

# Faith Has New Dawn Where Christians Died

**Hondo, Japan.**—(NC)—Three-hundred-and-twenty years ago one of the most tragic persecutions of the Church began with a Christian uprising in their town in the Amami Islands.

Known as the Shimabara Revolt, the uprising ended only after the Japanese army had massacred nearly 37,000 Christians in April, 1638.

The 300th anniversary of the revolt was marked by a procession through the streets of the manufacturing town and in open air Requiem Mass at the foot of the Shimabara monument.

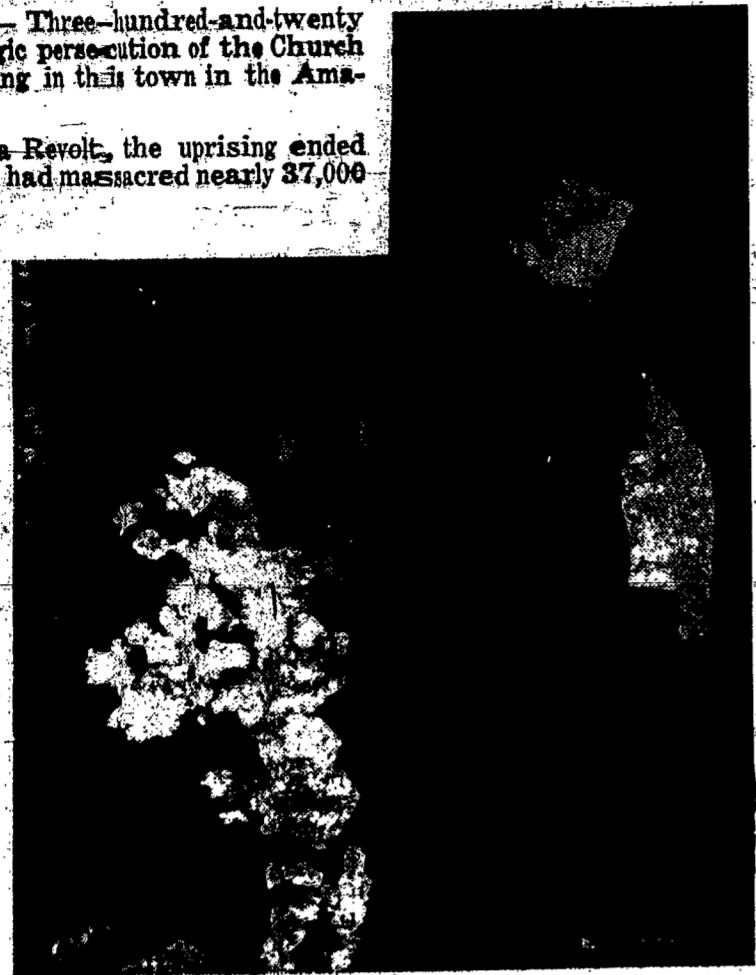
The Amami Islands form the western boundary of Nagasaki Bay. Christianity was first introduced here in 1590 during the year 1577, just 18 years after St. Francis Xavier landed in Japan.

About the entire population became Catholics and there were at one time 150 churches on the main island of the Tokugawa government began persecuting Christians and the famous Shimabara Massacre here from the peninsula.

At the moment of the persecution, being carried on by Japanese Tokugawa, Czar Lord of all Japan, increased the Amami Islands became the last place where Christians were free to practice their faith. Consequently, many Catholics of the Amami (Amami) class decided to stay when they would have to defend their freedom of conscience by force of arms.

When the Christians finally gave in revolt it was here at Hondo that the fighting between Christians and the Shogun's warriors was so fierce that the Amami river was stained red with blood.

The Christians, led by Martin Marty, marched 30 miles to the north and besieged a castle in Totsuki. After defeating the men defending the castle, the Christians crossed the Amami River to join forces



Miscellaneous Bishop John Ross bows at tablet honoring Japan martyrs.

with the Christians on the mainland who had risen in revolt.

The total force of 20,000 fighting men and 17,000 women and children prepared to make a stand in the dilapidated Haro castle in Shimabara.

Surrounded by steep cliffs on three sides, Haro was well suited for defense. Alarmed at the prospect of besieging the castle, Tokugawa sent 30,000 of his best troops to engage the Christians.

For 90 days the Christian warriors battled beneath banners inscribed with the words: "Jesus, Maria e S. Iago." They outfought the besiegers and in-

flicted heavy losses on their ranks.

