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Around The World for Christmas

An appeal in the Nov. 23 Courier for a Rochester nun in a mission outpost in Bangkok, Thailand, brought \$739 in contributions to aid her religious community. An anonymous donor has agreed to match the amount so the Ursuline mission school in that southeast Asian city will receive a check for \$1478. Father John F. Duffy, director of the Rochester diocesan Propagation of the Faith Society, will post the check Monday. Last minute donations may still be sent him at 50 Chestnut St., Rochester 4, N.Y. The mission nun is Mother Virginia Marie (Claire Langie), daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Louis Langie of Yarmouth Rd. Photo shows her in center with young Thai working girls and a companion nun from France.

Saint of Catholic Action

Vatican City — (RNS) — During next year's Chair of Unity Octave — the period between Jan. 18 and Jan. 25 when the faithful everywhere pray for Christian unity — the Roman Catholic Church will inscribe on its roll of saints the name of a 19th century priest who began in Rome what is now a universal observance.

Theologian, man of extraordinary charity, foremost champion of Catholic Action, and founder of a religious order that is now world-embracing, Blessed Vincent-Pallotti will be canonized in St. Peter's Basilica by Pope John XXIII on Jan. 20, two days before the 112th anniversary of his death in 1850.

An intimate of two Popes, Gregory XVI and Pius IX (convener of the First Vatican Council), Blessed Vincent will be raised to the full dignity of the altar by the present Pope who inaugurated the Second Vatican Council not only to bring about an inner renewal of the Church but to promote the cause of Christian unity.

Expected to be on hand for the solemn ceremonies will be groups of pilgrims from the United States, including direct descendants of a brother of Blessed Vincent. They are Mrs. Paul Melanson of College Heights, Loretto, Pa.; Paul Sterbini of Cresson, Pa.; and Mrs. Edward Minium, all great, great-grandchildren of the saint's brother.

A descendant of the noble families of the Pallotti of Norcia and the De Rossi of Rome, Blessed Vincent founded in 1835 the Pious Society of the Catholic Apostolate — known generally as the Pallottine Fathers — with the approval of Pope Gregory XVI. Three years later he established a home for poor and abandoned girls which led to the creation in 1843 of a new sisterhood — the Sisters of the Catholic Apostolate.

Another development was the Third Order of the Society of the Catholic Apostolate through which laymen were enabled to participate in the program of the Pallottine Order.

Born April 21, 1789, Blessed Vincent was ordained in 1820. Later, after gaining a doctorate in theology, he became a substitute professor in the Roman Archigymnasium, where his colleagues saw him give promise of becoming an outstanding theologian. Instead, the young scholar decided to devote himself to pastoral work.

A second Philip Neri, he soon became a familiar figure in Rome, where he could be seen hurrying to the bedside of the sick in the hospitals, or bringing aid and comfort to the poor in their miserable homes. During a series of cholera epidemics, he frequently returned from his visits to the sick barefooted and without his cloak, having given them to the poor.

After a day spent in apostolic labor, he would pass the night in prayer, content with a few hours sleep on a chair or the bare floor. He constantly practiced severe self-mortification. And he spent long hours in the confessional.

Once, wanting to see a young man on his deathbed who had sworn to shoot any priest that came near him, Father Pallotti disguised himself as an old woman and thus reached the man's bedside. In 1848, he had a narrow escape from anti-clericals who entered the Irish College in Rome in search of him.

Father Pallotti was the confessor and friend of Nicholas Cardinal Wiseman, Archbishop of Westminster, in the days when the latter was rector of the English College in Rome. The cardinal never forgot Father Pallotti's insistence on the importance to the universal Church of England's conversion. Some years later a young priest came to him with ideas for a missionary college, and the cardinal gave him every encouragement. The priest was Father Herbert Vaughan — later Cardinal Archbishop of Westminster — founder of the St. Joseph's Missionary Society.

When he founded the Society of the Catholic Apostolate, Father Pallotti established his first church outside Rome in London at St. Peter's, Clerkenwell. This was to serve the Pallottine Fathers as a provincial house for more than a century.

A year after he founded his religious order, Blessed Vincent started the special observance in Rome of the Octave of the Epiphany, his chief desire being to make the observance a means of uniting the dissident Orthodox Churches with Rome. The observance is still celebrated by the Pallottines every year at the beautiful church of Sant' Andrea della Valle in Rome.

It was Father Pallotti's labors during the Octave of 1850 that brought on the disease that was to cause his death. He preached his last sermon on his knees nine weeks before the end came.

