

## Maryknoll Missioners Bring Faith To Priest-Poor Area

Manila — (RNS) — Maryknoll Fathers Joseph W. Regan and James T. Ferry worked 18 hours a day "bringing old and new Catholics into the Faith" during their first month in the new parish of Maguipo in Davao Province on Mindanao Island. This is one of the most priest-poor areas of the Philippines.

Some 350 baptisms in the first month were "an indication of the great need for more priests in an area too long without them," Father Regan said.

The priest, who worked for 20 years in missions in South China, is now regional superior of all Maryknollers in the Philippine Islands.

In the summer of 1958 he led several Maryknoll missioners into 3,200 undeveloped square miles in the Davao Province. His own mission parish, which he runs with Father Ferry, includes three municipalities and about 130 barrios (villages).

THE PRIMARY task in the area was to restore a lost faith. Although Catholics were brought to the Philippines in 1565 by Spanish missionaries, the majority of the people in the Davao province are poorly instructed because of a shortage of priests.

Over the past 75 years, the ratio in Father Regan's mission area has dropped to one priest to every 20,000 Catholics. His mission's area is now classified as "pioneer territory" to which the Philippine government is attracting settlers from outside Mindanao.

Faced with this increase in population, the small number of priests found themselves unable to administer adequately the spiritual needs of the people.

On top of this, said Father Regan, "is the problem of Protestant infiltration. When the Communists closed down China, Protestant missioners came to the Philippines in large numbers. Now there are twice as many Protestant as there are Catholic missioners in the nominally Catholic country."

There are fewer priests in the Philippines today than there were 63 years ago at the time of the Spanish-American war. According to figures in the Catholic Directory there were only 2,938 Catholic priests in the islands —

a decrease of 255 since 1898. During this same period the population of the Philippines tripled from 6,500,000 to 19,000,000.

Father Regan stressed that the future of the Church in the Philippines depends on native vocations. At the present there are 40 boys studying in the Minor Seminary of Davao and about a dozen have gone to the Major

Seminary in Manila, he said.

"Every bishop and parish priest in the Philippines is encouraging vocations," he stated. "But it will be many years before a native clergy will be able to take over. Right now we need hundreds of foreign missioners to preserve the Faith that was planted in the hearts of the people 400 years ago."

## 'Anguish' Needed To Be Missioner

Washington — (NC) — The head of a 7,200-member, worldwide missionary congregation said here that every outstanding missioner has two special qualities.

"He must feel the anguish of the age and be convinced that he must do something about it," Father Leo Deschatelets, O.M.I., Superior General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate, told the 10th anniversary Oblate Educational Convention.

French-born Father Deschatelets traveled from the Rome headquarters of the Oblate Fathers to deliver the keynote address at the convention.

REPRESENTATIVES of the approximately 1,500 priests in the congregation's five U.S. provinces attended, as did members of the community from Canada and other countries.

Father Deschatelets has made four trips to this country in the 12 years he had been Superior General. He addressed the first educational convention in 1948, also held at Oblate College here.

and returned in 1951 and 1955 to conventions in other cities.

The congregation's head, speaking in English from a text prepared in French, told the Oblates in attendance that an effort should be made to give seminarians "the anguish which was in the heart of our founder."

The community was founded in 1816 by Charles Joseph Eugene de Mazenod in France. Its members have emphasized instruction of the poor, missions, retreats and catechism classes.

"The boys who come to us must want to be missionaries who feel that something must be done," he said. "Each must want to give his all in his prayer and his whole time. He must suffer when the Church suffers. He must feel 'I can study; I can try; I can mortify myself.'"

## Bolivia Diocese Dedicates First Parochial School

Santa Cruz — (NC) — Bishop Luis Rodriguez Parco of Santa Cruz de la Sierra has dedicated the first parochial school his diocese has had in a century and a quarter.

NAMED HOLY CROSS School, the institution has facilities for both primary and secondary grades. The building was recently completed under the direction of Father Dennis Brown, M.M., of Vallejo, Calif., the pastor of

Montero parish.

Maryknoll Fathers are in charge of five parishes near here, in an area where there were no priests 15 years ago.



## Nuns Attend Scientists Meet

Washington — (RNS) — An anatomy model is examined by two biology teachers from the Holy Name Academy, Silver Springs, Md., during the annual session of the Albertus Magnus Guild, an organization of Catholic scientists which met here in conjunction with a meeting of the American Association for the Advancement of Science.

## English Priest Charges

# Socialized Health Program Penalizes Catholic Doctors

London — (NC) — It is "virtually impossible" for a Catholic gynecologist to take a post in Britain's national health scheme, a Catholic priest has charged here.

The priest, writing anonymously under the pseudonym "Sacerdos" in the Catholic Herald, national weekly, added that in actual fact the number of Catholic gynecologists is steadily decreasing. It is already very small compared to the number in the other branches of medicine, he said.

He claimed that this is "a grave injustice to Catholic doctors and a grave handicap to Catholic mothers."

"Since the National Health Act of 1948 which prescribed that contraceptive advice should be available to women who require it, a Catholic can be excluded from a hospital post by the hospital committee simply on the grounds that his views run counter to the spirit of the Act and that he would therefore not be a suitable person to be a consultant to or in medical charge of a maternity department."

