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

The future of the Church in the United States within the next fifty years is being shaped by the Church of the Poor. It will be the "poor" Church. By the year 2000 we must principally be the church of the world's people who earn less than \$100 a year; the 500 million in Africa, Asia and Oceania which have less than \$25,000 a year. Our schools, churches and chapels. Either they will partake of our blessings or we will be the "poor" Church spoken of in the Apocalypse, which had much gold but little spirit.

When we say the Church of the Poor, what do we mean? Just as we mean our million dollar churches and libraries, our auto, our television sets, do not mean that we should be more generous on "Mission Sunday." No! How our pastors would complain if they were only allowed one collection a year and it averaged out to 27 cents each which is the average annual per capita donation of United States Catholics to the Holy Father for all of his Missions. Lepers need sulfone every week, not once a year! "Mission Sunday" should be done away with as once-a-year pittance. The Church in the United States should substitute a "Mission Monday," a "Mission Tuesday," a "Mission Wednesday," a "Mission Everyday."

We Catholics will become the Church of the Poor only by sharing, as God ordered: "When they request the crops on the field, do not take all the level of the ground, or pick up the scattered ears, do not hoard up the clusters in the grapes that have fallen. Leave something for poor men and widowers to glean; remember what God your working," (Lev. 19:9-10). We will be the Church of the Poor not by putting a few dimes in a collection, but by sharing every blessing with the poor. Few of us have fields where we can leave sheaves or vineyards where we can leave clusters, but we have pay envelopes, income tax checks and bonds, interest, gifts, and in the case of children, spending money. We should share each of these "harvests" with the poor. For three times God repeats this law, the last time saying: "If a month elapses in this field, remember, do not go back for it; leave it for the poor (the widows, the orphans and the widow, as the Lord thy God will prosper all thy undertakings" (Deut. 24:19).

Will God bless us for putting up a field house that costs a million dollars and not giving \$1,000 of that to the Holy Father to build a hut for the Eucharistic Lord in Ghana? Obviously, not if it is possible for us to put up a rectory that costs \$250,000? Certainly it is needed. But not if we do not leave a sheaf of \$2,500 (or buy sulfone for the lepers in Thailand. The hungry, the agonized, the lepers must share our every blessing. The "alms" is scattered, the Word of God tells us, to a sheaf of our profits in business, medicine, law, to a cluster of our clipped coupons to our "widows." And how can we reach the "alms" and the poor outside the United States? Through the one arm the Holy Father has in the United States to gather sheaves and clusters for them, and that is: The Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

God has made us prosperous. Let us think Him! But let us not think we are satisfying our debt to the poor of the world by giving the Holy Father the equivalent of the price of a pack of cigarettes a year. As Catholics we need not "give" because that is voluntary. We must share, because that is the divine mandate. Each starving Catholic is a cell in our body, each hungry non-Catholic is the food not yet assimilated in our body. Either we will be the Church of the Poor or we will be the "poor" Church. God bless that we may be the Church of the Poor! Start now by sharing, by sending something to the Holy Father each month through his Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

GOD LOVE YOU TO ALL WHO ANSWER THIS PLEA AND MAKE OURS THE CHURCH OF THE POOR!

Cut out this column, pin your sacrifice to it, and mail it to: Most Rev. Fulton J. Sheen, National Director of The Society for the Propagation of the Faith, 340 Fifth Avenue, New York 17, N.Y., or your Diocesan Director, Rev. John F. Dunny, 50 Chestnut Street, Rochester 4, New York.



COMMITTEE MEMBERS of the church drive at St. Lucy's Parish, Retsof, include: (seated) Frank Allaneli; Alex Cichelli, Louis Taramello, the Rev. Charles Reynolds, pastor; Joseph Troisi, James Yasso, Paul Parks; (standing) Thomas F. O'Connell, campaign director; Frank Mustari, Charles Farruggia, Jr., Nicholas Berti, Anthony Giglio, Tullio Troisi, Frank Valtiano, Joseph Bucca, Joseph Farruggia, Angelo Giglio, Thomas Mellini.

