



MAWENZI PEAK of Africa's Mt. Kilimanjaro, as seen from alt. (17,000 feet) where Mass was said. Air was too thin for priest to offer Mass at the summit, 19,500 feet above sea level.

American Missionary Offers Mass On Africa's Mount Kilimanjaro

Kilimanjaro, Tanganyika — (NC) — An American missionary, Father Frederick Trumbull, has returned from his climb of the highest mountain and offers a report on what is believed to be the highest altitude at which Mass has ever been celebrated.

The 39-year-old Bridgeport, Conn. priest joined the expedition to climb the 19,500-foot Mount Kilimanjaro at the request of its leader, John Tunstall, of Johannesburg, South Africa. Mr. Tunstall, a convert, said he thought the missionary's presence and daily Mass would bring blessings on the trip.

PURPOSE OF THE EXPEDITION was to make a geological survey of the mountain's top and its volcanic crater. It was also hoped that it might find the legendary tomb of the Emperor Menelik of Abyssinia, who according to tradition was the son of King Solomon and the Queen of Sheba and was buried on the mountain's top. No evidence of the tomb was found.

Describing his ascent, Father Trumbull said:

Each day we walked about twelve miles—not much, but remember that the air gets thinner with every step you take. The going became very rough on the last day. We were forced to carry all our firewood and water, for above 13,000 feet, there was none.

"I WAS NEVER so happy, nor exhausted," said the American missionary, "as when I reached the Kibo hut at 15,000 feet. I couldn't move for fear my head would really split in half as it threatened. The next morning I said Mass in the hut. It was something of an occasion, for to our knowledge the highest Mass that had ever been said was in the 'saddle' 1,500 feet below by Bishop Le Roy (a pioneer missionary in East Africa) many years ago."

For the next week the party lived in a cave at 17,000 feet to acclimatize themselves to the altitude before starting for the very top, the priest said.

He continued: "What a sight it was to drag yourself over the first knoll and to see the huge low walls that plunged some 600 feet into the enormous crater. These walls of low reflected beautiful colors, light blues and greens. Where the walls did not rise in a straight line, the sides of the crater were riddled by numerous ice caves, the entrances to which were draped with brilliant icicles. It does seem incredible to see so much snow and ice, maybe a 60 foot layer of it about on the equator. Kilimanjaro is two-degrees from the equator."

"I can honestly say," he recalled, "that I have very few recollections about the conditions and the terrain at the top. I



TOP OF AFRICA — Father Frederick Trumbull of Bridgeport, Conn., offers Mass 17,000 feet up on Mt. Kilimanjaro, Africa's highest mountain. Assisting him is John Tunstall, convert and leader of the expedition to Kilimanjaro's 19,500 feet high peak.

couldn't possibly count the number of times that I sank into the soft snow and dropped off to sleep immediately.

"At that stage," he said, "you forget about the danger of such sleep, or when on your feet you are not so critical of the steep drops on either side of you. I don't know how I got to the very top, but I did, in a completely exhausted state."

"The safari (to the top) revealed," the priest reported, "that it would be impossible to make a descent into the crater itself, for the snow was too deep and it would have proved too treacherous. But for me, it had other implications. I realized that it would also be impossible to say Mass at 19,565 feet. At such a height, without oxygen, one does not enjoy the full use of one's faculties."

"This being so," Father Trumbull told, "I said Mass the next morning at 17,000 feet in front of the cave where our camp had been situated. It was indeed a wonderful experience. From that position, I could look out over hundreds of miles of African soil."

"The sun," the priest remembered, "lit up the various missions below, reflecting as it did off the metal roofs of the mission buildings. Mr. Tunstall, the leader of the expedition, served my Mass."

"Everything about that Mass was impressive, for I should say that it made an impression on me. To our knowledge, it was the highest that Mass had ever been offered. It was an experience I shall never forget, but mostly because of my having said Mass only 2,500 feet from the top of Africa," said the American missionary.

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Korean Woman Becomes Convert, Wins 15 Others

Pusan, Korea — (NC) — Koreans make excellent missionaries a young American priest has discovered.

Father Thomas E. McKee, a Maryknoll missionary from Tulsa, Okla., reports that Korean converts frequently become great apostles in spreading their new faith.

"A good example," says Father McKee, "is the case of a prominent, well-educated Korean woman to a Catholic church here. Her husband is principal of a college and superintendent of a hospital."

Although both the man and wife were from Buddhist families, the couple had gradually lost interest in Buddhism.

During her visit to the church, a Korean priest invited her to come back for instructions. She did and later she brought her husband.

For six months the couple attended the parish during the strictest period. After being well educated in the faith, they were baptized.

At once the lady began to tell her friends about the Church and so far is responsible for bringing 15 other converts into the faith. These include six male doctors, a woman doctor, two university professors and a professor's wife.

Australian Catholics Over Two-Million

Sydney, Australia — (NC) — The Catholic population of Australia now exceeds two million, the 1958 edition of the Australian Catholic Directory reveals.

The 1957 figures given in the directory are 1,848,888 in the 1957 directory. In gain of 275,507 for the year in a nation of about 10 million.

In New Zealand, whose total population is less than 2,500,000, Catholics now number 264,235, representing a rise of 4.14 in the course of a year.

"WE ARE HAPPY TO ASK FOR MORE..."

The Bishop of Zarka Jordan writes to us, "Yes, we are happy to ask for more money to build still another Chapel. Your generous people have made it possible for us to build two Churches in Zarka and as a result more and more refugees are coming here to live. These poor people are so anxious to remain close to the Church that we must now build another Chapel to accommodate them." This is certainly an unusual approach—but to tell the truth we share the good bishop's joy in this increase of his flock, even though more people mean more problems. We are happy also to tell you of the great work being done by your prayers and sacrifices. The Church of Christ is on the march in Zarka—will you be a part of this great forward movement? The total cost of the new Chapel will be \$3,000. Will you help this zealous Bishop—why not do it for Lent?

