of Our Lady of Mercy High School sent him \$200.

Father Dowd, a former parishioner of Blessed Sacrament parish is located at the Jesuit Catechetical Center, Catholic Mission, Hsinchu, Taiwan.

ASKING FOR financial aid from his friends in his home diocese, Father Dowd said: "This is our hour to fight Communism, and we need you."

The 45 year old priest who was ordained in a Japanese prison camp in 1944 announced that his mission now has the ground on which to build a permanent youth center. Funds remaining from past donations will allow the roof and two walls to be built.

The mission is carrying on its work in a rented store from which 25 catechists are sent out daily. They instruct some 500 public school children and adults.

IF ADDITIONAL funds are received the mission will add to the center a second floor for boarders. It will be the beginning of the minor seminary, Father Dowd said.

Any contributions may be sent to him directly or to the Rev. William J. Klement, S.J., American Jesuits in China, 284 Stanyan St., San Francisco 18, Calif.

**School Board Blocks Parochial Bus Riders**

Ashland, Wis. — (RNS) — The Ashland-integrated school board rejected a motion to suspend the rules and give a second reading to a resolution favoring bus transportation at public expense for parochial as well as public school students.

The resolution stipulated that bus transportation for "all of the children of all taxpayers" requiring such service should be provided by the district as soon as this procedure "is ruled legal and constitutional under Wisconsin law."

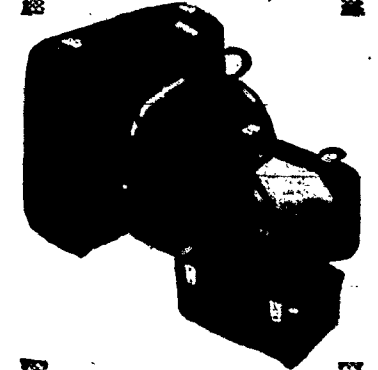
Defeat of the motion to sus-

pend the rules followed receipt of an opinion from G. E. Watson, State Superintendent of Schools, who advised that paying for the transportation of parochial school students out of public school funds is not legal under present Wisconsin laws.

He quoted a State Supreme Court ruling that "neither tax-supported public school property nor funds raised for public school purposes can be for sectarian organized religious purposes."

COURIER-JOURNAL Friday, December 14, 1956

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**Missioner A Bit Green With Envy**

There's a suspicion of envy in the Irish eyes of Columban Father Denis Fitzpatrick as he admires the flourishing bush of his Fijian houseboy, Rafel, in Lautoka, Fiji. Rafel, a typical Fijian and a man of all work, has been a devoted helper of the missionaries in Lautoka for many years. Father Fitzpatrick, who went to the Pacific Islands in 1932, is Superior of the Columban Fathers in the islands. (NO Photo).

**Costa-Rica Envoy Nephew Of Pontiff**

Vatican City — (NC) — The new ambassador to the Holy See from Costa Rica, Prince Giulio Pacelli, has presented his credentials to Pope Plus XII.

Prince Pacelli is a nephew of the Pope. Though an Italian, the Prince had served as Costa Rica's Minister to the Holy See for ten years prior to being given ambassadorial rank.

**Jesuit University Freshmen To Hear Lectures Via TV**

Detroit — (NC) — Detroit University's president has unveiled a radical new plan that next year will give university freshmen the opportunity of attending lectures from their easy chairs at home.

Father Celestine J. Steiner, S.J., announced here that the university plans by December, 1957, to beam the lecture and demonstration portions of all its first-year courses to students over educational television channel WTVS here.

IN BOTH instances, a fee will be charged and credit given. But the Jesuit educator warned that TV will not be a substitute for examinations, laboratory classes and discussion periods — all of which will be held on campus.

Through the December, 1957, plans are the highlight of the new approach, Father Steiner said that the university will begin telecasting within the next three months, a half-hour weekly career guidance program and a pre-college series for high school seniors.

FATHER Steiner's announcement was made in connection with the dedication of the campus building housing the educational television channel's headquarters. It is a quarter million dollar structure named the E. J. and Annie H. Smith Radio-TV Centre given to the university in June by Eimer Smith, Detroit industrialist.

Although there is not any intention to have television replace "conventional educational methods," Father Steiner stated, the use of TV should not be regarded as a "gimmick."

"We will use it as a tool to bring one phase of our campus educational techniques — the lecture and demonstration — more effectively to more students," he said.

FATHER STEINER explained that the university believes there is "a need to place more responsibility on the individual student to remove the 'guards' and 'timekeepers' we surround him with in our tight little classrooms."

A spoon-fed student is not necessarily an educated man," he said. Reasons prompting the university to turn to television, he declared, include a shortage of top-quality professors to take care of all students, "the cry of public educators for more tax money to expand their facilities" and the "educational climate" which demands that every qualified high school graduate be given an opportunity for a college education.

**College Bans 'Going Steady'**

Loretto, Pa. — (RNS) — St. Francis College here banned "going steady" as "morally wrong" and warned that students who violate the ban will be expelled.

