

White House Conference

Religion's Aid To Aged

New York — (RNS) — They said that religion must supply the answer to what they see as one of their greatest challenges — the increasing number of aged persons in this country. Ministers, "can do to support older members by religious and other means as they confront us in a background state of the social and psychological problems of the conference." One of the sections will be on "Religion and the Coming of old age."

GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

"There was no room in the inn" at His Birth. On the Cross, He was suspended between earth and heaven as if rejected by the one, abandoned by the other.

Even in these days there are countries like Bethlehem, places like Calvary. Could you name any one country in the world where the Church has never existed, and when Christians mention bearing the Cross of Christ are forbidden to enter? One in Afghanistan with a population of thirteen million. The Italian Embassy has a chapel in one city, but this is the only place in an area of 400,000 square miles where Christ is permitted among those yet redeemed.

Another country where Christ is denied entrance is Yemen with a population of over five million. In the fifth century the Church flourished there; a persecution later exterminated the faithful. In 1481 there was an attempt to found a mission at Hodeida, but violent opposition forced it to be abandoned.

Kash on the south shore of the Persian Gulf has only 37,000 in population. There are no Catholic missionaries there, but a priest comes to Bahrain now every three weeks to celebrate Mass for the foreign Catholics who are employed by the oil companies.

Tibet allowed no Catholic missionaries for many years. Thirteen members of one foreign missionary society alone were killed trying to enter Tibet, which would not allow the crucifix and chalice, now is infested with the hammer and sickle. The Communists took over there was one Catholic in Tibet — a mule driver who transported cargo to India.

Our great worry is not only about those lands which will not permit the Gospel; it is about those lands in which the Gospel is shackled for want of missionaries. A bishop from Thailand told us recently that the entire population of two villages sought to become Catholic, but he had no priests or catechists to instruct them, and he funds to provide chapels.

That is where you come in. As a Catholic, set aside a small amount every day, and at the end of the month send it to the Holy Father through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

GOD LOVE YOU to Mrs. J.J.R. for \$60. Enclosed is a check which completes a promise made by us for a favor received. May it materially help your Mission as we have been helped spiritually... to C.H.E. for \$1. A donation from a teenager who wants to help the Mission until she is old enough to help them personally... to Mr. and Mrs. R.P.S. for \$1. "A small sacrifice long delayed — that we might crowd out self and think more of Christ's others."

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it and mail it to Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 365 Fifth Avenue, New York 1, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, P.O. George S. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.

SIXTEEN YEARS OLD

In 1944 a new Community of nuns, the SISTERS OF CHANONNOKE, was founded in the Diocese of Trichur, in INDIA. A few sisters, the founders, opened the first house of the Community — an Orphanage and Medical Dispensary — in the village of CHOWANNORE. This house also became the Motherhouse and Novitiate and it remains as such today.

In the past 16 years the members of the Community have grown to number 116. In addition to the orphanage, there are presently living at CHOWANNORE 35 Professed Sisters and Novices. The original building is now crowded and the Chapel must be enlarged. The cost of doing this will be \$2,500.

SEPTEMBER RITUAL

BUSY AMERICAN PARENTS READYING THEIR YOUNG-SISTERS FOR SCHOOL — Labor Day passes and off go the children, bright and shiny, most of them dressed in brand new school clothes and shoes. For the REFUGEE CHILDREN starting the school year in schools conducted by the FORTIFICANT MISSION there will be no new clothes or shoes — for these children there would be no clothes of any kind, no teachers, no text books, in fact no schools at all were it not for the generosity of so many Catholics. When our two schools open at D'BAYEH and JISR EL BASHA the children will be wearing clothes donated at the time of the Thanksgiving Clothing Drive and everything essential to the proper running of a school will be paid for with money sent to us in answer to our Refugee Appeal.

DO YOU EVER HAD GREGORIAN MASSSES CELEBRATED FOR YOUR DECEASED LOVED ONES?

In two years time SISTER JEANNETTE and SISTER VINCENT will be anxiously and nervously awaiting the opening day of school — they will be starting, their lifetimes working mainly against segregation facilities in a resolution adopted at its founding convention.

Other resolutions called on Catholic parishes to lead the way in ending racial segregation of public and parochial schools and condemned race discrimination in employment and housing.

The council went on record as favoring the sib-sis demonstrations, which have been directed mainly against segregation facilities in a resolution adopted at its founding convention.

For some years there has been a growing Buddhist campaign for the nationalization of all schools and social welfare agencies in the country.

