## Spain Clergy Warned

San Sebastian — (NC) — Bishop Jaime Font y Andreu of San Sebastian has warned priests of his diocese not to sign a letter similar to one condemned by Church authorities earlier this year.

In May a letter, allegedly signed by 300 priests here in the Basque country, was sent to the area's bishops to protest against government violation of civil rights, police brutality against political prisoners and press censorship.

Later Bishop Pablo Gurpide Beope of Bilbao and other Spanish bishops in the Basque region said the letter contained obvious falsehoods and was "without any guarantee of authenticity."

Colombo — (RNS) — Carrying crosses, Catholic demonstrators stage protest march along street in Colombo, Ceylon, against planned takeover of all religious schools by government of Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike. Ceylon's House of Representatives recently passed a school bill empowering the change.

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## Father Pire Tours Asia

Brussels — (NC) — Father Dominique Pire, O.P., who won the 1958 Nobel Peace Prize for his assistance to European refugees, has left here to make an inspection tour of refugee camps in Asia. He will visit Jordan, the United Arab Republic, Pakistan, India and Japan at the invitation of their governments.

## Cylon Schools Nationalized

Colombo — (RNS) — Tension mounted here and in other parts of this predominantly Buddhist country as some 2500 private schools, mostly Catholic, were formally taken over by the state.

Nationalization of the schools was approved by parliament in mid-November, and the take-over date was set for Jan. 1. However, the government later decided to change the date to Dec. 1.

Meanwhile demonstrations of protests were staged, particularly by Catholic mothers who appealed in vain to Prime Minister Mrs. Sirimavo Bandaranaike to respect the rights of parents to educate their children "in schools of our own choice."

As a precaution against further public demonstrations, the government kept all the nationalized schools operating only for part of the time on the opening day. Dismissed early from their classes were the 2,-100,000 pupils enrolled in the schools.

It was reported, however, that parents had moved into some 80 Catholic schools in West [illegible] in an attempt to prevent their take-over. Catholic parents also occupied a school in Colombo.

Philip Dissanayake, general manager of the Catholic schools, described the occupation of the schools as "a spontaneous protest by parents and children against the take-over."

NO SERIOUS incidents were disclosed in the wake of the Catholic parents' action. Leaders of other denominations were reported by the Ceylon Radio as not opposing the government take-over. In fact, the station claimed, some of them had actually appealed to their followers to cooperate with the state in the new situation.

The Catholic schools numbered 730, with an enrollment of 250,000 pupils, of whom about 85 per cent are Catholics. Protestant schools have around 140,000 students, the great majority of which are Buddhist or Hindu. Hindu education leaders have strongly associated themselves with Catholic leaders in opposition to the take-over of the denominational schools.

Eight primary Catholic schools that had hoped to become private institutions and thus avoid nationalization were taken by surprise when the government appropriated three kindergartens which they operated.

Meanwhile, an estimated 1,000 students camped on the steps of a newspaper here in protest against the take-over. Some of them were black ties, arm bands and shirts and carried banners with the slogan, "Give Us Justice or Death." Parents and sympathizers distributed food packages among them.

## Spanish Radio Reports Arrests

Madrid — (RNS) — Radio Independent, an anti-Franco broadcasting station operating secretly in this country, reported that a number of Basque nationalist supporters had been arrested in San Sebastian and other cities in the Basque region of northwestern Spain.

IT SAID THE arrests were connected with the letter sent in June by 339 Basque Catholic priests to their bishops, deploring the lack of political freedom in Spain. The four bishops concerned later reprimanded the priests and said the letter was unacceptable because of "its evident falsity and its political character."

The broadcast said the priests were unable to do any more, but that the activity of their friends among the laity had resulted in the arrests. All of those arrested were Catholics, the broadcast added.

## Christmas Gifts To Be Exchanged

Owego — An exchange of gifts will take place at the annual Christmas party of the Rosary and Altar Society of St. Patrick's Church, which will be held in the church hall on Monday, Dec. 12.

Miss Mercedes Riftis and the members of her Rosary Band will be in charge of the arrangements and will serve refreshments. Mrs. W. Stephen Leighton, president, will conduct a short business meeting at 8 p.m.

## Rites Honor Priest Patriot

Sereze — (NC) — Year-long nationwide celebrations will mark the 100th anniversary of the death of Father Jean Baptiste Lacordaire, O.P., France's greatest 19th-century preacher, who almost became a New York parish priest.

Memorial services will be held for the priest, who re-established the Dominican Order in France and also won fame as a journalist and political leader who fought for democracy. Commemorative plaques will be unveiled in many of the churches where he preached, including Notre Dame cathedral in Paris.

