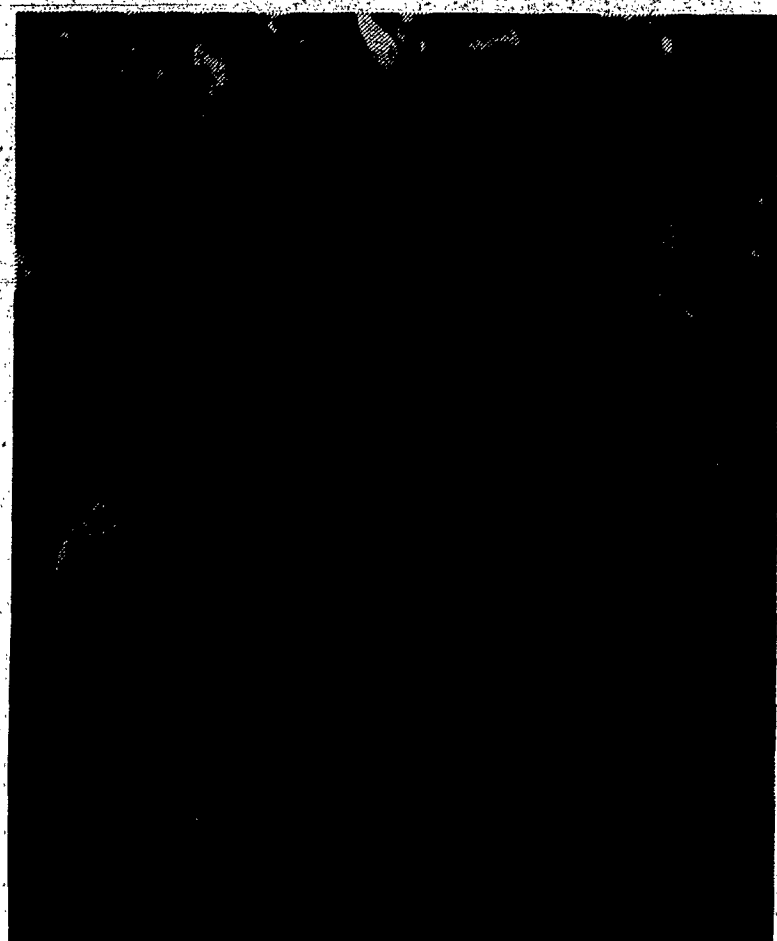


# AROUND THE REFUGEE CAMPS OF THE NEAR EAST THE WORK OF THE CHURCH GOES ON

Mercy  
has  
a  
human  
heart...  
Pity  
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face...



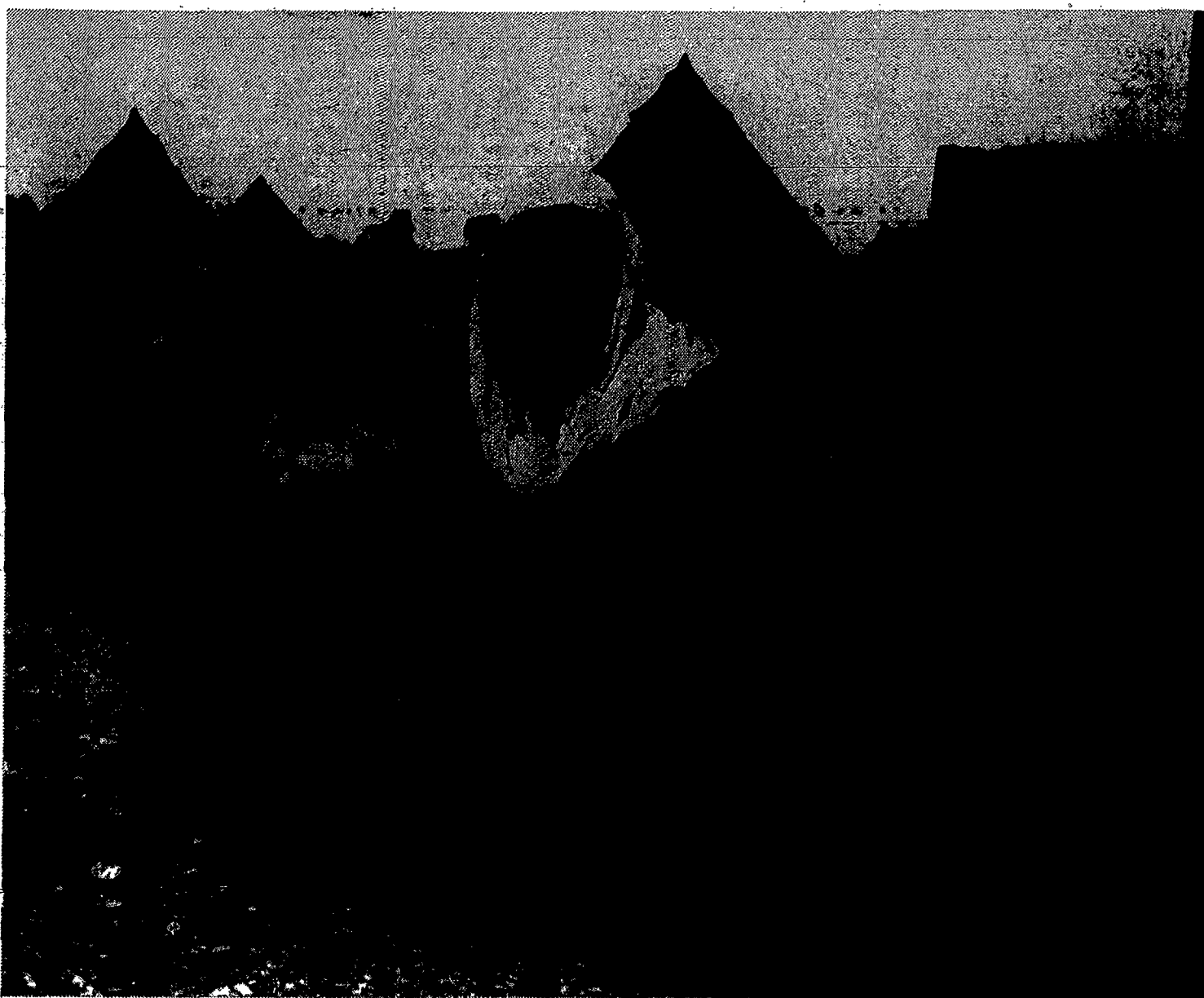
(LEFT) The aged present a continuing problem. Day after day they sit, these old men and women, talking endlessly of the past, of the injustice done to them. Their only escape is the graveyard lying outside the camps on patches of sandy soil and hillsides where strangely built headstones will mark their last sleep.  
(BELOW) Left to right—Monsignor Joseph T. Ryan, Francis Cardinal Spellman of New York, and Monsignor John G. Nolan after a recent meeting with the Cardinal in New York to discuss this year's refugee appeal.