The assisted schools, classified as grade three — the first and second grades being universities and colleges, respectively — number around 3,000, mostly Roman Catholic. Enrolled in them, besides Catholic and Protestant children, are large numbers of Buddhist, Hindu and Moslem students.

REMEMBER GOD AND THE MISSIONS IN YOUR WILL.

THE HARVEST INDEED IS GREAT, BUT THE LABORERS ARE FEW." This observation of Our Lord, spoken so many centuries ago, is still true today. His Holy Church is in constant need of more laborers. THOMAS KURISUMMOTTIL and FRANCIS KUTTICHAL, students at SAINT JOSEPH'S SEMINARY IN INDIA, are two boys who wish to become priests; it is their desire to labor for souls in the harvest of their own native land. If you can pay for their education of one of these boys, the cost is \$800.

JESUS, MASTERS, HAVE MERCY ON US!"

CHRIST STILL HEARS AND ANSWERS, through the priests, sisters, and brothers, who are devoting their lives to these afflicted people, THE CRY OF THE LEPROSY. You should belong to the Legion when you are a member of one DANISH CLUB. The dues for membership in this Club are one dollar a month, and the money collected in this way is used to build, repair, and maintain, leper hospitals.

STRONGLESS GIFTS HELP US IN URGENT NEEDS.

Near East Missions
FRANCIS CARDINAL SPILLMAN, President
Mr. Peter F. Tracy, Vice President
Archbishop of Washington
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
200 Lexington Ave. of 44th St. New York 17, N.Y.

THE STATEMENT WAS prepared for delegates to the White House Conference on Aging at Washington, D. C., in January, 1963, expected to be attended by some 3,000 persons concerned with the problems of the elderly. One of the conference's 20 sections will be on "Religion and the Aging."

Cooperating in writing the statement were the Rev. Harold Nau, executive director of the United Lutheran Church in America; Father Donald R. Campion, S.J., an associate editor of *America*, national Catholic weekly; and Rabbi Marc H. Tanenbaum, executive director of the Synagogue Council of America.

"In the years ahead," the statement declared, "the major religious bodies must give themselves no more than the task of devising emergency provisions in the face of pathological situations associated with the aging and the aged."

"Religion should seek to offer a series of positive affirmations and proposals for long-range action by individuals and the community with respect to our senior citizens, their needs and position in society."

AMONG QUESTIONS posed in the statement are:

"To what extent can and should religion as an organized social institution seek to offer health, social and welfare services to the aged?"

"While the Churches and synagogues have been expanding facilities for children and youth on the levels of instruction and social action, have they made corresponding efforts commensurate with the special needs of the vastly increased number of old members in their congregations?"

The clergymen noted that tensions between older and younger persons can be overcome only by "spiritually healthy, unselfish people." They stressed that religion helps preserve the dignity of human life and provides stability in a period of rapid change.

"Religion has a meaning for all of human existence from the moment of birth to the moment of death," the statement said.

"It is a fallacy to think of it as having more significance for one age than for another."

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Survey Seeks Needs Of Aged

Wilmington — (NC) — This first large-scale study of the problems of the aged and aging in the Delaware-Maryland-Virginia peninsula area is being made this summer by the Catholic Welfare Guild of the Wilmington diocese.

A team of 40 volunteer interviewers specially trained for the project already has nearly completed the study in Wilmington. The interviewers now are preparing to extend their work into the city of New Castle, Del., and the Wilmington suburban area.

The findings will provide a basis for community planning to meet the needs of the aged and aging. Those in charge of the study said that the findings will be published in the fall. It is hoped that they will make the community more concerned about the welfare of senior citizens.

Sit-Ins
Endorsed

St. Louis — (NC) — The National Catholic Council on Interracial Justice has endorsed the principle of sit-in demonstrations.

The council went on record as favoring the sit-in demonstrations, which have been directed mainly against segregated eating facilities in a resolution adopted at its founding convention.

Other resolutions called on Catholic parishes to lead the way in ending racial segregation of public and parochial schools and condemned race discrimination in employment and housing.

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Be An Old Pro'

Missioner Briefs Pilots

Misawa, Japan — Interceptor

pilots of the U.S. 39th Air Division

base here in northern Japan,

are trained to get used to anything.

But they're still talking about the afternoon they re-

ceived a military briefing from

of all persons, a foreign

missioner.

Markknoll, Father Irvin D.

Nugent, of Dorchester, Mass.,

whose mission parish is lo-

cated north of Misawa on the

island of Hokkaido, has been

an occasional visitor at the air

base for several years.

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