

# U.S. Charity Feeds Spain Children

By FATHER JAMES TUCEK  
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

Madrid — Over two million school children in Spain sit down to a full meal each day as a result of the charity of Americans — channeled through Catholic Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conference.

THIS MARVEL of charity is repeated every school day seven months of the year.

Some measure of its effect and importance was revealed recently in a nationwide study which showed that, in the four years since the children's diet has been supplemented in this manner, there has been a marked increase in their growth and general good health.

There has been an increase in school attendance, which is attributed in part to the fact that children too poor to bring lunches, who might otherwise have remained at home, are now attending school.

This is a small part of the tremendous work being done in Spain through CRS — NCWC whose mission was established here in January, 1955, under the direction of F. Robert Medina. After four years, its work is now touching the lives of roughly one-seventh of the total Spanish population of nearly 30 million.

HERE ARE SOME round figures on what the Spanish Mission of CRS-NCWC is doing. Annually 45 tons of surplus foods donated by the U.S. government are moved into Spain through its channels to assist the poor. In addition, the country has also received since the beginning of CRS-NCWC operations more than a million pounds of used clothing and about 7,000 pounds of medicines and medical supplies.

These supplies are distributed through Caritas Espanola, the national Catholic charity organization of the Spanish Hierarchy. Through Caritas this assistance goes to 12,000 of the 10,000 parishes in Spain, whose pastors distribute the goods weekly or bi-weekly to those whom they know to be the most needy.

Spain's population is almost totally Catholic. But the Protestant and Jewish neds are not neglected. Thirty-four Protestant communities and two Jewish communities are given regular assistance through the CRS-NCWC offices.

Formal appreciation of this work has been expressed in a resolution passed by the Spanish Episcopal Commission on Charity and Social Assistance in which "expressed its gratitude in the name of Spanish Catholics and in the name of the poor."

The United States is the only nation giving surplus food as assistance to Spain and CRS-NCWC is the only agency through which this type of assistance is being provided on a nationwide scale.

In the four years that CRS-NCWC has been in Spain these three items are estimated to have cost a value of a million dollars a year.

## Paraguay

# Revolt Threatens Dictator

Asuncion — (RNS) — A sharp split has been reported here among Roman Catholic leaders in the wake of growing protests against the dictatorship rule of President Alfredo Stroessner, which many fear may erupt into civil conflict.

PUBLIC INDIGNATION is being stirred especially by reports of jailings, beatings and torturing of political opponents at the hands of the police. The opposition includes not only members of the Liberal Party and student groups, but even some members of the dominant Colorado Party headed by President Stroessner, ex-army general.

It is no secret that a division of opinion exists among Catholic lay leaders and priests over what to do about the dictatorship. Some favor a wait-and-see policy, hoping that President Stroessner will be persuaded to quit before he is hoisted out, thus avoiding bloodshed.

Others, however, have lost patience and clamor for active resistance to the dictatorship.

Meanwhile, parish priests here, in a collective letter, have asked the bishops to take a stand against the mistreatment of oppositionists. At the time they made their appeal, 85 members of the Opposition were said to be in jail. Others who had been released from custody were said to have been threatened about where armed forces had been cached for an uprising.

The priests' protests against the use of torture chambers found an echo among political exiles abroad, especially Father Ramon Calaveras, now in Uruguay. The priest, who had long been an outspoken critic of the Stroessner regime, has been urging fellow Paraguayans in Montevideo and elsewhere to form a national liberation front to oust the President at once.

PRÉSIDENT Stroessner, while determined to maintain his iron grip on the nation, has been reported planning reforms that may pave the way for a free press, a new election law assuring Opposition parties a minority representation in Congress, and at least a partial amnesty for political exiles.

The President apparently feels that he can still count on the army's loyalty to thwart any

armed attempt to overthrow him.

Meanwhile, however, the predominantly Catholic Paraguayans yearn for a freedom they have not enjoyed in years. But the question still remains: When or how will freedom come about? President Stroessner has been in power since May, 1954, when the army revolted under his leadership and deposed President Federico Chaves. Later named to replace the former Chief Executive, President Stroessner was re-elected in February, 1958, for a five-year term.

# India States Balk Schools Progress

Bangalore — (NC) — The head of the education section of the Indian Catholic Bishops' Conference asserted that the ever-increasing popularity of Catholic schools among non-Christians in India is matched by the "growing contrast" of "rising state interference."

Bishop Leonard J. Raymond of Allahabad made these points in his report to the Bishops' Conference of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur. Mother Josepha de St. Francis arrived here aboard the S.S. United States for a formal visitation of her community's U.S. provinces.

Mother Josepha, whose headquarters are in Rome, will first visit the Waltham, Mass. province of her community. She will then go to the California province, returning to visit the Baltimore and Cincinnati provinces next fall.

At the same time, however, the Karachi-born prelate asked Catholics not to be too "sensitive" on the education question.

Appended to Bishop Raymond's report was a table of figures showing that India's Catholic schools are providing for the education of about 250,000 students. About 630,000 of them are Catholics and the rest non-Catholics, mostly Hindus.