Mass Recalls Freedom Bid

New York — (RNS) — Msgr. Bela Varga, a prominent Hungarian prelate, offered a special Solemn High Mass in St. Patrick's Cathedral here to mark the 6th anniversary of the Soviet suppression of the 1956 Hungarian uprising.

Formerly archdean of the Vespem diocese in Hungary, Msgr. Varga was president of the last freely-elected Hungarian parliament and is now chairman of the refugee anti-Communist Hungarian Committee in New York.

Bias Charge At College To Be Tried

New York — (RNS) — A jury trial was ordered here into the case of two associate professors at Queens College who charged that they were denied promotions because of anti-Catholic bias.

State Supreme Court Justice Vincent A. Lupiano ordered the trial after a hearing into the charges brought by Dr. Josef V. Lombardo of the school's art department and Dr. Joseph P. Mullally of its philosophy department. Queens College is a municipally-operated institution.

"This matter of asserted pollution of the academic atmosphere at Queens College shall be aired and reviewed to see whether it does exist," Justice Lupiano stated.

"Careers and reputations are at stake here," he declared. "If the infection exists, it will be appropriately treated. If it does not exist, the cloud of suspicion over the integrity of the college will be lifted."

No date was set for the trial, administration can be dispelled.

Priest Attends Episcopal Rite

Boston — (NC) — The Archdiocese of Boston was represented for the first time at an important Protestant ceremony in Massachusetts when the Venerable John Melville Burgess was consecrated here as a suffragan bishop of the Episcopal Church in the U.S.

Msgr. Francis J. Lally, editor of the Pilot, archdiocesan newspaper, was the official Catholic observer at the ceremony (Dec. 8). He was appointed by Cardinal Cushing of Boston in response to an invitation from Episcopal Bishop Anson Phelps Stokes, Jr., of Massachusetts.

Two Prelates At Dutch Rite

Delft — (NC) — Bernard Cardinal Alfrink, Archbishop of Utrecht, and Bishop Willem Kokkers, of 's Hertogenbosch represented the Catholic Hierarchy at the funeral service for the late Queen Wilhelmina of the Netherlands at the Protestant New Church here (Dec. 8).

The prelates flew from Rome the day before the closing of the first session of the Second Vatican Council.



Baby Gifts For Pope's Storehouse

DAUGHTERS OF MARY of St. Michael's Church held election of officers at their recent birthday meeting. Members brought baby gifts for the Pope's Storehouse. In photo are Rita Wunch, Cecelia Hasenauer, Kay Ruff and Ginny Heeks.



Bishop McQuaid Color Corps

FOURTH DEGREE Knights of Columbus of the Dansville area in full regalia include: (seated) Anthony LaBarbera, Carmen Corcimiglia, Ed Schledorn, Joseph Amico, Horace Showalter, Charles Steward; (standing) Bill Thompson, Dominic Battaglio, Euclid St. Pierre, Charles Duffy, Carl Mader, Sam Taravella, Clarence Gessner, John Tracy, Arthur Malter Jr., Clyde Smith, Fred Beckwith, Vic Cicero and Nick Tenent.

Lenin in Place of God

Villanova — (NC) — There is a lot of homage to Lenin in the city of Kiev in the Soviet Ukraine but very little to God, according to a priest who spent three days in that city.

Father John A. Klekotka, O.S.A., president of Villanova University, said that one word best sums up his impression of the huge city — "depressing."

The Augustinian priest visited the city of more than a million people as part of a trip of five countries made by 59 U.S. educators. The trip was sponsored by the Comparative Education Society.

"I had been advised not to wear priestly clothing and wear a black suit and tie during the Kiev trip," said Father Klekotka.

"THE MUSEUM was the only well-built modern building in the city I saw," the priest stated. "It contained an extensive collection of paintings, sculptures and reproductions of letters and newspapers concerned with the life of Lenin. . . . Even where there was occasion for Stalin to be mentioned, or shown in pictures, there was nothing."

A Polish Catholic church was pointed out to the tourists, he continued, but one of the guides said it was "closed for repairs and had been for many years."

Referring to the communist ideology taught in all schools in the Soviet Union, Father Klekotka said: "The Russians need God and religion and it would be good to be able to talk about it."

National Meet Draws Colleges

Students from Nazareth and St. John Fisher Colleges will participate in the Lake Erie Regional Congress of the National Federation of Catholic College Students, Nov. 30 to Dec. 2 at Sheraton Motor Inn, 715 Delaware Ave., Buffalo, according to Rev. Edward T. Fisher, moderator.

CONGRESS IS under the chairmanship of Rosary Hill College. Theme is "Personal Responsibility and the Christian Student."

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