

Need of Aging

Monks Jet To Asia

Chicago — (NC) — Two priests, cloistered for years in a Trappist monastery, took off here for Jakarta, Indonesia, in a jet plane.

Father Maurus Henrich, O.C.S.O., cloistered 27 years, and Father Aelred Tietjen, seclused 12 years, at the Trappist New Mellary abbey, Dubuque, Iowa, headed for Jakarta on a five-year loan plan. They will be stationed at a Trappist monastery in the mountains about 200 miles from Jakarta.

The monastery was established about 10 years ago by Dutch Trappists. Since the expulsion of all Dutch citizens by the Indonesian government, no new members of the order have been allowed into the country from their native Holland.

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'Opportunity For Greatness'

By CARL BALCERAK

Washington — (NC)—The aging person should be encouraged to take an active part in family and congregational life and not be treated as an outcast.

This was a key point in a 1,200-word policy statement submitted Jan. 11 to the White House Conference on Aging by its religious section.

The statement's preamble said that "the meaning of life is to be found solely in man's relationship to God."

Any attitude hindering the right of the aging person "to responsible membership within the religious fellowship... must be regarded as a contradiction to religious teaching," the statement asserted.

IT POINTED out that both the family and congregation have a direct responsibility to provide special services, educational materials and programs for the aging.

But "every effort should be made to see that these do not involve an unnecessary separation from the main stream of familial or congregational life," the statement stressed.

"The goal," it added, "is not to keep the aging busy but to help them find in every moment an opportunity for greatness."

"Our society, by reason of its preoccupation with frontier development and economic advance, has tended to glorify youth and denigrate old age," the statement said. "The time has come to recog-

nize that the cult of eternal youth is idolatry."

The statement also recommended that:

— Ways of providing more chaplaincy services in public institutions caring for the aging be studied on all governmental levels by religious bodies and public agencies.

— Greater provision be made for specialized training of the clergy and lay workers in understanding and serving the needs and potentialities of old age.

— "Religious congregations should work for legislation and industrial practices which contribute to the orderly transition from active employment to retirement and a useful old age."

— Religious bodies make greater use of radio, TV, drama and other media in affecting changes of attitudes toward older persons.

— Care be taken to provide suitable transportation for the aging to enable them to take part in worship and services with congregations.

The statement in its conclusion called on "the great religious bodies of the nation—their congregations, seminaries, organizations and related agencies—and all Americans who share their concern for the aged to join in expanded efforts toward seeing that each of our senior citizens receives the benefits, spiritual and material, which richly deserve."

Twenty policy statements

were submitted to the conference. They were read at the last two plenary sessions but no vote was taken on them.

An official report of the conference will be made to the President of the U.S. and to the secretary of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare. The report will be made public within 90 days of the Jan. 12 close of the conference.

The recommendation that medical care should be financed under the Social Security program did not gain a clear-cut victory. The conference's income and maintenance section favored it, but the medical care section said such a system of health care is undesirable.

OTHER POLICY statements made these points:

—The family is the best method any society has developed for the care and education of children and for aiding its older members in adjusting to the process of aging.

—Social service programs for older persons—including financial assistance, counseling and group activities—should be available to all without regard to income, race, citizenship or residence.

—A Federal grant-in-aid program should be established to help states develop programs for inculcating rehabilitation practices in governmental, nonprofit and proprietary institutions pro-

viding long-term services to handicapped older people.

—Federal legislation should be enacted empowering the HEW Office to cooperate with states, communities and public and private schools to stimulate development and operation of educational programs for the aging.

—A National Institute of Gerontology should be established within the framework of the National Institutes of Health to study basic biological changes underlying the aging process.

—Appropriate content on aging should be included in all schools, colleges and universities in a form similar to other knowledge about man and society.

—Congress should appropriate \$100 million a year for the direct loan program for housing under the Housing and Home Finance agency.

—Each state should have a permanent unit to provide state-wide leadership in programs for the aging.

—The cooperation of national voluntary agencies can be achieved through formation of a national coordinating body that would aid them in the extension and improvement of services for older people.

—A set rigid retirement age tends to increase the number of years a retired person becomes dependent upon a fixed income subject to inflationary erosion.

BOOK SHELF

Christ and Christophers

By SISTER MARGARET TERESA Nazareth College

To Live Is Christ: Nature & Grace in the Religious Life, by R. W. Gleason, S.J. Sheed '61. 180 pp. \$3.00.

Christopher Notes. The Christophers. Rev. James Keller, M. M., 18 East 48th St., N.Y. 17. 50c per 100 copies.

Up to page 98. To Live Is Christ presents a new, brisk, very concise Father Gleason, reviewing all the ideas about the formation of modern religious that have lately been discussed, agreed on, and put into practice in a hundred novitiates across the land.

This is a handbook on Sister-formation. Brother-formation, priest-formation, dominated in its every detail by the vital concept of the Mystical Body, seeing the religious as a member of that Body who continues the life of Christ by total donation.

Brought together here in persuasive order, juxtaposed so that one sees more deeply into each point by enforced comparison, are the usual strictures about antiquated religious garb, authoritarianism and the resulting prolonged "childishness" of subjects, overwork and misuse of time ("Sunday is appointed the day of rest and then devoted to finishing all the tasks which have not been accomplished by the exhausted sister during the week").

No element of today's special tensions goes unnoticed. Chapter III, on "Christian Maturity," concentrates on the positive, on how best to help the modern young person live for Christ: giving him from the beginning real chances to use his initiative, and real responsibilities.

