

American Aid Feeds Twenty Million Needy

Geneva—(NC)—Twenty million undernourished children throughout the world are receiving American government surplus commodities distributed by Catholic Relief Services—National Catholic Welfare Conference, it was announced in this Swiss city.

Jean J. Chénard, deputy director of CRS-NCW's European office in Geneva, told a meeting of the executive board of the United Nations' Children Fund that the overseas relief agency of the U.S. bishops is helping children in 50 nations, irrespective of race or creed.

Mr. Chénard illustrated his point by noting that in Greece over three-fifths of the children attending primary schools receive aid through the CRS-NCW school feeding program while in Spain more than two million schoolchildren get the equivalent of a meal daily through similar projects.

Turning to the subject of medical aid, Mr. Chénard urged the United Nations' Children Fund to encourage local governments to provide assistance to mobile medical units operated by CRS, particularly in the Far East.

As a result of a project named the Madonna Plan, he said, aid is being channelled from the U.S. through mother and child clinics, welfare centers and dispensaries to needy mothers and children in places as far apart as Italy, India, Korea and Japan.

In Malaya alone, Mr. Chénard added, nine mobile medical teams operated by CRS cover 33 areas in four states with a combined average of 20,000 cases treated every month.

Laymen Plan April Meet In Detroit

Washington—(NO)—The largest attendance in history is expected at the 1959 biennial convention of the National Council of Catholic Men, NCCM, spokesmen said here.

More than 3,000 men will attend the convention to be held in Detroit April 1 to 5, they predicted.

Several diocesan councils are creating special buses to carry members to the convention. At least one—the Gary, Ind., diocesan council—is hiring an excursion train for its delegates.

The convention has for its theme "The Catholic Layman in the Crisis of Modern America."

The meeting has been planned to re-investigate the basic objectives of the lay apostolate. Convention planners declared that it will emphasize the "what" rather than the "how" of the apostolate.

The first two days of the convention will be devoted to sessions for spiritual moderators and presidents of diocesan men's councils. The general convention will open formally on April 3 at Detroit's Statler Hotel. Workshops will be held at which experts will discuss the lay apostolate in the family, parish, community and daily work.



Pope Blesses Sick In Rite At St. Peter's

Vatican City—(RNS)—Smiling tenderly, Pope John XXIII clasps the hand of one of the more than 4,000 sick persons he received at St. Peter's Basilica here. In the presence of the sick—hundreds of them on stretchers or in wheel-chairs—Pope John broadcast

a message of consolation to the infirm in all parts of the world. The Pope exhorted his listeners never to take their eyes from the Cross, or forget that they must accept "not only with resignation, but also with love, whatever suffering comes, as the saints did."

Book Shelf

The New Holy Father
By SISTER MARGARET TERESA, Nazareth College

"Above All A Shepherd," Pope John XXIII, by Rev. Ugo Groppi and Dr. Julius Lombardi. Kennedy '59. 223 pp., indexed. \$3.95. At all Catholic bookstores.

Available to readers at the Catholic Evidence Library, Columbus Civic Center.

A new Vicar of Christ, tender as Pius XII, impetuous as Peter, single-minded and serene as one dares be who serves Christ only and trusts Him utterly—here is John XXIII, presented in a white-and-gold book as fresh as the season and lively with anecdote.

THE AUTHORS, one of whom served eight years in the Vatican Secretariat, have sifted true story from false, a task already growing a bit difficult as friendly, so downright a man, whose least word attracts and invites a fond building-up of its occasion.

Those they vouch for confirm the happy impression the world has already received of Pope John through the first months of his Pontificate, and in their appeal tend to make one overlook the long and solid years of service, of firm handling of error and deviation, of unending charities, that fitted a great character for the greatest eminence in this world.

All that career is alive in the Pope's heart and springs naturally to his lips, and often dictates where his feet shall go.

He remembers home; he is from Bergamo—so, if he is to be honored in Paris, friends from Bergamo must come; so, if in his young days he discovered 39 volumes of documents touching Bergamo and St. Charles Borromeo's visit there, he will undertake to edit and publish them all, "modeling myself on the best modern publications"—a task sympathetic

Old Stamps Aid Missions

Woodstock, Md.—(NC)—Some 2,500 people from five continents contributed more than 10 million canceled stamps last year to the Mission Stamp Exchange at the Jesuits' Woodstock College here.

and to protect Him with discretion." A whole philosophy of life, that. And in the living it, he places an atheist Premier by praying for him—and later, the Premier dies reconciled to the Church.

