

# 'Ike Missed By A Mile'

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Peace Corps members, according to Mr. Awokaya, should never write their impressions of a new country until they have lived there for awhile (and then never on post cards).

"This warning," said Sister Magdalen, "was more than balanced by Mr. Awokaya's warm praise of the Peace Corps and its 'high motivation'."

"He has been greatly impressed by the training given to Nigerian Peace Corps members at Harvard, Michigan State and UCLA. And he spoke with a great deal of feeling about the intelligence, dedication and understanding of the first Peace Corps delegation in Nigeria. This group, composed of Harvard-trained members, deplained, singing the Nigerian national anthem, have spoken to Nigerian officials in each of the three tribal dialects used in the country, and placed second in a Nigerian native dance contest the second night they were in the country.

"The greatest compliment you can pay us is to speak our own language," said Mr. Awokaya. "We consider the Peace Corps a great step forward to international understanding."

The reaction of one country? Not so, say Dr. Meder and Sister Magdalen. Officials of the six areas now playing host to Peace Corps members have reacted the same way. And even more convincing proof: some 50,000 requests have been received for Peace Corps projects.

# Teen-age Population Soars

Washington — (RNS) — The number of teenagers in America a group of particular concern to the nation's churches — increased by more than 25 per cent in the decade between 1950 and 1960, the U.S. Census Bureau announced here.

The number can be expected to increase by 80 per cent during the decade ahead and by at least another 10 per cent beyond that figure by 1975.

In the census of 1950, there were 10,671,000 persons between 15 and 19 years of age.

This rose to 13,219,000 in the 1960 census, an increase of more than 2,500,000.

Meanwhile, the age group that was between 5 and 9 on April 1, 1960, and who will be in the 15-19 bracket in the 1970 census, numbered 18,691,000, presaging an increase of over 5,000,000 in the number of teen-agers in the next decade.

Also those children who were under 5 years of age and who will be in the 15-19 teen-age bracket in 1975 numbered 20,320,000 in the 1960 census.

In other words, barring a major population catastrophe, the number of teen-agers will approximately double in the period between 1950 and 1975, from a little over 10,000,000 to more than 20,000,000.

## Train Catechists

Paris — (NC) — A dozen bishops of western France have decided to set up normal schools to train professional catechists, lay people who would support themselves by teaching catechism.



## Widow Nun

Sister Mary Joseph is a study in meditation as she prays in her room at St. Ida's convent of the order of the Cistercians of the Original Observance in Prairie du Sac, Wis. The former Mrs. Regina Glider, Sister Mary Joseph was a widow from Oklahoma City when she became the first American to make her profession of vows in the order. The convent was established on a farm near Prairie du Sac three years ago by six nuns from the motherhouse, the Abbey of Farnham, near Lucerne, Switzerland.

# Trans-Atlantic Thank You

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That is, until two American Monsignors came to see for themselves. Monsignor Lyons and Monsignor Maney reported to your beloved Bishop Kearney, that devoted client of St. John Fisher, on the state of the Church in St. John Fisher's own city.

Bishop Kearney asked his people to come to the assistance of the sister city on the Medway River, England. The result was a generous contribution from the Catholics of Rochester, New York.

The Catholics of Rochester, England, were not numerous enough to be able to find the money necessary to build a church themselves, but, from all over the country, contributions came in, inspired by the example of American interest in St. John Fisher.

The generosity of the American Catholics stimulated a kindred generosity among their fellow Catholics in England. The sum contributed by Rochester, New York, amounted to \$30,000.

A similar sum came from Catholics in England, two thirds of the money needed to build the church.

A series of sacrifices were required by the good God before the Mass could be restored to Rochester. The prime mover in the work of restoration Monsignor Edward Lyons died in 1951. The architect Joseph Goldie died six months before the completion of the church. The pastor, Father O'Riordan died three weeks before its opening and dedication.

The church was opened May 23, 1954. For four years it remained part of Chatham parish until August, 1958, I was appointed its first pastor and Rochester was canonically

erected into a parish once more.

To be the first parish priest ministering in the parish of Rochester since the Reformation is both an honor and a responsibility.

An honor, because we walk the streets and fields trod by the feet of the martyred Bishop who is now also the patron of your own Diocese here in New York State.

A responsibility, because we minister to a small flock amid a large number of lapsed Catholics and others to whom the word of God must once again be preached.

A third of the cost of the church remains still to be paid. Our Sunday Mass attendance averages 350 (but there are 1000 names on our books who should but who do not attend). We need a Parish Hall in which to bring together the straying members of the city flock.

We need ground for the school without which the 200 Catholic children of the parish cannot receive the full instruction in their faith. We need a rectory in which to house the priests needed to minister to this wandering flock. We need a convent, for without the good Sisters to help, a parish is but half alive.

