

Germans Give \$18 Million To Aid Poor

Hong Kong — (NC) — Asia's underdeveloped countries have received \$18,840,000 from West Germany's 22 million Catholics during the past five years for social, medical, technical, and agricultural projects.

This sum is 33.8 per cent of the total \$54,750,000 collected in Germany since 1958 to provide "self-help and long-term assistance for people in need without regard to race, religion, or region," Hong Kong Rotarians were told here by Msgr. Charles H. Vath, Far East representative of the Misereor Social Aid Fund of the German Bishops.

Explaining the purposes of Misereor aid Msgr. Vath said:

"Misereor aid is intended not for the promotion of missionary endeavors—no purely religious project can be aided by Misereor funds—but solely to provide well-planned charity based on a form of cooperation between partners to avoid the danger of engendering begging. The personal dignity of the recipient is a primary consideration of our program whose main emphasis is on long range help in the building of institutions as hospitals and clinics, the financing of such self help projects as cooperatives, social centers and community projects, and the establishment of vocational training institutions and the aiding of agricultural projects."

Among Hong Kong projects mentioned by Msgr. Vath are recipients of Misereor aid were four social centers with vocational training, one medical center, one nursing training center, one rehabilitation center, and several clinics and mobile camps.

Fundamentals Base For Unity

Los Angeles — (NC) — Cardinal McIntyre of Los Angeles told 1,600 Episcopal women here that agreement on the first fundamental truths of religion is essential for religious unity.

"The first principles of unity must be accepted before details can be accommodated to existing conditions," Cardinal McIntyre said in an address to the annual meeting of the Episcopal Churchwomen of the Diocese of Los Angeles.

New Wing Slated At Mercy Hospital

Hornell — The future St. James Mercy Hospital, as projected in an architect's sketch, was shown members of the Advisory Board Wednesday night. A large master plan, showing the hospital from the Rose Avenue angle, was on display during the regular meeting of the board. It was prepared by the architectural firm of Barrows - Parks - Morin - Hall-Brennan of Rochester and Sarasota, Fla.

25 Years Ago

(From the files of the Catholic Courier, March 23, 1939)

That rulers in "today's troubled world" would do well to model their thoughts and lives upon St. Patrick and his heroic followers was the theme of St. Patrick's Day speakers. Monignor Charles F. Shay gave the pangeanic at St. Patrick's Pontifical Mass celebrated by Bishop Kearney. The Bishop addressed the Knights of Equity on the Feast and the Knights of Columbus the previous night.