In desperation, the Shogun appealed for help from the Dutch traders at Nagasaki. A Dutch warship was finally dispatched to help the besieging army. Standing out to sea beyond the range of the smaller guns manned by Christians, the Dutch warship poured 408 shots into the castle during a 15-day period.

Finally, on April 12, 1638, their ammunition spent, food and water supply exhausted, the Christian defenders were overwhelmed. They fought to the end using sticks, stones, and even rice pots. Of the 37,000 inside Haro castle, all but 1055 were massacred.

During the closing phase of the battle, an arrow bearing a message was shot from the castle. The message said the defenders were not fighting for political or economic gain, but "because our holy religion is one for which it is difficult to thank heaven sufficiently."

After more than 300 years, the Church returned to Hondo in 1937 when Irish Columban Father Patrick Creton established a mission.

Currently there are only 30 Catholics here, but the pagans of Hondo are intensely interested in their Catholic past. Ceremonies marking the 320th anniversary of the revolt were held under the auspices of the town government, which expressed the hope that it will become an annual event.

# India Red Mobs Desecrate Chapel

**Changanacherry — (NC)**—A slogan-shouting procession of communists stoned Catholic homes, smashed holy pictures, and attempted to destroy a Catholic chapel here in Changanacherry, a community of 30,000 in southern India's Red-controlled Kerala state.

The stone-throwing mob of nearly 3,000 made its way through the city streets after a Communist party district meeting broke up. Local police accompanied the communist procession.

P. J. Sebastian, former president of the Kerala Catholic Congress, said that several Catholics, including an aged woman, were hit by stones. The woman was knocked unconscious.

Eyewitnesses said the Reds concentrated their attack on holy pictures displayed in the windows of homes and businesses. At the chapel of the Little Flower, the communists attempted to break open the door and falling that they threw cow-dung on a statue of St. Theresa.

Later, a meeting of Catholics accused the police of adopting a "criminal policy" by siding with the communists. Also, it protested the arrest of 30 Catholics which followed the communist procession.

**IN QUILON**, 40 miles south of here, Tiruvalla district police arrested a Catholic priest after he refused to turn a Catholic school over to the Tiruvalla district education officer. Father George Faustin Fernandez, manager of the school, was later released on bail.

The arrest grew out of the attempts of Kerala's communist-dominated government to enforce an education bill subjecting Catholic schools to state seizure. The bill, passed by the state's Red-controlled legislature, has not been approved by the national government and does not become law until it is signed by Indian President Rajendra Prasad. Father Fernandez was the first Catholic priest to be arrested in the current controversy over schools in Kerala state.

**IN KOTTAYAM**, the Kerala Catholic Congress condemned the exclusion of Catholics from the new textbook committees appointed by the Red government. About 200 persons have been charged with the selection and preparation of textbooks to be used by the state's schools. Well over 100 of this number are communists and fellow-travelers.

**Columban Priests Arrive In Korea**  
Seoul, Korea.—(NC)—Thirteen more Columban priests—American and Irish—have arrived in Korea.

With 78 priests assigned to Korea, the Columbans outnumber all other Catholic foreign missionary societies here. The Columban Fathers have charge of two Apostolic Vicariates—Kwangju in the southwest, headed by Bishop Harold Henry of Northfield, Minn., and Chuncheon, northeast of Seoul, headed by



Atop Chapel

**Loretto, Pa.—(NC)**—A 12-foot high statue of the Immaculate Conception made of aluminum has been put in place atop newly-built Immaculate Conception Chapel at Saint Francis College, Loretto, Pa. The statue was recently dedicated by the late Bishop Richard T. Gullfoyle, of Altoona.

**Bishop Thomas Quinlan**, veteran missionary who was once in a Red prison camp in North Korea.

## Walks 112 Miles

### 'Every Mother Must Make Sacrifices'

**San Juan, Texas —(NC)**—A courageous, tired lady rested here after a walk of 112 miles in gratitude for the acquittal of her son on a murder charge.

**Mrs. Manuela Carreon**, 47, of Texas City had made a vow to the Blessed Virgin of San Juan that she would walk 387 miles from Galveston to the Shrine of Our Lady here if her son, Alfonso, Jr., were acquitted.

Asked why she had made the vow, she replied: "Every mother must make sacrifices for her children."

Alfonse, who is 27, was freed November 27 in Galveston of the charge of murdering Adolph Saldua in a knife fight at a Texas City tavern on December 3, 1956. Mrs. Carreon began her pilgrimage after the jury verdict.