Bishop Raymond indicated that Kerala, under its communist government, is only one of the states that have "encroached" on Church rights in the matter of education. He listed Madhya Pradesh, Bihar, Bombay, Assam and Uttar Pradesh as the other states with "undesirable" rulings.

Bishop Raymond said it is a matter of satisfaction that since India's independence, the popularity of Catholic schools in the country has been steadily on the increase.

In all parts of the country, he said, the story is the same — long queues of non-Christians waiting for admission to Catholic schools in places where none has so far existed.

He is Father Henry Birkenhauer, S.J., head of John Carroll University here, who was with an International Geophysics Year research team at Wilkes Station, Antarctica.



# Nun Supervises Convent Job

Chicago — Construction supervision for her order's new ten-story convent here, Sister Mary Grace Esther of the Sisters of the Blessed Virgin Mary, looks over blueprints with a carpenter. Daughter of a building materials salesman and niece of a cement manufacturer, Sister Mary Grace grew up with a knowledge of the building trades. She is on the job every day and is often seen along the catwalks and scaffolds of the structure. Sister Mary Grace also has a hand in letting contracts, checking plans and selecting color schemes.

# African Prelate At German Rite

Essen, Germany — (RNS) — A native Roman Catholic African prelate, for the first time, took part here in the consecration of a German Bishop.

One of the things IGY teams in every part of the world discovered, he said, is that Antarctica may not be a continent at all, but possibly a group of islands covered with ice and snow. The rocky upper crust is apparently "below sea level" in many cases.

His own research tends to confirm this, Father Birkenhauer said. His job was to record shock waves from earthquakes, eliminate shadows and make it impossible to tell where you are. He and another man were caught in a white-out to close to camp, they thought they could keep going in their Weasel, a snow vehicle. Finally they decided to stop. When the "milk" lifted they found they were 400 feet from the edge of a sheer drop into Vincennes Bay.

# South Pole Priest Back Home

Cleveland — (RNS) — A Jesuit geophysicist returned to John Carroll University here after 15 months at the bottom of the world and two brushes with death.

He is Father Henry Birkenhauer, S.J., head of John Carroll University here, who was with an International Geophysics Year research team at Wilkes Station, Antarctica.

# TV Cameras Enter Papal Chamber For First Time

Vatican City — (RNS) — Television cameras, for the first time, entered the papal private apartment to give Rome viewers intimate glimpses of Pope John XXIII. The occasion was the Feast of St. Joseph, patron saint of the Pope who was baptized Angelo Giuseppe (Joseph) Roncalli.

Pope John was seen celebrating Mass at 7 a.m. in his private chapel. Other "shots" showed him in various parts of the apartment and finally seated at his desk looking over documents placed there for his attention.

The Pontiff later celebrated a Mass in St. Peter's Basilica for 3,000 street cleaners, many of whom arrived attired in their traditional belted blue denim smocks and caps.

# Old Salts Have Strong Faith

New Orleans — (NC) — Despite their sometimes rugged exterior, most sailors have a good, solid foundation of Christian faith, according to the Catholic chaplain for the port of New Orleans.

"They've got faith — but don't ever tell them they've got religion," commented Father Thomas McDonough, C.S.S.R., in an interview.

Father McDonough, who is also national secretary of the Apostleship of the Sea, said that when he began his work among sailors 15 years ago he was afraid of seamen.

"HE SOON found out that they were a lot more afraid of me," he said. Today, the Irish-born priest added, he has lost his fear. "You just have to talk their language," he explained.

"A pocket calendar is worth more than money to a guy who must spend weeks on a ship," he explained.

The chaplain emphasized that in his dealings with seamen he avoids "preaching" to them. "The approach is oblique and the work is sometimes rather intangible," he said, "but it's very effective and very enjoyable."

# 11 Thousand Missionaries In Africa

Vatican City — (NC) — A total of 11,190 Catholic priests are at work in the mission areas of Africa, according to figures released by Fides, mission news agency.

Of the total, 9,320 are members of religious orders and congregations, the agency said. Diocesan priests total 1,870. The White Fathers have the largest number—1,643—of any single order or congregation working in Africa. Following close behind are the 1,337 priests who are members of the Congregation of the Holy Ghost.

The figures concern the dioceses and missions under the jurisdiction of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

Missionaries at work in Asian countries of South Korea, Formosa, Japan and Hong Kong total 2,530, of which 755 are Asians, Fides reported. In other Asian countries there is a total of 1,732 priests.

# Venice Rites Honor St. Pius X

Venice — (NC) — A month-long spiritual revival of piety and grace centers around the earthly remains of St. Pius X who temporarily at least — is once again with his Venetians.

The body with its face and hands encased in silver rests in the multi-domed Byzantine Basilica of St. Mark. It has been placed on an altar erected for the occasion under the central dome lined with the golden mosaics of the feast of Pentecost.

For the month that it will remain in Venice, the body of St. Pius X will be venerated by the faithful of all the 120 parishes of the Venice patriarchate. Each day is allotted to certain parishes or to special pilgrimages from nearby dioceses.

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