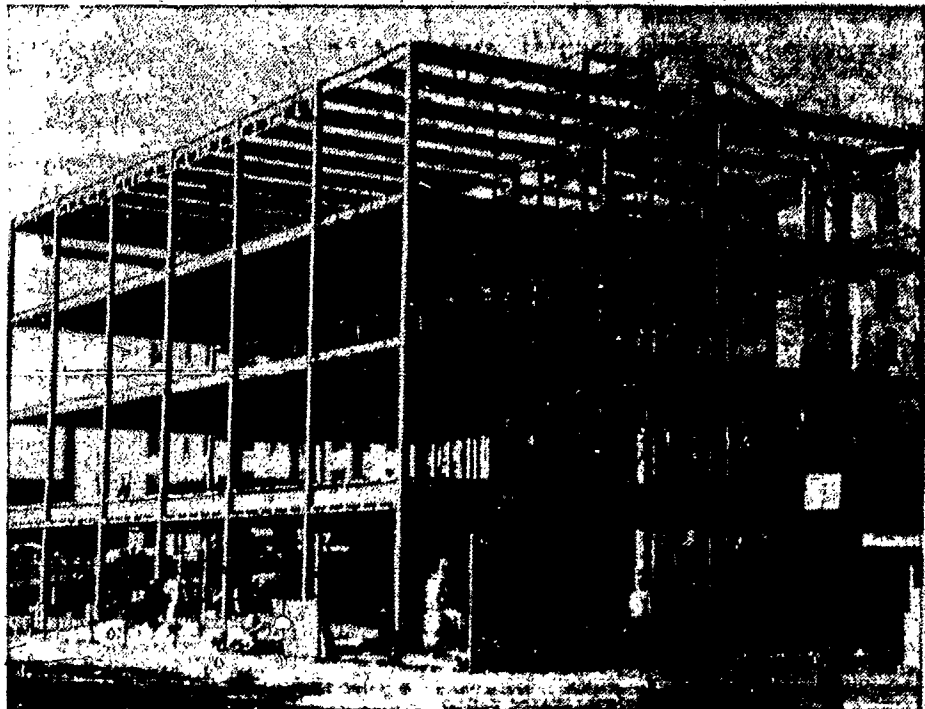
March 30, 1939

Consistency in carrying out the teachings of the Church and the "saturation" of Catholic homes with wholesome literature were urged by Bishop Kearney speaking to 7600 members of New York Police Holy Name Society at the breakfast in New York's Hotel Astor.

Recognizing that the classroom teacher is the individual who "makes the greatest single contribution to a school health program," the Tuberculosis and Health Association launched distribution of a Teaching Health Guide to Catholic schools in Monroe County.

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Buildings Rise at Hospital

ST. MARY'S HOSPITAL is adding a four-story medical service wing and a four-story nursing education building (shown above) in its \$4.1 million expansion program.

Papal Praise for Mission Venture

Boston — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI in a message received here, lauded the Missionary Society of St. James the Apostle for Latin American Missions as a "providential institution" and expressed "sincere and profound appreciation for the work it has accomplished for the Church in Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia."

Cardinal Cushing of Boston, who founded the missionary society in 1958, received the papal message with an autographed portrait of Pope Paul. It commemorated the fifth anniversary of the society's first departure ceremony for priests going to Latin America.

The pontiff extended an apostolic blessing to "all priests, brothers, sisters, and laymen who helped the society achieve its laudable goal."

His message was accompanied by a letter from Bishop Antonio Samore of the Vatican's Commission for Latin America.

Bishop Samore noted that Cardinal Cushing's "great financial support contributed to many necessary and urgent works in Latin America," and his "encouragement of all initiatives intended to make more vigorous and lasting the program of assistance to the Church in those countries."

He stated that Cardinal Cushing's financial contributions for construction of seminaries in

Cuzco, Trujillo and Lima, Peru, would rank the Boston prelate "among the greatest benefactors of the Church in Latin America."

The Vatican official observed that other U.S. bishops are sending priests to staff parishes

in some Latin American dioceses.

"It is a great merit," he added, for the Boston-founded society "to have been among the first to pioneer this kind of apostolic collaboration and to have paved the way towards a larger vision of the ministerial work."



Fashion Show Set By Women

NOTRE DAME Women's Organization will sponsor a fashion show at Sibley's Tower Restaurant April 8 at 8 p.m. Discussing plans are from left, Mrs. Eugene Bergin, Trinity College; Mrs. Reginald Morrison, Notre Dame; and Mrs. Thomas Makleiski, St. Mary's College, Notre Dame, Ind.

Return Blessed Virgin To 'Rightful' Place

St. Louis — (RNS) — The rector of the seminary of the Archdiocese of St. Louis said here that it is time to return the Blessed Virgin to her rightful place in the Church as a member of mankind.

Father Nicholas Persich, C.M., who accompanied Joseph Cardinal Ritter to the Second Vatican Council as an expert in theology, said that in the past "we have been taking her away from mankind."

"Our devotions to her have accentuated — her relationship to God and have made her seem further and further from the human race."

Mary's privileges are the same as ours. She also shared in Christ's redemption," the Vatican priest said.

The difference, said Father Persich, is that her gifts were "preservative" while for the rest of man they are "reparative."

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U.S. Church Said 'Feudalistic'

Greater Role for Laymen Advised

San Francisco — (NC) — A Catholic lay leader urged here that U.S. Catholics "draw on our American characteristic and accept the risk" of giving laymen a larger role in the Church.