The ban and the penalty were announced by the Rev. Vincent R. Negherbon, T.O.R., president of the Catholic co-educational institution which has an enrollment of 800, of which 650 are males.

Father Negherbon's order, posted on bulletin boards of the school, said: "Steady company keeping should lead to marriage in the very near future. The practice of 'going steady' is morally wrong, therefore, for college students."

Included in his definition of "going steady" were exclusive dating, continuous walking to and from classes and meals together and "frequency of association excluding all others."

The dean said the college had not experienced any problems of excessive dating in the past but with a large number of girls seeking admission it acted "to avoid any problems in the future."

**Freedom Fighters Married In Rome**

Vatican City — (NC) — The happy ending to a romance took place in St. Peter's Basilica here as two young Hungarian refugees were married.

Maria and Ladislav are their names. Their family names were not given because they still have relatives living in Hungary.

The young couple met and fell in love when both were fighting the Russians during the recent rebellion. They decided they would get married if they ever reached freedom. They escaped to Austria and were brought to Rome with the aid of the Red Cross.

When they arrived here they told their story to a Red Cross official. Free Hungarian officials and Vatican authorities were consulted and the wedding was arranged.

**GOD LOVE YOU!**

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

Your mind has an idea in it as you begin reading this column, e.g. the idea of "love". Suppose that you say the word "love" aloud. Your idea thus becomes vocal, without the idea ceasing to be an idea and without the sound being a sound. In some mysterious way both are one.

At Christmas something like this happened: "The Word became flesh and dwelt amongst us", that is the Intelligence, the Word of God, or the Son took on a human flesh and became man, without ceasing to be either God or Man. In fact the two were one in the unity of the person of the God.

In the first Christmas the angel in the name of God, asked Mary to give God a human nature, so He could walk this earth as man. Mary consented: "Be it done to me according to Thy Word". This Christmas we are to play the role of Mary and offer to God our human nature that He may live in us in a manner and after the pattern of Our Lord who suffered and died for our salvation. But it is not easy to offer God our human nature as an instrument which He may use for prolonging His Truth and Love and Forgiveness among men. It requires a self-surrender, an abnegation of old habits and even sins which few are willing to make.

There are millions in Africa and Asia and Oceania who would be willing to have Christ born in their hearts at Christmas as He was born in Bethlehem—but they must be told about the mystery through missionaries. But how shall they be sent unless we with faith make a sacrifice. Those who have already given their human natures to Christ are invariably the ones who make their sacrifices to give what they have to the pagans in the Holy Father's Missions. Only those who have Christ in their hearts ever want to give Christ to other hearts. Thanks for anything even the equivalent of what you spend on wrapping paper for presents. All sacrifices to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith are sent to the Holy Father.

GOD LOVE YOU! to F. E. for \$5. "My first Christmas present for the 1956 Christmas." . . . to P. S. "I am enclosing \$1 the price of a movie ticket." . . . to D. C. "Enclosed is \$5 given in thanksgiving for all the love God has given me." . . . to Mrs. T. H. S. for \$25.00. "We were caught in a bad snow storm in the mountains and I promised this to you if we arrived safely at our destination."

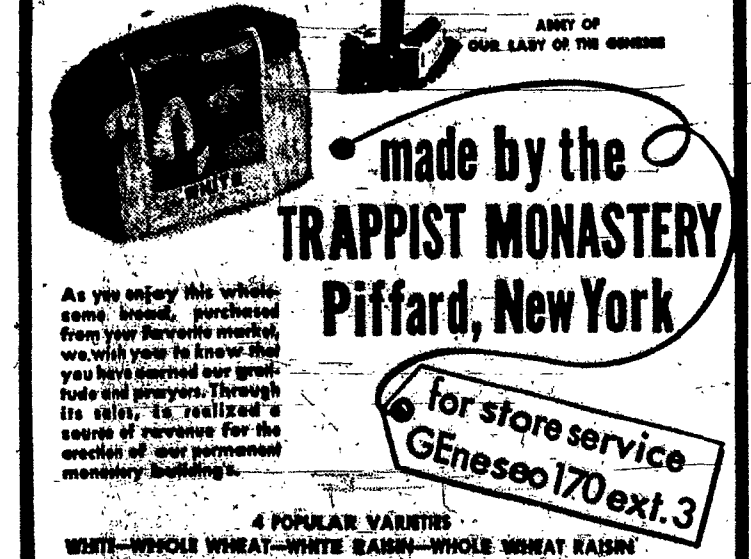
At this Holy season all thoughts are directed toward the dear Holy Child. But we cannot think of the Child without His Mother. This is the season of the Madonna and Child so for your request and an offering of \$3 sent to our ORDE DEPARTMENT we will send you our statue of Our Lady of Television holding the Christ Child for all the world to see.

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to the Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 336 Fifth Avenue, New York 15, N. Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

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