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By JAMES O. O'NEILL
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Some seniors are accepted on a half-year basis, but they often defer problems since many of the highly specialized courses of a senior year in an American college are not available at the center.

The faculty numbers about 20, including part-time instructors. Only two Jesuits are on a full-time basis. Father Felice and the student counselor, Father Richard Braun, S.J. All others are professors taking a year or more off in Italy, Italian educators or professors from the great Church universities of Rome, such as the Gregorian.

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NEW OFFICERS of the Mothers Club of St. Francis School, Auburn, were installed at a dinner meeting held in the school hall, from left: Mrs. Vincent Paris, retiring president; Mother St. Rosalia, R.I.M., superior and principal of St. Francis School, club moderator; Mrs. Vito Tosti, president; Mrs. Armand Farto, treasurer; Mrs. Joseph Dalola, vice president; Mrs. Robert Remaley, secretary; Mrs. John Helinski, corresponding secretary.

Fanatic Sect Gains in Japan

(The following is the second of a series of three articles examining a postwar religious-political sect in Japan, whose phenomenal growth is threatening both Christianity and democracy there.)

By FATHER A. W. BRYSON, M.S.C.
Tokyo — (NC) — Sokagakai, Japan's fanatical anti-Christian politico-religious group, claims it is descended from a 13th-century Buddhist sect and calls itself "True Buddhism."

But the extreme nationalist organization, whose rapid growth and aggressiveness have made it an important political power, actually stems from a nonreligious study group founded in the 1890s and has been repudiated by the nation's traditional Buddhists.

Strongly materialistic, it promises members health, wealth and happiness, and appeals mainly to the poor. It is organized on military lines, has a cell system similar to communism, and carries on an intense propaganda campaign against all other religions, which its members must regard as enemies.

To gain converts and power — it now claims the adherence of 10 per cent of Japan's people — it has used threats and violence. Although it has largely abandoned the use of violence, Japanese religious and political leaders continue to express alarm at its increasing growth.

Although it is still an infant compared with the ruling Liberal-Democratic party and the second place Socialists, the established political parties resent a group that claims to be a religion but has used what some critics have called Nazi-like methods to elect members to the national legislature and sixty local government posts. They fear a sect that turns each convert into a guaranteed vote.

Religious leaders deplore its use of religion for political ends, and the Christian and Muslim sects have formed an association to oppose it.

Sokagakai, or Creative Value Society, had its beginnings in the prewar era as the Soka Kyokai Gakkai or Value Education Society, which was devoted to economic studies. The



Patron of Scotland
The Apostle first-called, St. Andrew was a native of Bethsaida in Galilee, a fisherman by trade, and a disciple of St. John the Baptist. After witnessing the Baptism of Christ in the River Jordan and hearing St. John acclaim Christ as "The Lamb of God," Andrew was the first to become an Apostle of Christ. Later he introduced his brother, Peter to Christ saying, "We have found the Messiah." It is believed that he was martyred at Patras in southern Greece on an "X-shaped cross now known as "St. Andrew's Cross." He is also venerated as a patron of Russia and Greece.

Its religious coloration became evident only in 1936, when membership was restricted to the followers of Nichiren Datsidzho, who founded a sect in the 13th century that claimed to be the true form of Buddhism. Following this restriction of membership, Sokagakai followers had to denounce as evil all other religions, including state-supported Shinto. It can save Japan. Unless you discard your heretical faith, the nation will come to ruin." This led to its suppression during World War II.

Referring to this teaching, the sect's English-language publication, the Soka News, stated recently, "The government ignored their (Malguchi and Toda) warning and as a result Japan was completely defeated, as prophesied. We must not repeat such a miserable experience."

Sokagakai's continued intolerance toward other religions resulted after the war in the arrest of Malguchi, Toda and a large number of the sect's leaders on charges of blasphemy. Malguchi died in prison last year, he was jailed (1948), having lost all his followers but Toda.