Laymen "will make mistakes if given policy-making roles in Church finance and management—but so do the priests who now have these jobs," said Philip Scharper.

Pope Asks

Aquinas Books

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has urged all men and institutions concerned with culture to help the Dominican Order complete a critical edition of all of St. Thomas Aquinas' works.

The Pope gave his support to the St. Thomas Aquinas Foundation of the Dominican Fathers of the United States, which the three U.S. Dominican provinces have created to bring the edition to completion. Work on the edition began more than 80 years ago.

Pope Paul made his appeal in an English-language letter to Father Aniceto Fernandez, O.P., superior general of the Dominican order, dated March 7, the feast of St. Thomas.

Scharper, chief American editor of the Sheed and Ward publishing company, took part in a University of San Francisco symposium on "The Role of the Emerging Layman." Some 2,500 laymen, priests and religious attended the symposium, sponsored by the university's alumni, and also heard addresses by U.S. Sen. Eugene J. McCarthy of Minnesota and Father Godfrey Diekmann, O.S.B., editor of *Worship* magazine and a liturgy expert for the Second Vatican Council.

Scharper charged that "the exercise of authority in the American Church has tended to be feudalistic" and needs to be changed.

"Bishops and pastors must realize there is danger in operating from a soundproof ivory tower," he said. "They must expose themselves to the views of laymen, for as decision-makers they rely on facts—as many as possible, as accurate as possible."

"What is missing is effective dialogue and communication between Church authorities and those who can give them expert information and help. No machinery exists for the laity to express themselves even when invited to do so."

Scharper acknowledged that "we already have" lay representation in the teaching and sanctifying missions of the Church — by teachers in the schools and the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and lay participation in the liturgy.

"Recently laymen have been appointed to diocesan school boards, and I see no reason why they should not be on liturgical commissions and ecumenical commissions," he added.

"But there is no openness about acceptance of laymen when it comes to the temporal affairs of the Church. Instead, we find priests serving as purchasing agents, operating bookstores, and in general doing work that properly could and should be the province of laymen."

"In fact," he said, "what we have today is a laity seeking to be more like religious, trying to extricate themselves from the world, while priests are becoming more and more involved in the world."

"Let the laity perform the functions they are equipped to perform within the Church," Scharper said. "Let them put their financial and managerial skills to work for parish and diocese. Let them occupy policy-

making positions as in the Chicago archdiocese, which now has a layman in charge of all archdiocesan finances."

"That the laity will make mistakes I admit. But so do the priests who now have these jobs."

FATHER DIEKMANN told the symposium that in the liturgy or official worship of the Church, the main fact for the emerging laity is that "they have a role that is theirs alone, one that was usurped by the clergy for 1,400 years."

An explanation of that role (given) "the most important speech in the Second Vatican Council to date," he said. "It was given by (Leo) Cardinal Suenens of Belgium, who established that the liturgy is the work of Christ and the entire Church — the people of God — and not just the function of priests and clerics alone."

At the core of the laity's liturgical involvement is "the Eucharistic encounter with Christ." The majority of laymen have understood how the Mass united them with God. Now they must learn that in the Eucharist God unites them most intimately with their brothers in Christ.

"Through the liturgical movement we are opening not only windows but the front door to our brother, whether in or outside the Catholic Church. Hence the importance of assisting at Mass actively — we are there not just to receive God but our neighbors into our hearts."

Sen. McCarthy said that for a laity nourished "since medieval times on words of contrast: laity vs. clergy, religious vs. secular, life of prayer vs. life of work — it is time to abandon outdated terminology and even to reconsider the effectiveness

of such Catholic organizations as the Holy Name Society."

"We are in the process—started by Pope John XXIII—of defining the layman, not as an abstraction, but as an existential person possessing a distinctive title and function and no longer to be considered as only an extension of the hierarchy," he said.

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