Since we started as a parish we have yearly had a mission devoted to explaining the faith to the lapsed and the faithless. The first fruits have been encouraging — 25 converts in our first three years. Not an avalanche, but signs that the prayers of our patron, St. John Fisher, and the generosity of our American friends which enabled those prayers to be answered, are bearing fruit.

If I may be allowed to paraphrase the last word of our patron St. John Fisher, "Here indeed is work enough to my life's end."

My parishioners and I remember the Catholics of Rochester, New York, and their Bishop, regularly in our Masses and prayers and thank them warmly and sincerely for giving us the opportunity to carry on the work which was so dear to the heart of St. John Fisher and was, indeed, his life's work, to enable people of his diocese to learn the supreme lesson: "To know Thee, and Jesus Christ whom Thou hast sent." (John 17).

## Dutch To Pray For Council

Tilburg — (RNS) — Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Archbishop of Utrecht, speaking at the opening of a Catholic ecumenical center at Bortel near here, hailed what he said was the "great change of climate" in relations between Catholics and Protestants.

At the same time, he announced that a joint pastoral issued by the Netherlands hierarchy calling upon Catholics to pray for the success of the Third Assembly of the World Council of Churches would be read in all the Catholic churches of the country on Sunday, Nov. 19. This will be a day after the formal opening of the WCC meeting.

## Pope Names New Bishops

Dallas — (RNS) — Pope John XXIII has created a new Diocese of San Angelo in western Texas and has designated Msgr. Thomas J. Drury, pastor of Christ the King parish of Lubbock, Tex., as bishop-elect of that See.

The new 34-county diocese covers 42,000 square miles with a population of almost 600,000, of which 51,421 are Catholics. It encompasses, besides San Angelo, the centers of Odessa, Midland, and Abilene. Five of the counties in the new See were taken from the Dallas-Fort Worth diocese. The other 29 were taken from the Sees of Amarillo, Austin and El Paso.

Pope John also named Msgr. Eldon B. Schuster a titular bishop and auxiliary to Bishop William Condon of Great Falls, Mont. Bishop-elect Schuster has been superintendent of diocesan parochial schools and moderator of several diocesan organizations in the Great Falls diocese.

## Shell Kills Laos Pupils

Vientiane — (NC) — Five children were killed when a mortar shell hit a Catholic mission school in the leftist-held Laotian city of Xieng Khouang (Oct. 27), it was reported here.

The International Control Commission (ICC) which is in Laos to supervise the armistice, refused to comment on the shelling, despite the fact that the house of the Polish ICC delegation nun Xieng Khuang was also reported hit.

The United States Special Ambassador, Averell Harriman, asserted at Geneva (Nov. 1) that anticommunist guerrillas began shelling Xieng Khuang only after troops in that city had opened fire. Some sources here claimed, however, that ICC records indicated that the firing which preceded the mortar barrage on Xieng Khuang came from a hillside near the city.

## Navy Delivers Relief Supplies

Santiago — (RNS) — When the U.S. aircraft carrier "Kitty Hawk" put into port here it was the signal for cheers from some 15,000 school children. The giant ship carried 10 tons of food and clothing, the gift of Catholic organizations in San Diego and La Jolla, Cal., for distribution by Maryknoll missionaries.

Part of the "Operation Hand-clasp" program, the huge shipment was carried to Chile in a Navy project which aids charitable organizations overseas on a "space available, no cost basis."

## Ordination First In Years

New Delhi — (RNS) — A crowd of 1,000 packed Sacred Heart Cathedral here to witness the first ordination of a Catholic priest in the Archdiocese of Delhi since India became independent in 1947.

Archbishop Joseph A. Fernandes of Delhi ordained the new priest — Father Joseph Thomas. The sermon was preached by Coadjutor Archbishop Angelo Fernandes of Delhi.

# Greek Monks Spartan Life

By FR. JOSEPH MITCHELL

Salonika — (NC) — Some 50 miles southeast of this Greek city lies a tiny republic without women.

It is the autonomous monastic district of Mount Athos, center of monasticism for the Orthodox world. Its population and its government consist of monks. For a thousand years it has enjoyed autonomy, first under the Byzantine emperors, then under the Ottoman sultans, finally under the modern Greek government.

The district comprises the easternmost of the three peninsulas that thrust south into the Aegean Sea like the prongs of a fork. Mount Athos itself bunches up at the southern end of the peninsula. The rocky peninsula is forbidding and difficult to reach.

VISITORS TO Mount Athos have to obtain a special permit from the Greek Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Athens. No women can get a permit. Police at the small port of Dephni check passports before allowing visitors to leave, usually by mule, for the little republic's capital at Karyes.