Malguchi's death spurred Toda to devote his years in jail to a study of Nichiren's doctrines and he saw the practical possibility of an amalgam of Nichiren's politico-religious emphasis and the value theory of the Soka Kyokai Gakkai. On his release from prison, Toda began rebuilding the old society and renamed it Sokagakai.

Until 1951, Toda concentrated on organization. He set up the society on a military basis with military ranks, thus ensuring strict discipline. Then he

began a nationwide campaign to win over the poor and unemployed, partly by his famous technique of "kegi" (persuasion by changing form), which in practice often took the form of threats and even physical violence.

Sokagakai also began its work among union members, teachers and students, and its youth corps with disciplined male and female divisions who made the spearhead of the sect's political and propaganda efforts.

Sokagakai's first success in the political field came with the election of 31 of its members to the House of Representatives in the national legislative elections in 1956.

Steepped-up political activity resulted in the election of three of its members to the House of Councillors, upper chamber of the national legislature, in 1956. It campaigned so successfully that in the spring of 1959 six more members were elected to the upper house and 700 were voted into local assemblies. Three years later, in 1962, 15 Sokagakai members were elected to the House of Councillors, making it the third largest party in the body.

Sokagakai's fast rise has deeply concerned Japan's religious leaders, and orthodox Buddhists have been particularly outspoken in their opposition to the sect. Daizenji Suzuki, noted Zen-Buddhist scholar, declared:

"If Sokagakai, a so-called 'True Buddhism,' practices intolerance — and it does — it cannot be true Buddhism, because Buddhism is the continuous striving toward absolute love and a higher wisdom. There is no room for intolerance and aggressiveness... When Sokagakai people claim theirs is the only religion with values, they contradict the basic tenets of Buddhism. Sokagakai is not Buddhism at all."

Dr. Shobun Kubota, vice president of Risho University, said:

"The principle of Buddhism is to restrain man's desires, such as sex, hunger, wealth and fame. But Sokagakai promises the possession of these desires. It uses man's weaknesses as a tool for its own expansion. It has the same characteristics as nazism. Finally, it is a corruption of Buddhism."

A Million Laity — Baird, Mass. — (NC) — More than four million laity are promoting the Family Communion Crusade, were distributed during 1963 by Blessed Sacrament Fathers from their novitiate base.

Church leaders in the Middle East have pointed out that the charter makes no provision for freedom of religion or thought, that it aims more at Muslim unity than Arab unity and is strongly influenced by politics.

They add that the charter endangers Catholic schools and they accuse it of totalitarian aims since it seeks to bring all schools in Arab League countries into one single regimented educational system.

The charter was first approved by a majority of the ministers of education of league countries at a meeting in Baghdad, Iraq, on Feb. 29. Also approved at that time was the establishment of an Arab organization similar to the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization. Both proposals were submitted to the league council for ratification.

During a meeting in Cairo, the council approved the charter and the proposed Arab UNESCO. But so steps have yet been taken to put them into effect because several league members — Lebanon, Morocco and Saudi Arabia — asked for modifications of the charter, which are now being studied.

Among league members, most concern about the charter is felt here in Lebanon, the only Arab country without a Muslim majority, although even here Muslims make up close to 50 per cent of the population. At the Baghdad meeting, the Lebanese delegate, Edouard Bonein, a Christian, voiced reservations about the charter, saying it seemed to him to be incompatible with the sovereignty of individual league members.

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Christians Fear Moslem Pressure

Beirut — (NC) — Christian communities in the predominantly Moslem nations belonging to the Arab League are gravely worried about a Charter of Arab Cultural Unity approved by the league's council, its top executive body.

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Little Island's New Church

Hellsgate — (NC) — The 190 Catholics of this North Sea island of 100 acres will soon have their first church building since World War II when the old one was bombed by the British. Property has been purchased and hope given for a permanent pastor.

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