

Maryknoll's 50th Birthday

Free Entry For Church Imports

Washington — (RNS) — The House has passed and sent to the Senate a bill to liberalize the free importation of religious articles.

The measure (H.R. 4449) would liberalize import regulations in three ways:

(1) It would add iconostases and similar sacred objects used in Eastern Orthodox churches to the specific list of religious articles that may be imported without duty.

(2) It would permit the free entry of "adjuncts and appurtenances" to altars, pulpits, communion tables, baptismal fonts, and other religious articles specified, whether or not these appurtenances are physically joined thereto or not.

(3) It would extend free import privileges to cemeteries, schools, hospitals, orphanages, and similar non-profit institutions, owned or controlled by corporations or associations organized for religious purposes.

Actress Gives School Site

Bethel, Conn. — (RNS) — Movie and television star Barbara Britton and her husband donated an eight-acre section of their country estate here for erection of a Catholic parochial school.

The gift by Miss Britton and her husband, Dr. Eugene J. Czukor, a New York psychiatrist, was announced by the Rev. Walter J. McCarthy, pastor of St. Mary's church, which will build an elementary school.

Father McCarthy said neither Miss Britton nor her husband are Catholics but are "devoted to the works of the church and wished to help the church in Bethel where they have their summer home."

Housing Project

Notre Dame — (NC) — Contracts totaling \$902,728 have been awarded for the construction of housing for married students at the University of Notre Dame.

New York — From just a dream born five decades ago in the hearts of two American diocesan priests, Maryknoll has grown to a world-wide society of priests, Brothers, and seminarians.

Today hundreds of Maryknollers are laboring in remote missions in twelve countries on four continents.

Fifty years ago, during Maryknoll's struggling infancy, many European Church leaders predicted that America's youth was too soft — incapable of being lured from the luxuries of their homes to spend their lives in remote parts of the world.

But the founders of Maryknoll, Father James A. Walsh of Boston, and Father Thomas F. Price of North Carolina, insisted that American youths could rise to any challenge.

In the early summer of 1911, the two priests sailed to Rome to lay before Pope Saint Pius X their plans for the establishment of an American Foreign Mission Society. On June 29, the Holy Father authorized the founding of the society — and Maryknoll came into being.

With a humble beginning in a frame building in Hawthorne, N.Y., and a few years later in an old farm house atop Sunset Hill overlooking the Hudson River, near Ossining — the two pioneer priests laid a sturdy foundation for a vigorous society.

During the past 50 years Rome has entrusted to Maryknoll the care of millions of human beings in remote mission areas of Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the islands of the Pacific.

The first Maryknoll Department group of four priests steamed out of San Francisco for the China mainland in September, 1918. Each succeeding year, more and more Maryknollers carried the Gospel to the Chinese people until the villages and cities throughout the country promised a rich missionary harvest.

But this brilliant era in Church history ended ten years ago when Chinese Communists rattled down the Bamboo Curtain. American missionaries working in China — 210 Maryknollers among them — were either jailed or expelled. For the first time, Americans as a group experienced what their missionary brothers from Europe had lived through many times before.



Altar boys at the Maryknoll mission in Kyoto are packed into the jeep of Father Thomas J. Prendergast for a ride to the ball field. Baseball is one of the most popular sports in Japan, and Father Tom makes many young friends with his prowess in the sport.

And they were not found wanting. Latin America, and among the African tribes in Tanganyika.

But the Maryknollers expelled from China didn't let any grass grow under their feet. They moved into other areas, learned new languages, and expanded activities among refugees in Hong Kong and South Korea, among the people of Formosa, the Philippines,

In this, their purpose is not merely to fight communism, reach the highly literate Japanese, and help people materially as well as spiritually, to enable them to enjoy the freedom, justice, and equality to which they are entitled as sons of God.

In Hong Kong, for example, Maryknollers are building low-cost housing projects for refugees, and operating schools to train them in the skills they need to earn a livelihood. At five noodle factories, missionaries turn powdered milk and flour into noodles for import to other Asian countries to make the most efficient and effective use of CRS relief supplies.

