West Africa Hears Rome

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Vatican Radio has inaugurated daily French-language broadcasts beamed to West Africa.

An announcer said the reason for the new broadcasts was the "growing importance of Africa." He added that the station is meanwhile planning more new regular broadcasts to other parts of Africa in the near future.

Quake Station 50th Jubilee

New York — (NRS) — Fordham University's famed seismic observatory will mark its 50th year with a scientific symposium on the Jesuit school's Bronx campus Dec. 10.

The earthquake detection center, which has often provided newspapers and wire services with early data on distant tremors, was established here in 1910 in the basement of the administration building.

It has been called the Spain Seismic Station since 1923, when William Spain, a New York silk merchant, financed the building of a new observatory in memory of his son who died while a student at Fordham.

Anti-Communist Oath Taking Gets Ridiculous

By GERARD E. SHERRY
Editor, Central California Register

Anti-Communism is a serious business. We have often suggested that it be treated as such. At the same time we have condemned as un-Catholic the type of anti-Communism which seeks to destroy rather than elevate men's minds.

We have also attacked those Catholics who propagate political anti-Communism in the Catholic Press and Catholic organizations. We have done so because we believe most sincerely that it is not right and proper to use the Church to preach a political Gospel.

Some of our Catholic papers back every anti-Communist effort, no matter who is directing it — even where such persons have a political or social philosophy which is diametrically opposed to the Church. Some of those persons who supported the now Communist Loyalty Oath for students receiving Federal grants could rave been placed in this category. These Catholic papers which support this student oath refrained from publishing the other side to this question — even when it was expressed by bishops and lay leaders. Now, we have a similar situation.

Here in California, there is an organization called the Sierra Club, whose members enjoy the out of door life. (The Catholic men's Sierra Club is a different organization.) Sierra members romp through mountain streams and giant redwood forests, with skiing in the winter. Alas, the Sierra Club has accepted the petition of a minority group within its organization and is voting on a rule which will require a non-Communist loyalty oath for all its members.

It is terrible, indeed, that with all the problems that we have to face in relation to the Communists, we should have citizens in an outdoor nature club having to take a loyalty oath to these United States.

We are perfectly aware that nature groups are not immune to Communist infiltration. We doubt, though, whether a signature on an oath would hinder Red membership. Knowing the Sierra Club, however, makes us doubt whether a Communist member would have much time to spread the Dictatorship of the Proltariat. Up to now, the only coexistence preached and practiced by the club has been that of peaceful coexistence with nature.

The club has some influence in California. It is vocal in its protests against the lumber magnates who wish to distroy beautiful forests and who pollute stirring mountain streams. They also protest with some success against irresponsible road planners who want to place suicidal freeways in the wrong places. Frankly, the Sierra Club members are so busy cohabiting with nature's wonders that even the zealous Communist would find little time to think of Marx or Engels.

Obviously, in some branches of our federal, state, and local governments, such loyalty oaths are necessary. They may also be appropriate in some sections of the scientific, industrial, and educational fields. However, it's quite ridiculous to advocate them in purely social organizations. If it's carried much further, we can envisage a state of affairs by which a seven-year-old boy or girl joining the Cubs or Brownies will be asked to sign a non-Communist affidavit. Even our neighborhood bridge clubs may be affected as well as the community Little League and local bowling teams.

Such anti-Communism holds up to ridicule the more meaningful national effort to protect these shores from Communist domination. It breeds a form of contempt and suspicion of one's neighbors and friends. It prepares the way for the very Communist "Big Brother" complex which we are fighting so hard and so religiously to avoid.

Such a form of anti-Communism is as dangerous to the security of this country as is Communism itself, for it conditions people to a "crying wolf" situation. It might, in turn, lead to people deliberately ignoring genuine efforts against Communism by such proper organs as the Federal Bureau of Investigation and similar legal enforcement agencies.

Naturally, the Brooklyn Tablet, The Wanderer, and Father Richard Ginder of our Sunday Visitor, will issue loud hurrahs at this latest piece of negative anti-Communism. They will see in the Sierra Club another nail in the Communist coffin.

One would wish that there was more respect for the intelligence of the American people. It must be admitted, however, that the advocates of negative anti-Communism always are at an advantage. They feed their audiences a diet of crusading pep pills. It gives them something to shout about even if it accomplishes nothing more than stirring the pot.

It is a tragic situation because, in such an area as opposition to Communism, not only Catholics but the whole nation should be unified. Instead, we will find one section of the population calling the other disloyal.

We can only be thankful that the more mature citizens of this country do not act with such abandon. It does point, however, to the need for constructive opposition to steps, however well meaning, which further the very menace which we are out to destroy.

Catholics, especially, in my opinion, should be aware of false prophets who would link the Church to political situations and "vigilante" missions for which it has no responsibility.

