

Rochester Nun Reports From India

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into vogue, with the tall, dark, some shiks wearing their hair tied up and curled.

At one village a parade was in progress. It seems that the children had just received their school reports and the whole town was rejoicing. The bus with Americans brought the parade to a halt and the children were thrilled to pose for pictures. Sister Rose Ellen took the opportunity to distribute tiny American flags which were a tremendous hit with everybody.

After visiting the newly built city of Chandigarh, the group toured the Bhakra Dam and the Nangal Fertilizer Plant, both of which are testimonials to modernization and automation in India.

Throughout the Irish lectures and seminar sessions were conducted by leading educators and government officials on the problems and the advances in modernizing India. Many of these lectures are on tape for Sister Rose Ellen's classes next year.

A few days were spent in Jaipur, where they visited the Amber Palace described by Sister Rose Ellen as "breath-taking... all of us used a full role or more of film." It was here the elephant ride was the highlight of the day. (The men also rode camels, but the ladies passed that chance by.)

The contrast in wealth and poverty was so great that in certain areas visitors were not allowed to take pictures of the poorer sections.

In one village a meeting of the elders, the Panchayat, was called in honor of the visiting Americans and they were given a lesson in rural democracy. At another village they toured the handicraft industries — brass, paper, weaving, carving, carpet-making, little boys and girls, working with parents, are most skilled in their trade. At Jaipur the Americans were entertained and housed by university officials.

Since her last report Sister Rose Ellen has spent a week in Calcutta and now is in the Philippine Islands for the month of August.

In the Philippines the group will meet with government officials in Manila, visit community development centers and spend a day at the Institute of Philippine Culture. Each has a study project on one aspect of Philippine life. At Hong Kong the group will participate in an International Conference of Asian Historians.


On the return trip Sister Rose Ellen plans to stop at Tokyo, then fly to Anchorage, Alaska, and to Denver, Colorado, where she will have a short visit with her brother and his family.

When she returns from her "vacation" (just one day before classes begin) the girls of Nazareth had better be prepared to become real students of India and the Philippines.

Mass Changes For Vietnam

Saigon, Vietnam — (NC) — The lessons, epistle and Gospel may be recited in the vernacular in public Masses in Vietnam. This permission is contained in a decree passed by the Bishops' Conference, April 20-22 and confirmed by the Holy See on June 15.

The language used may be Vietnamese, French or English according to the kind of congregation. The decree specifies the texts approved for the time being. They are missals published in Vietnamese and French, while for English the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine text or other Scripture versions approved by ecclesiastical authority in English-speaking territories are permitted.

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Boston Prelate Says Next Move Ours In Race Turmoil

Boston — (NC) — The major share of the blame for recent outbreaks of racial violence rests with white Americans who have perpetrated injustice, not Negroes who have suffered it, Cardinal Cushing said here.

The Cardinal, writing in the Aug. 1 issue of the Pilot, Boston archdiocesan newspaper, said "we have required a superhuman patience of the American Negro and, when this has proved too much for his tortured person, we have been dismayed because he has answered with an excess of agitation and longer excesses of neglect."

"The next move must be ours, not his, and it must be a move in favor of freedom, full freedom for his every right as a man and as a citizen."

Cardinal Cushing said the first concern in meeting the problem of racial prejudice must be ourselves and the dispositions of our own hearts.


"If in any way, by word or deed, we have had a share in creating barriers between brothers, we must confess our guilt before the Lord, undo our wrongs, and pledge a better life," he said.

"EVEN IF we have stood idly by while evil grew among us," he added, "we must answer for our indolence before our indolence before God calls us to His accounting. Not merely for what we have done, but for what we have left undone, will we all be judged."

"The time for polite talking is done," Cardinal Cushing said. "The racist Christian is a contradiction. The violent Christian places himself in that most terrifying emptiness — the absence of grace. In fact, if he is not himself aware of this terror, he has already abandoned himself to an inner life without resource and an outer life without order."

In the recent violence, he said, "the evils of many generations rise up to disturb our national peace and shake our personal complacency."

"The fact we must recognize, reluctantly or otherwise, is a simple one: we have sown in wickedness and we are shocked at the harvest."

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Christianity Outlawed

Nepal to Stay Hindu

Kathmandu, Nepal — (NC) — Prime Minister Tuli has reaffirmed this nation's resolve to remain Hindu in its orientation and education, thus dooming any hopes that Christian missionary work might be permitted in the future.

In a public statement one year after Nepal's social code outlawed conversions to Christianity and Islam, Giri declared his country would officially support the Hindu religion as set down in the constitution.

"We will have to rebuild this country on great Hindu ideals," said Giri, adding that the Sanskrit language, the "storehouse of Hindu wisdom and thought," was bound to play an increasingly important part in the nation's development.

Nepal's social code, called the "Muluki Ain," last year abolished such social evils as the untouchable class, polygamy and child marriage, but it reinforced the nation's determination to protect the Hindu religion. The code, in effect, does not recognize conversions to other religions by declaring that, even a citizen completes the rite of conversion he remains officially a Hindu.

Those who attempt conversion to another faith can be punished by three years' imprisonment, and foreigners who attempt to convert Nepalese citizens can be imprisoned for a year and expelled from the country.

Nepal's constitution states that "every citizen, subject to the current conditions, shall practice and profess his religion as handed down from ancient times."

As a result of the constitution and the social code, the Catholic population here is limited to about 200 foreigners — mostly Indians, Americans and Europeans. Since Nepal was not open to foreigners prior to 1950, there is no chance that Christianity could be handed down from ancient times.

The two Catholic schools allowed to operate here have been left in an ambiguous position by the government policy. The first of these was founded in 1851 by Father Marshall J. Moran, S.J., an American-born priest, at Godavari, about 10 miles south of Kathmandu.

Since its foundation, the boys' high school established by Father Moran has become the center of Catholic life here. Nepal, with a population of about 10 million persons, has not one Catholic parish.

In 1955 a Catholic girls' school was established at Jawsal, by German nuns of the Institute of the Blessed Virgin.

Both schools have official permission to operate, but because of the ban on conversions neither of them can carry on active missionary work.

Nepal is under the jurisdiction of Bishop F. Wildermuth of Patna, India. A St. Louis-born Jesuit, Bishop Wildermuth makes occasional visits to this Himalayan territory.

Yet despite the official Hindu orientation, Catholics have gained some measure of acceptance in Nepal. Three years ago the 10th anniversary of the founding of Father Moran's school was marked by a visit from King Mahendra, Bhairam Shah Deva, the real ruler of the country. The following year Father Moran received a national decoration on the King's 43rd birthday.

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