It is clear that "the man who is to be a priest or the girl who is to be a nun should be more adult," not less, "than he who is going to be a good father or she who is going to be a good mother." There must be that dynamic orientation toward God described by St. Thomas, a lived understanding of the primacy of charity in all activities.

(There is one delightful footnote in this first part — if I may digress. "It is surprising to realize," says the author, "that there are still religious communities which completely ignore the resources of modern psychotherapy for their subjects... The neurotic personality is given no assistance beyond the relaxing atmosphere of a country rest-house." Doesn't that sound like Texas? — not New York State! A modest, unaggressive little neurosis-entailing a country rest-house (if not a certain appeal!).

But the Father Gleason of earlier books like The World to Come and Christ and the Christian begins in eloquence and spiritual beauty on page 101: "The Way of Poverty," "The Value of Virginity," "The Notion of Obedience" give a fresh perspective on the three vows. Religious poverty, for example, reconsecrates all the groaning creaturehood to God, gives back to Christ "all that is naturally His."

Poverty is an engagement, a commitment. "The whole world has been touched by the Incarnation of the Son of God. No rock on the most distant mountain, no star, has remained unchanged by that event. The world has been, and always will be, the home of God's own Son, who reached into it for the matter of His Body. Hence

Marriage Course

Enrolls 5,000

Montreal — (NC) — Some 5,000 young persons have registered for the 1961 Preparation for Marriage course held in parishes throughout the Montreal archdiocese.

The courses were started in 1944 by the late Archbishop Joseph Charbonneau of Montreal. Since then some 75,000 young persons have taken the courses, which were initiated after an inquiry by the Catholic Young Workers disclosed hasty marriages were the main cause of many broken homes.

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Soon To Be Cardinal
Rome — (RNS) — Cardinal-designate Joseph E. Ritter, Archbishop of St. Louis, Mo., (left), is warmly greeted on arriving in Rome for the consistory at which he was to receive the Red Hat. With him are Archbishop Martin J. O'Connor, rector of the North American Pontifical College in Rome (right); and Msgr. Ignolo Cardinale, an official of the Vatican Secretariat of State. Archbishop Ritter was accompanied by a party of 134 including six other members of the American hierarchy.

More Stress On 3 R's
Baltimore — (RNS) — The superintendent of archdiocesan schools in Baltimore has announced a five-year plan "to develop an extremely modern curriculum" affecting all courses in the elementary schools.
The Rev. James C. Donohue, named superintendent last summer, said the plan would involve reorganization of the school staff this year.
He said three departments would be created to supervise revision of the eight grades of elementary schools.
In addition to course content, the proposed changes will affect the amount of time allotted to them in the school schedule. A strong move will be made to spend more time on the basic subjects of reading, spelling and arithmetic.
FIVE OTHER departments will be formed to deal with guidance, health, safety, libraries and special education for able and for retarded children.
Father Donohue said the school system will inaugurate immediately standardized tests on a wide scale in the elementary schools.
No plans to begin next year a revision of the secondary school curriculum. Details of this change are not now available.
The five-year elementary school program involves new system-wide textbooks in all courses.
"As for the philosophy of the program," Father Donohue said, "we felt the elementary schools must give students a firm foundation for future intellectual development. We must devote more time to the fundamental subjects."

GOD LOVE YOU!
By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

It is interesting to compare despair in two periods of modern history: one the negligence and despair engendered by Jansenism in the seventeenth and eighteenth centuries; the other the psychological despair engendered by the Godlessness of the twentieth century. The first attacked the universal love of Christ for all humanity; the second, the belief in God as the mainstay of the soul. Freud used as the motto of his psychoanalysis a text from a Latin poet: "If I cannot move the heavens, I will set all hell in an uproar." The human spirit without God has thus entered a flight from the harassed self through alcohol, sex and mental breakdown.

Notice that the twentieth century assault is against the love of God Himself and the earlier against the love of God as manifested in the Incarnate love of Christ. But somehow both are related in devotion to the Sacred Heart. As far back as 1302 St. Gertrude of Germany said that "the day was yet to come when the human family, and especially the members of the living Body of Christ, which is the Church, would have great need to recover some warmth of Divine love." The revelation of the love of the Sacred Heart to St. Margaret Mary supplied the answer to the despair of Jansenism; the Encyclical of Leo XIII, the answer to the despair of the modern soul without God.

It is this love of God for all humanity, revealed in the person of Our Lord, under the title of the Sacred Heart that we are seeking to carry to the world through your sacrifices. Here is what you can do:
1) Be one of a thousand who has enough of the world's goods to give to Africa or Asia, in honor of the Sacred Heart, a chapel costing a minimum of \$2500. Only let the Holy Father determine the site.
2) Be one of a million who will give 10c a day for one month in honor of the Sacred Heart.

GOD LOVE YOU to Mrs. R.D. for \$10 "This is in thanks giving for the favors which I received through the intercession of the Little Flower." ... to Mrs. P. G. for \$10 "So some of your hungry children may eat with me when I am alone." ... to L.M.L. for \$100 "Please use this for lepers, that their prayers will bring our stray back from the leprosy of sin." ... to J.V.T. for \$100 "I have just received the first prize at our Church Bazaar. Because of my good fortune I am sending part of my winnings to you in order that you may continue the good work for the poor of the world." ... to Anon. for \$2500 ... to R.T. for \$100 "This is thanksgiving for a favor. I promised that if I passed my altar boy test I would send one dollar to the Missions."

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifices to it and mail it to: Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 300 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y. or your Diocesan Director, Rev. George E. Wood, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester, N. Y.

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