Congress Scheduled

Barcelona — (NC) — An International Congress of the Sacred Heart of Jesus will be held here in 1961.

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Named Rector

Fribourg — (NC) — Father Vincent R. Vasey, S.M., of Philadelphia has become the first American rector of Regina Mundi International Marianist Seminary here since its foundation 57 years ago.

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'Olive Branch For Lizards'

Ousted Prelate Denies Red Aid

Miami — (RNS) — Archbishop Francois Poirier of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, arrived here on his way to his native France after having been expelled from his See by the Haitian government for allegedly giving financial aid to Communist-inspired students seeking to overthrow the regime of President Francois Duvalier.

The 56-year-old archbishop, who was born at Neant, in the Vannes diocese, and has occupied the Port-au-Prince See since 1954, branded the charges made against him as "entirely false." His expulsion climaxed a long dispute between the Church and State in the predominantly Negro Catholic country.

Speaking in French through an interpreter, Archbishop Poirier stated that he had been arrested in his office and rushed to the Port-au-Prince airport and put aboard a northbound American Airways plane without being given any reason for his treatment.

THE ARCHBISHOP'S expulsion was announced by the Haitian Minister of Interior Aurele Joseph, who charged that he had given $7,000 to Communist students to help overthrow the government. The expulsion came two days after martial law was declared in an effort to halt a strike of university students agitating for the release of Joseph Roney, secretary of the National Union of Haitian Students.

The university students meanwhile issued a statement emphatically denying that they were "Communist-inspired and threatening the security of the State," as had been charged.

The action against Archbishop Poirier was the first overt move against the Catholic Church in Haiti since the expulsion last year of Father Etienne Grienenberger, rector of St. Martial College in Port-au-Prince and Father Joseph Marroc, a parish priest in the town of St. Marc. The archbishop publicly denounced the arrests, which authorities said had been ordered for security reasons.

He was thereupon ordered arrested for criticizing public authorities. However, the order was rescinded after Osservatore Romano, Vatican City newspaper, published a warning that Haitian officials would incur automatic excommunication if they carried out their threat.

Prior to Archbishop Poirier's ouster, President Duvalier, delivered a speech to 6,000 political supporters at the National Palace in which he characterized his opponents as "lizards."

He said they were the same ones who had brought on the occupation of Haiti by United States Marines in 1915. This was a reference to an action taken by Washington to restore order and end the civil war and financial chaos which had prevailed in Haiti. The military occupation ended in 1934 and American fiscal control was lifted seven years later.

Miami — (RNS) — Archbishop Francois Poirier of Port-au-Prince, Haiti, at the Miami airport after his expulsion by the government of President Francois Duvalier

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"O GOD WHO WAS PLEASED

to gather into Thy Church the nations of the Indies by the preaching and miracles of blessed Francis, mercifully grant that we, who venerate his glorious merits, may also imitate the example of his virtues." This is the Oration of the Mass for the feast of Saint Francis Xavier, Apostle of India. In the village of XAVIUM in SOUTH INDIA, the SISTERS OF THE HOLY FAMILY opened a school in 1952. By imitating the virtues of Saint Francis Xavier they have drawn many people to the Church. So many families have been converted that there is now an urgent need for a larger permanent school and more adequate living quarters for the sisters. The present school building, a section of which houses the sisters, is little more than a large thatched hut. Could you give a donation towards the $1,000 the sisters need to make two new buildings a reality?

The Holy Father's Mission Aid for the Oriental Church

YOURS AT CHRISTMAS TIME & THE YEAR ROUND

is a share in the merits of the prayers and good works of both the Missionaries and the people for whom they care—if you are a member of the CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION, or if you give an offering of any size to further the work of the Missions.

THE CENTURIES THAT HAVE PASSED since Saint Francis Xavier began the conversion of India have witnessed the slow but sure growth of our holy faith among the people of that country. Evidence that the Catholic faith has taken deep root there is given by the numbers of native boys and girls who wish to become priests, sisters and brothers. The more native vocations that any country has the faster will the Church grow and it is only through a native clergy, sisterhood and brotherhood, that the Church can reach the stature God wills it to have. To provide adequate training facilities, in Missionary countries, for the priesthood and religious life is an ever present financial problem. It is solved somewhat by the good people who "adopt" seminarians or novices by paying for their support through the years of their training. The cost of educating a seminarian is $600, the cost of training a novice is $300.

In INDIA, EMMANUEL PENDANATH and MATHEW POVAKARA are studying for the priesthood at SAINT JOSEPH'S SEMINARY; SISTER EMILY and SISTER FATIMA are novices of the SACRED HEART SISTERS. If you could pay for the education of one of these boys or girls you would, in a manner of speaking, be imitating the generosity of Saint Francis Xavier who was willing to give his life in bringing about the conversion of India.