In the Andes region of Bolivia and Peru, Maryknollers educate Indians in religion, Spanish, agriculture, health, animal husbandry, and other subjects. The network is extended to all the dioceses of Peru. There, too, Maryknollers operate credit unions, which have granted over \$1,000,000 in loans at a low rate of interest.

In Japan, Maryknoll's Good Shepherd Movement utilizes all mass communication media to transister radios from the

United Nations and CARE.

These and all other Maryknoll activities are directed towards a single, long-range goal — the development of an indigenous clergy in each mission area.

The process necessarily is lengthy and complex, even under ideal conditions, but the groundwork at least is being laid today. It can be seen in the 100,000 annual baptisms, and the 50,000 students now enrolled in Maryknoll mission schools, spanning kindergarten to college. From their numbers will come a nucleus of seminarians and priests for tomorrow.

Maryknoll's Superior General, Bishop John W. Comber, calls his missionaries who carry on this work "frontier builders." He explains:

"Maryknollers live in areas where the Church is not established. There we build churches and schools, instruct the catechumens, erect seminaries, and nourish vocations to the native clergy. When the area is strong and thriving, we pack up and move on to another frontier area. In a word, it is our objective to build the Church of native stone."



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Blessings From Pope

Maryknoll — (RNS)—Pope John XXIII has tendered his congratulations to the Catholic Foreign Mission Society of America, popularly known as the Maryknoll Fathers, on the occasion of the order's 50th anniversary.

In a letter to Bishop John W. Comber, M.M., Superior General of the Maryknoll Fathers, the pontiff lauded the order for supplying "first-line troops where the danger is greatest." Members of the order serve in the Orient, Africa and Latin America.

"Your grain of mustard seed has indeed grown into a lofty tree and gives great promise of rich growth in the future," Pope John wrote.

Third Priest To Bolivia

La Crosse — (NC) — The third Wisconsin diocesan priest to receive a mission cross in five years has been presented this symbol of missionary work by Bishop John P. Treacy of La Crosse.

He is Father Emmet N. Faber, instructor at Aquinas High School here and an assistant at Holy Trinity parish. He will join the two other diocesan priests serving in Santa Cruz, Bolivia.

Bishop Treacy told the congregation at the ceremony in Holy Trinity church that "we cannot afford to be merely parish-minded or diocesan-minded in this age of opportunity to win the world for Christ's Kingdom."

Receives Grant

Miss Mary Ann Barletta, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Edmund Barletta of Winona Blvd. and a teacher at Holy Apostles School, has been awarded an assistantship and scholarship in library science at St. John's University of New York City. Miss Barletta is a graduate of Nazareth College.

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The first four Maryknollers to depart for the Missions in 1918 pose with Bishop James A. Walsh of Boston, (center) the Superior General. They are, left to right: Father Thomas F. Price, co-founder of Maryknoll, Father Francis X. Ford of Brooklyn, Bishop Walsh, Father Bernard F. Meyer of Davenport, Iowa, and Bishop James E. Walsh of Cumberland, Maryland. Father Price died in Hong Kong in 1919. Father Ford became a Bishop, served in China for thirty years, and died in a Communist prison in 1952. Bishop James A. Walsh remained Maryknoll Superior General until his death in April 1936. Father Meyer, at the age of 70, is still active in mission work and is presently visiting the Maryknoll missions in Tanganyika, East Africa. Father James E. Walsh was the first Maryknoller to become a Bishop when his mission in Kongmoon, China was raised to the status of a Vicariate. During the succeeding years, Bishop Walsh gave energetic direction to his mission and it grew rapidly. In 1951, the

Chinese Communists ordered the Bishop to suspend mission activities. In March 1960, the Bishop was arrested and sentenced to serve twenty years for "conspiring with the Vatican against the people of China." A few months ago the last American missionary in China celebrated his 70th birthday — in a Communist prison in Shanghai.

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TV Shows Win Awards

Minneapolis — (RNS)—"The Catholic Hour" was honored in two of seven "Gold-Bell" awards presented by the Catholic Broadcasters' Association at its annual congress here.

The National Council of Catholic Men received the award for the "Catholic Hour's" presentation of "The War for Geoffrey Wilson," produced in cooperation with NBC Television.