WHAT YOU PUT INTO THE HANDS OF OUR HOLY FATHER, YOU PUT IN THE HANDS OF CHRIST

"RESOLVED: IT'S EASIER TO DIE BY FIRE THAN BY WATER." Remember when this was a favorite topic for school talks and debates? The poor refugees in Palestine have no debates and neither do they have a choice except it be between starvation and exposure! Will you help to feed an entire refugee family for a week. Our food package will do just that for about the same price as two cartons of cigarettes (\$10). Will your Lenten penance feed a family for a week?

STRINGLESS GIFTS GIVE THE HOLY FATHER A FREE HAND TO HELP THE POOR OF CHRIST.

"God didn't call my boy to be a priest," one dear mother told me the other day, "but He has given me many sons in the priesthood." She was talking, of course, about adopting another seminarian (her fourth!) so she could have the joy of another ordination day and the peace of knowing somewhere in the world she would be remembered at Mass every day. Michele and Anastasio are now waiting to begin their Seminary studies in Ghiza (India). Each will need \$100 a year—\$600 for the entire course for necessary expenses. Of would you prefer to have a NUN IN THE FAMILY who would devote her every waking hour to prayer for you and your intentions. Sister Mary Brigid and Sister Mary Chelsa are anxiously watching the mail in Ernakulam, India. They wish to be Carmelite Sisters but they can't begin until some generous benefactor will contribute \$150 a year for two years to pay the necessary \$300 expenses for each. You can send the money in any way convenient while your "adopted child" is preparing to serve Christ.

MASS OFFERINGS SUPPORT OUR MISSIONARIES. REMEMBER THEM IN LENT.

SUGGESTION OF THE WEEK
Your Lenten sacrifice can bring a "luxury" to a refugee child. Ten dollars will give one child the sheer joy of a new suit or dress for First Communion Day. You can perform this act of charity for a loved one who is depressed OR our beautiful gift card will tell a special friend or relative that this kindness has been done for their intention. We'll send the card, anywhere for you and enclose PRESSED FLOWERS FROM THE HOLY LAND which have been blessed on the Holy Sepulcher.

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Bill Provides Bus Rides For Catholic School Pupils

Albany, N. Y. — (RNS) — School districts would be required to transport parochial school pupils up to 20 miles under a bill introduced in the legislature. The present limit is eight miles.

If parents requested such transportation either from the local school board or from the state education commissioner, the bill would require an answer within 20 days. Its sponsor is Sen. Julian B. Erway, Albany Democrat.

Priest Has No Explanation For 'House Of Mystery'

Seafood, N. Y. — (NC) — A priest who blessed the house here where a series of reportedly strange events have taken place said he can offer no explanation.

Father William J. McCloud of St. William the Abbot Church said he visited the home of Mr. and Mrs. James M. Hermann, members of the parish, at the family's request.

"I WENT OUT there on February 11 and blessed the house. This was about a week after the strange events were said to have begun. Mrs. Hermann told me that things were normal for two days after my visit, but that after that time, it all started again," Father McCloud said.

The Hermanns have reported that since February 3 the mysterious happenings in their house have included the unscrewing and popping of bottle caps and the hurrying of appliances and other articles by an "unknown force."

FATHER MCLOUD, a priest from Edmonton, Alberta, who is helping out at this Long Island parish, said many persons who have visited the home and seen the apparent results of the unknown force have volunteered that the force is a poltergeist — "a mischievous, unnatural force of some kind known to man for centuries."

Many of the events reported by the Hermanns have centered around their 11-year-old boy. In one instance, the family said, a crucifix on the wall of his bedroom was detached and fell to the floor when the boy was put in his parents' bedroom to sleep near them they said, a night table with a lamp on it fell over and the lamp's bulb was broken.

87 Parishes List Families For 'Courier'

(Continued from Page 1)

Edward Lintz 349 (23); St. Patrick, Danville, Rev. John C. Donnell, 203 (15); Assumption, Mt. Morris, Rev. Dominic J. Grasso, 251 (9) and St. Cecilia, Elmira, Rev. Thomas J. Manley 240 (7).

Also renewing the total coverage plan are:

St. Augustine, Rochester, Rt. Rev. Msgr. John M. Duffy, total 577; Holy Apostles, Rt. Rev. Msgr. George V. Predmore, 630; Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rev. Leo V. Smith, 458; St. Michael, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur F. Flanagan, 400.

St. Francis of Assisi, Rochester, Rev. Joseph A. Bircione, 321; Our Lady of Mt. Carmel, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Charles J. Azz, 251; St. Bridget, Rev. Gerald T. Brennan, 148.

St. Charles Borromeo, Greece, Rev. Robert A. Keeler, total 998; St. Hyacinth, Auburn, Rev. Jerome A. Holm, O.F.M., C.M., 388; St. Patrick, Corning, Rev. William M. Canavan, 345; St. Mary, Bath, Rev. Henry C. Manley, 216.

St. Paul's Hospital, operated by the Daughters of Charity of St. Vincent de Paul, plans a new building.

St. Mary, Genesee, Rev. Peter T. Jankowski, 190; St. Patrick, Victor, Rev. E. Joseph Esser.

Totals from these parishes indicate an overall gain of nearly 3 per cent above last year's reports.

Scranton Paper
Scranton, Pa. — (NC) — A two-alarm fire of undetermined origin caused extensive damage here to the offices of the Catholic Light newspaper of the Scranton diocese.

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