THE OPENING event of the centennial year took place at the monastery and school restored by Father Lacordaire in Sereze, where he died and is buried. Present were bishops, religious superiors, members of Parliament and mayors of the towns and villages of this area of southern France.

Archbishop Jean Marques of Albi praised the Dominican priest for his vigorous defense of the Church during the wave of anticlericalism that hit France after the revolution of 1830. He said that Father Lacordaire, through his sermons and his role in public affairs, made the biggest contribution to the victory of the Faith in France.

Father Lacordaire was born in the village of Recey-sur-Ource in the east of France on May 12, 1802. He studied law and as a young attorney won a reputation in Paris courts as a brilliant orator. He lost his Faith as a student, but regained it in 1824 and that year he entered a seminary near Paris, where he was ordained in 1827.

For two years he served as chaplain at the Visitation Convent and at Henry IV College in Paris. Not satisfied with his opportunities in the post, he volunteered to go to America when Bishop Dubois of New York came to Paris in 1829 in search of priests for his diocese. Arrangements for his departure for New York were completed when the revolution of 1830 broke out and forced him to change his plans.

He was offered a post on the staff of L'Avenir (The Future), a journal that fought for the cause of democracy and the Church under the slogan "God and Freedom." The paper urged the Church to give up government protection and aid. It advocated freedom of religion, speech and the press, and called on Catholics to use these freedoms to defend their rights.

Father Lacordaire also led the fight for freedom of education. In 1831 he was arrested for breaking the law by starting a Catholic school. He was found guilty and fined, but was widely regarded as winning a moral victory against the government's monopoly of education.

In 1832 Pope Gregory XVI condemned L'Avenir for its liberal tendencies. Father Lacordaire was disappointed by the Pope's action, but accepted it and left the paper.

Two years later he began his preaching career with a series of religious lectures in Paris. These were strongly attended [illegible] the Archbishop of Paris [illegible] the prelate's mind and in 1835 Father Lacordaire was named preacher at Notre Dame cathedral.

There his skill as an orator attracted vast crowds and won him national fame.

In 1839 he entered the Dominican Order in Rome and began his efforts to restore the order in France, from which it had been expelled half a century earlier during the French Revolution. In 1843 in Nancy he founded the first Dominican house in France since 1790. In 1850 he was named the first superior of the re-established French Dominican province.

From 1841 to 1853 he also continued his preaching.

When the revolution of 1848 overthrew King Louis Philippe and set up a republic, Father Lacordaire greeted it enthusiastically. He started a paper, L'Ere Nouvelle (The New Era) to support the republic and was elected to Parliament as a delegate of the Left.

Within a year he gave up his seat in Parliament and abandoned the paper, while continuing to preach against the growing trend toward another attempt at monarchy in France. He strongly opposed the establishment of the Second Empire in 1852 and a year later attacked the government of Napoleon III in his last sermon in Paris. Following the attack he could no longer remain in the capital and retired to Sereze to head the school he restored.

A year before his death in 1861 he was elected to the French Academy, an assembly of 40 French leaders, mainly literary figures, who task is to determine the correct usage of the French language.

## Germans Aid World's Poor

Aachen — (RNS) — More than $7,500,000 has been allocated by the German Catholic hierarchy to finance relief projects around the world during 1960.

Almost half of the funds went to distressed areas in Asia, with the balance going to relief projects in Africa and Latin America.

The money was raised in collections among German Catholics in the campaign "against hunger and sickness throughout the world" begun in Lent 1959 and continuing until at least the end of 1961.

## Laymen Volunteer

New Orleans — (NC) — Nearly 100 persons from 24 states and Canada have applied for assignment as lay missionaries through "Southmission" in the seven months since the organization was formed.

Southmission is a clearing house for laymen who wish to serve in mission fields, chiefly in the southern United States and South America. It was established in April by the Bishops of Louisiana.

Southmission has recruited [illegible]

## Newman Fund First Gift

Washington — (NC) — Archbishop Leo Binz of Dubuque, Iowa, has become the first subscribing member of the National Newman Foundation, an agency seeking funds to expand Newman Club work.

The prelate, retiring episcopal chairman of the Youth Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, contributed $1,000 to the foundation, which is seeking an initial fund of $125,000.

The $125,000 will be used to set up a national office here and to hire a staff, according to the National Newman Club Federation.

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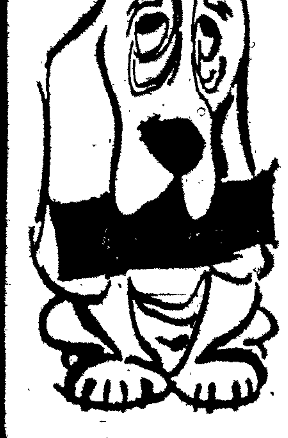

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