"Therapeutic abortion is now common in hospitals," the priest added. "A Catholic doctor if he

accepted such a post might find himself in a position very easily where his duty was to advise, supervise or administer such an abortion."

Consequently, Catholic gynecologists do not like applying for state hospital posts and hospitals do not like to give them such posts, he stated.

"This is not only a grave disability for a Catholic doctor. It means that Catholic mothers are penalized. A Catholic mother in a hospital finds that when moral questions concerned with childbirth and marriage come up, she will get medical advice often against her Catholic principles."

## Chicago Clergy Study Laity's Role At Mass

Chicago — (NC) — Publication of the instruction on lay participation in the Mass marks the first time the Holy See has spoken "with such emphasis and such detail" about the external forms of the people's part in the Mass, a priest-liturgist told a meeting of Chicago clergy.

Father John P. O'Connell of St. Theresa's church here spoke on the instruction at the Archdiocese of Chicago's quarterly clergy conference.

Father O'Connell listed four purposes of the instruction:

2. To make specific application of certain principles that had been laid down previously.

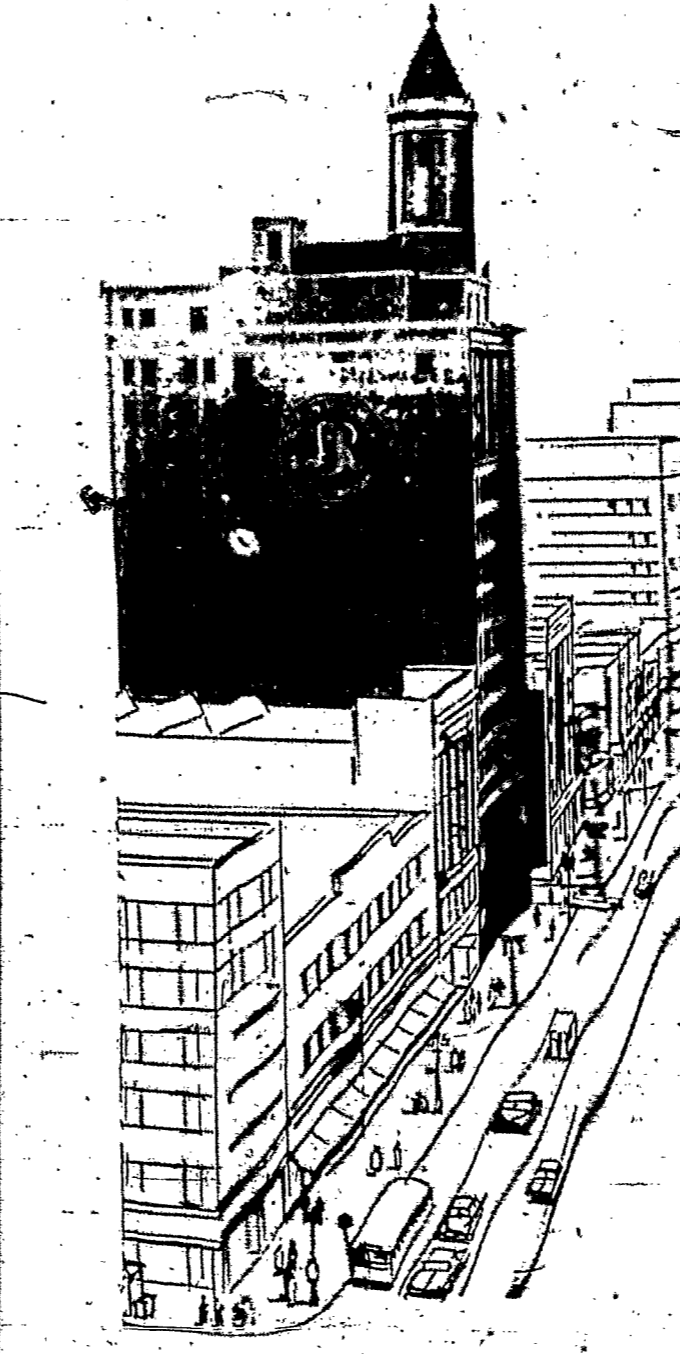
3. To bring about some general uniformity in the practices throughout the world.

4. To put added weight behind the repeated urgings of the Holy See to get on with the job of introducing in all parishes popular participation in the Mass.

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Cash	\$ 93,971,489.87
U. S. Government Bonds*	106,904,141.02
Other Stocks & Bonds*	8,752,878.24
Loans*	118,386,421.13
Mortgages*	56,116,507.90
Banking Houses	5,888,656.25
Accrued Interest & Other Income Receivable	1,424,051.88
Other Assets	328,196.77
	\$391,772,343.06
*Net after applying evaluation reserves	
LIABILITIES	
Deposits	\$ 357,104,231.54
Reserve for Interest & General Expense	831,715.33
Reserve for Federal Income & Other Taxes	1,731,771.89
Reserve for Unearned Discount	2,344,254.80
Dividends Declared & Payable February 2nd	438,812.50
Capital Funds	29,321,557.00
Common Stock	\$ 10,323,000.00
Surplus	14,000,000.00
Undivided Profits	4,998,557.00
	\$29,321,557.00
	\$391,772,343.06
Trust Department	\$410,871,571.01



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