HOME FOR CHRISTMAS

Among the great human joys of life is being home for Christmas. Thousands of Refugees scattered throughout the world have not been "home" for the past thirteen Christmases; neither will they go "home" for any future Christmas. Could you help to make this Christmas away from their old homes a little brighter for these exiles, by a donation of $10.00 to our Palestine Refugee Fund?

IF YOU WISH to make an offering to the Missions as a Christmas Gift for a relative or a friend, we will send a beautiful Christmas Gift Card to the person you so honor.

Some suggestions for specific offerings are these: Enrollment in the CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION (Individual Membership: Perpetual—$20.00; Annual—$1.00); a donation to an institution of mercy caring for the Aged, Orphans, Lepers, Refugees; Missionary Medical Kit ($75), Mass Book ($25), Years Supply of Mass Candles ($20), Religious Picture ($15), Pyx ($15), Altar Stone ($10).

Near East Missions
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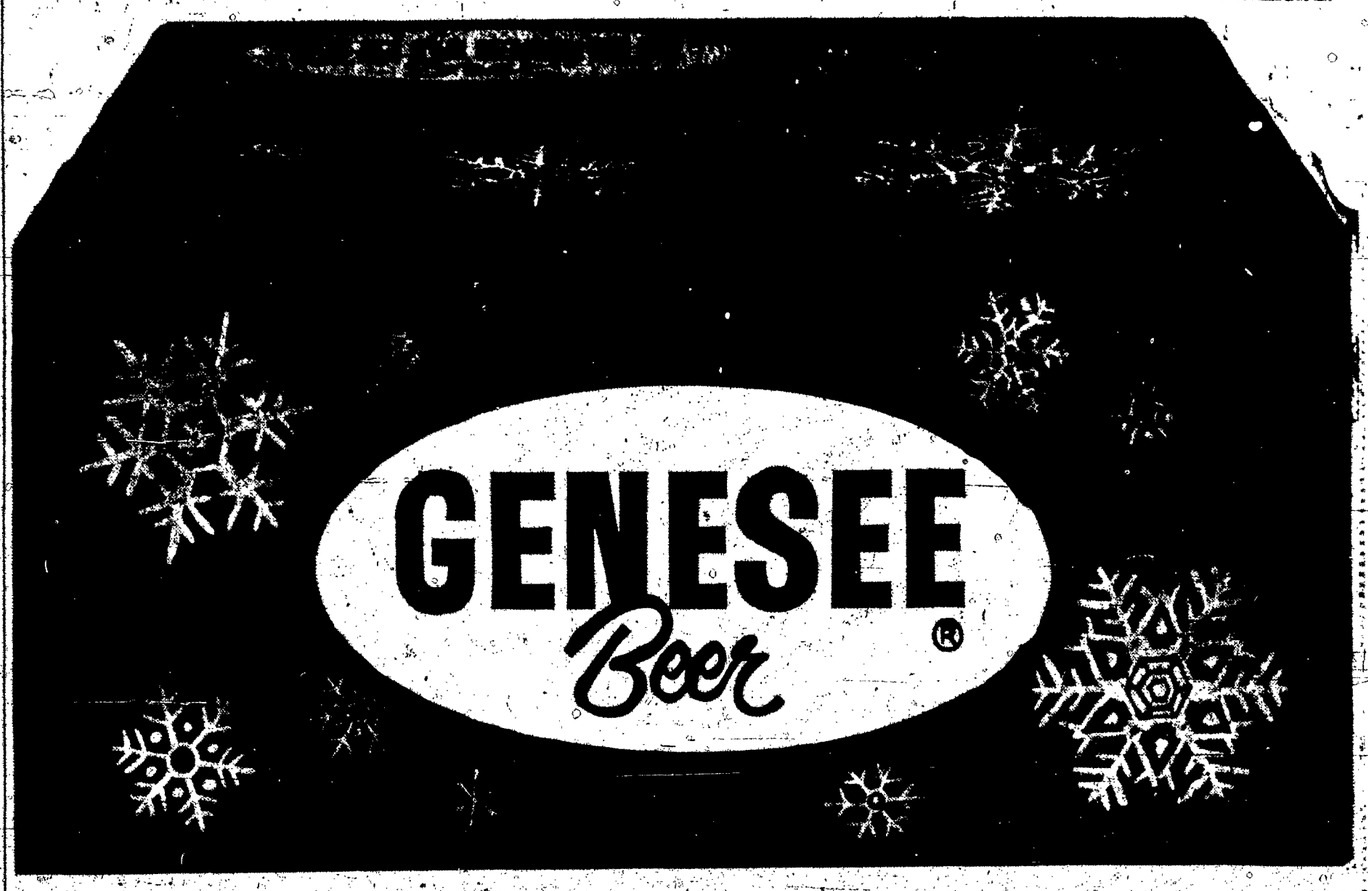

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