At the capital the visitor presents his permit to an official of the Holy Community, as the government of Mount Athos is called. After a short delay he receives a letter which enables him to visit all the monasteries.

There are about 20 large monasteries, a large number of smaller ones, and an uncounted number of hermit colonies. Of the 20 big monasteries, 11 are of the communal or cenobitic type. In the nine others, each monk lives according to his own schedule, in the tradition of some of the great eremitical movements of the East. Most of the monasteries are vastly underpopulated.

When my papers were in order, I hurried on to the oldest monastery on the peninsula, the Laura. This monastery is almost a thousand years old. It was founded by St. Athanasios of Athos. When the saint arrived on the peninsula, he found it already inhabited by colonies of hermits. He welded some of the communities into a single group of monks living and praying together.

The monastery is very large, but houses at present only about 100 monks. The magnificent main church, or "Catho-

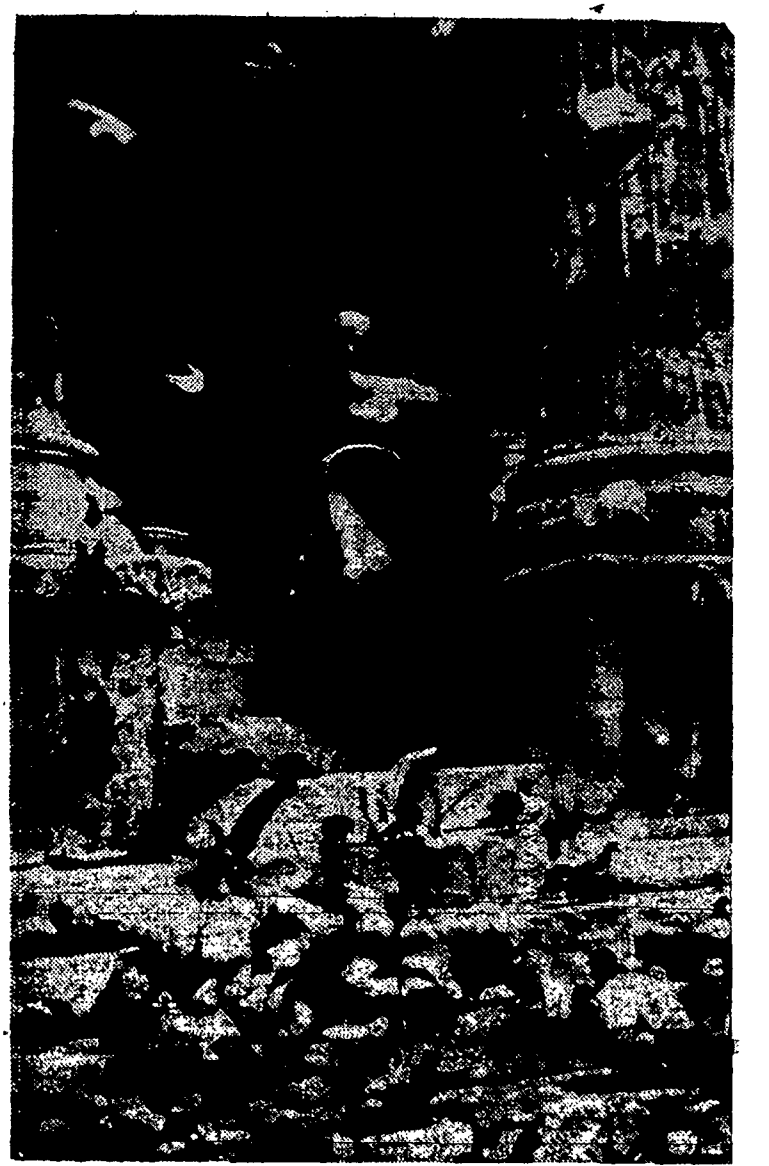
licon" as it is called in Greek, has served as a model for many a celebrated center of theological learning.

Next to the library is the monastery's treasury, where an immense number of precious gifts have been stored through centuries. Three monks, each in possession of a different key, have to be present to open the door of the treasury.

Among the treasures was a small icon of mosaic, whose pieces were so tiny that from a very short distance the icon looked like a painting.

At four in the afternoon, the sound of a hammer striking a flat board summons the monks to vespers. The church is soon filled with the sweet smell of incense, which is made by the monks, while the monks recite the prayer of the psalmist: "let my prayer come like incense before you."

After the service the monks go their several ways, some of them to spend hours in private prayer.



## 'Our Little Brothers'

Madrid — (RNS) — On the steps of an ancient church in Avila, native town of St. Francis, a Franciscan friar greets the birds in a gesture reminiscent of the nature-loving founder of his order. St. Francis used to praise God "for our little brothers, the birds."



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