New Church Planned For Retsof Parish

Plans for a new church in Retsof were announced yesterday by Rev. Charles Reynolds, pastor of St. Lucy's parish.

A BUILDING fund appeal is underway to raise the funds for the construction of the new church. The organization has been set up and the enlistment of the top executive chairman's committee has begun. The campaign's financial objective is set at \$30,000, as the minimum goal. This is the minimum amount necessary to start the building program. The campaign pledge period will extend over a 36-month period.

The General Solicitation phase of the drive will take place on Sunday, June 23rd, between the hours of 11 a.m. and 1 p.m. A special advance solicitation will be conducted for Special Gifts prior to the General Solicitation. This will be during the week of June 17th.

The architect's plans have not been finalized as yet. But the new parish church will be a contemporary style building with a basement hall and a seating capacity of approximately 250. The final plans will be determined by the success of the present building fund campaign.

Faith Survives In Lithuania

Berlin—(NC)—Most of the Soviet Union's Catholics live in Lithuania, according to the Polish atheist quarterly Zeszyty Argumentow. The magazine, which carried a report on the Catholic Church in the Soviet Union, said that there are some 700 active churches in Lithuania.

Smaller concentrations of Catholics exist in western Ukraine, Belorussia, Latvia and Estonia. Also "among the million Poles dispersed all over the territory of the Soviet Union, a certain number are Catholics," according to the magazine.

Further, according to the report, priests carry on "illegal trading in religious articles alongside churches," and in Lithuania they "buy up atheist literature and destroy it, so it will not reach the people." The clergy in the Soviet Union tries, as never before, to adorn the churches, so that their appearance might be as magnificent as possible.

There are four archdioceses in the Soviet Union: Vilnius and Kaunas in Lithuania; Riga, Latvia; and Minsk, Belorussia. But the atheist organ adds: "There is no Roman Catholic Episcopate in the Soviet Union, neither on a country-wide scale nor in individual union republics. Apostolic administration (mission prelates) head the metropolitan churches. They participated in the (first) session of the Vatican Council."

(In fact there are five bishops in the Soviet Union, of whom only one is free. Only two Lithuanian priests went to the council's first session.)

According to Soviet atheist publications, the Catholic clergy is loyal towards the state and the socialist structure. At present priests supposedly encourage people to work on collective farms, in spite of the fact that in the past they called them Satan's work.

Crime Rate Continues Up

Washington—(RNS)—The nation's rapidly rising crime rate shows no sign of abating and the year 1963 is well on its way toward being the worst in history, Director J. Edgar Hoover of the Federal Bureau of Investigation reported here.

Mr. Hoover said that initial compilation of Uniform Crime Statistics for the first three months of 1963 show a seven per cent increase in the crime rate over the comparable period of 1962 which, in turn, was the worst year in the nation's history.

Sharpest increase came in the number of grand larcenies reported to police. These crimes, involving thefts over \$50, increased by 12 per cent. Auto thefts increased 5 per cent and burglaries, six per cent. Armed robberies went up 1 per cent.

College Credit For Religion

Columbia, Mo.—(NC)—Courses to be taught at the Newman Center under construction here will be accredited by the University of Missouri.

Next fall the Catholic center will offer two courses, each of which carries three semester hours credit as electives. History of Christianity will be taught by Father Donald Kemper, while the life and teachings of Jesus will be taught by Father Frank Stangl.

For some years the university has accepted for credit courses taught at the Missouri School of Religion, an interdenominational institution, and at the Baptist Chair of the Bible.

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Haiti Priest Heads Out

New York—(RNS)—A young Haitian-born priest is heading a movement designed to oust the French colonialist director of Haiti.

Father Gerard Bisainthe visited New York to seek members and funds for the organization called Jeune Haiti (Young Haiti).

The 34-year-old priest said he had left Haiti in November and that he had always opposed Duvalier "because he has been a thief and a gangster and didn't do anything for the country."

FATHER BISAINTHE said he would be freed "by force" if he did it with Haitians' action.

Before quitting Haiti, the priest was a teacher and chaplain at a school in Port-au-Prince.

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