Despite a heart condition, rain and cold weather, she walked 112 miles in seven days. She stopped her long journey in Palacios after receiving word from Father Jose M. Azplaza, O.M.I., pastor of the shrine that she would be absolved of her vow if she made a pilgrimage instead to Our Lady of San Juan.

She was driven here by her husband, Alfonso, who had followed her in a pickup truck. She, her husband and the acquitted son attended Mass and talked to priests here as soon as they arrived. On the feast of the Immaculate Conception the family attended Mass and received Communion in Our Lady of San Juan church.

**MRS. CARREON** said she kept taking pills for her heart condition and suffered no ill effects from her journey, other than painfully swollen feet.



## 112 Miles In Thanksgiving

**San Juan, Texas.—(NC)**—Courageous but tired, Mrs. Manuela Carreon, of Texas City, Texas, talks with Father Jose M. Azplaza, O.M.I., pastor of the Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan, San Juan, Tex. She walked 112 miles to the shrine in gratitude for acquittal of her son from a murder charge.

During her walk Mrs. Carreon limited herself to one meal a day and politely refused offers of clothing and money. Around her neck she had a small crucifix, and in a

small paper bag she held a rosary.

At one point in her journey, she was asked what she would do if her shoes wore out. "Then I will walk barefooted," she replied.

At night Mrs. Carreon usually stayed at a gas station or at someone's home. But she had resolved not to sleep in a bed until she had completed the pilgrimage.

## Jesuit High School Completed In Hiroshima

**Hiroshima.—(NC)**—The final unit of a Jesuit high school for boys has been completed and blessed.

The new structure, containing six modern laboratories, three classrooms, school library, administration offices, and an infirmary, was blessed by Archbishop Maximilian de Furstenberg, Apostolic Intendant to Japan.

The four-story structure is the third unit of the school.

## CHRISTMAS MASS FOR YOU!

**TO ALL OUR NEAR EAST BENEFACTORS**—The special Midnight Mass at the Shrine of Our Lady of San Juan in the same Holy Shrine are being offered for all who have been so good to our poor scattered throughout the Mission fields of the Near East. This is our way of saying God bless you for your charity to our Holy Father and his Near East Mission.

**REMEMBER GOD AND HIS MISSIONS IN YOUR WILL.**

**GOD'S WEEKLY WANT AD**—The Carmelite Sisters in Jerusalem, India have no chapel at the present time and are begging for \$3,000 to build a modest chapel for their prayers and devotions. Perhaps you might wish to help this worthy cause in memory of your loved one. A more worthy gift in their memory during this holy season of Christmas could not be given.

**THE ONLY SUPPORT OF OUR MISSIONARY PRIESTS ARE YOUR MASS OFFERINGS.** ARRANGE FOR MASS FOR YOUR OWN SOUL AFTER DEATH. WRITE AND ASK ABOUT OUR "SUSPENSE CARD." IT'S A GOOD INVESTMENT FOR YOU.

**A CHRISTMAS GIFT TO GOD?**  
We suggest to your charity the following chapel needs.  
Sanctuary lamp \$15 Confessional \$50 Altar stone ... \$10  
Chalice ... 40 Mass bell ... 5 Altar linens ... 15  
Mass book ... 25 Tabernacle ... 25 Stations ... 25  
Why not remember a deceased loved one at Christmas? Our missionaries and their faithful people will pray for them constantly.

**WHAT YOU PUT IN THE HAND OF THE HOLY FATHER YOU PUT IN THE HAND OF CHRIST.**

**SISTER ROSE ANOINE and SISTER MARY GLORIA** are from Lebanon and India respectively. They each need 150 dollars yearly for two years before their profession as missionary Nuns. Their own dear hearts and the hearts of the neediest souls whom they will serve will bless you abundantly, in time and in eternity.

**BE GOOD TO GOD AND GOD WILL BE GOOD TO YOU.**

**"GO FORTH AND TEACH, BAPTIZING IN MY NAME"**—said the Lord. We have worthy and zealous lads who wish to be priests but cannot support themselves during their seminary training. **JOSHUA** is just beginning his studies in St. Joseph's Seminary in India and **VLADIMIRO** is starting his studies in Rome. They are praying for some kind benefactor who might adopt them—giving the \$100 necessary for each year of their six years of training. What a gift to God — a Priest!

**GOD REWARDS THE CHEERFUL GIVER.**  
**ORPHANS IN THE HOLY LAND.** The Feast of the Holy Innocents remind us of the Foundlings in the Holy Land. Sister Mary, a lovely Sister of Charity watches over the little orphan at Bethlehem. It costs only \$7 a month to feed and clothe one of them.

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