Then there is the Patriarchate in immemorial Venice, and the Papal Conclave—and so many human beings everywhere to be treated humanly!

human beings everywhere to be treated humanly!

He is secretary to the Bishop of Bergamo; so, his own humble greatness pliable as wax in the forming hands of this holy bishop, he will write the bishop's autograph and live out the bishop's ideals.

In the 10 years of his serving as Apostolic Visitor of Bulgaria, a land of 50,000 Catholics and 5,000,000 Orthodox, he so fulfilled his mission that he could say in farewell, "... Do not forget one who wishes to remain your friend forever. . . . Wherever I may go in the world, anyone from Bulgaria who might be in distress will find a light in my window. Knock, just knock, and I shall not ask you whether you be Catholic or Orthodox. You will be received with open arms."

And what a moment is that when, having told Pius XI of a dissident Bulgarian bishop with Roman leanings and clashing loyalties, he watched Pius reach into his desk for a memento and bring forth—holy cards.

Monsignor Roncalli just looks, not speaking. And the smiling Pope says, "Too little, you think?" and delving again, produces a gold medal of himself. This the dissident Bishop is seen to wear about his neck on a chain the rest of his life, and in death.

Then there was the mission to Turkey—they loved him—and to France. "My role in France," he was heard to say, "is that of Saint Joseph, to be a guardian over Our Lord

Making Marriage Click

Vocation Killers

By MSGR. IRVING A. DEBLANC
(Director, Family Life Bureau, N.C.W.C.)

"What's wrong, Father? We have been taught to love and believe both our priests and our parents. But one tells us the glory of the religious life, the other insists on the opposite and even threatens all kinds of calamities. Just who do we believe?" T.P.

I am going to ask St. Thomas Aquinas to give the first answer to this one. He says that "authority is given to parents so they will execute God's will not primarily their own."

The child, then, who goes against his parents' wish and enters the religious life commits no sin. But rather the contrary, it can be a mortal sin for the parent who is an obstacle.

In an excellent new book, "Parents' Role in Vocations," (Fisher Publishing Co.), Father Poage and Dr. Treacy insist that parents should guide their children in choosing a state of life. They should not tell their children what to do.

Many will no doubt agree that the attitude of parents is at least beginning to change. Father Thomas S. Boverini, S. J. in a monumental study several years ago found a disturbing picture.

He sent a questionnaire to 1,551 young men and to 2,453 young women who had become Religious. Fifty-nine per cent of these men and 72 per cent of these women admitted having opposition from home.

"Today, these seems to be much evidence that parents are more understanding. The work of Serra Clubs and family organizations have no doubt contributed outstandingly to this changing attitude. But we still have far, far to go.

Far Poage reveals crushing figures in the book quoted above. He points out that there were 1,088 priests or

Former Mayor Joins Jesuits

Mount Kisco, N.Y.—(RNS)—A Mount Kisco ex-mayor, who also has been a New York politician and chairman of the Union Political Party here and a security officer for the Government and several hospitals, now plans to become a Brother in the Society of Jesus (Jesuits).

Fifty-two-year-old Bertrand Wray, a widower who is the father of six children, will begin his postulancy soon at the Jesuit seminary at St. Andrews-on-Hudson, near Poughkeepsie, according to friends.

Priests Dig Up Ancient Jugs

Moulin—(RNC)—Three Dominican priests attached to Manila's University of Santo Tomas have made valuable archaeological finds in the form of earthenware objects judged to be 1,000 years old.

The items dug up from the hill include a blackish earthen jar 18 inches tall and 10 inches in diameter. In addition the priests found several smaller brown pots and a number of broken pieces of china. The specimens will be displayed at the museum of the University of Santo Tomas.

Maryknoll Elects Vicar General

Maryknoll—(NC)—Father John F. Donovan, M.M., 52, of Newport, R. I., has been elected Vicar General of the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, popularly known as Maryknoll.

A veteran of the China missions, Father Donovan will fill a post left vacant by the consecration last September of Bishop James V. Pardy, M.M., as Vicar Apostolic of Cheongju, Korea.

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