Photos—United Nations.

## HELPING PEOPLE TO HELP THEMSELVES

• A basic philosophy on which the Pontifical Mission for Palestine operates is that of helping people to help themselves. This is in full accord with human dignity and the rights of man as outlined in "Pacem in Terris". For this reason the technical education programs for adults, and for the Handicapped, the Blind and the Deaf, hold priority. Although the Pontifical Mission has provided more than \$30 million in self-help programs, clinical and hospital programs and clothing and food in recent times, the general situation is not yet solved, and the sharing of our abundance needs to go on.

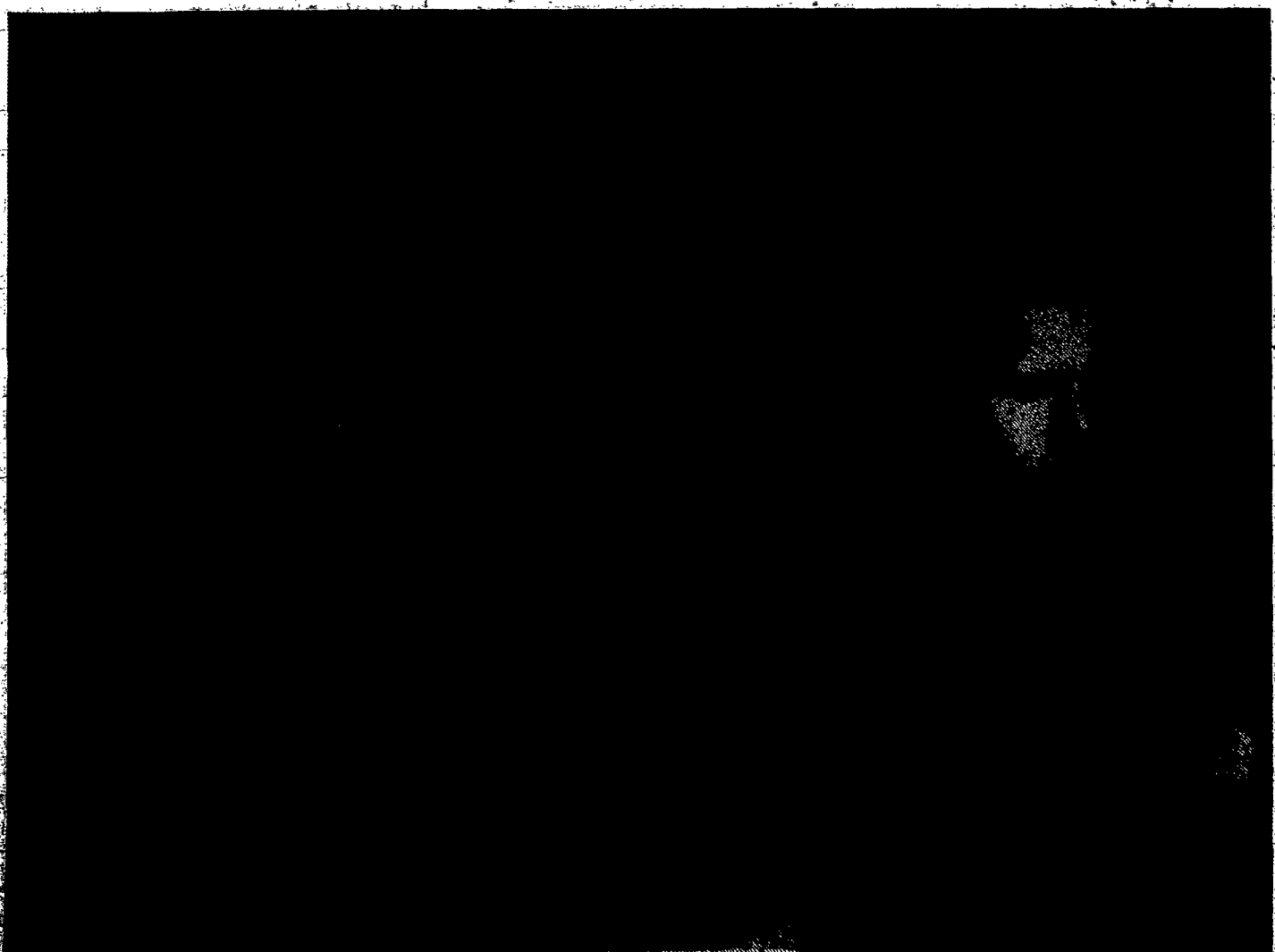
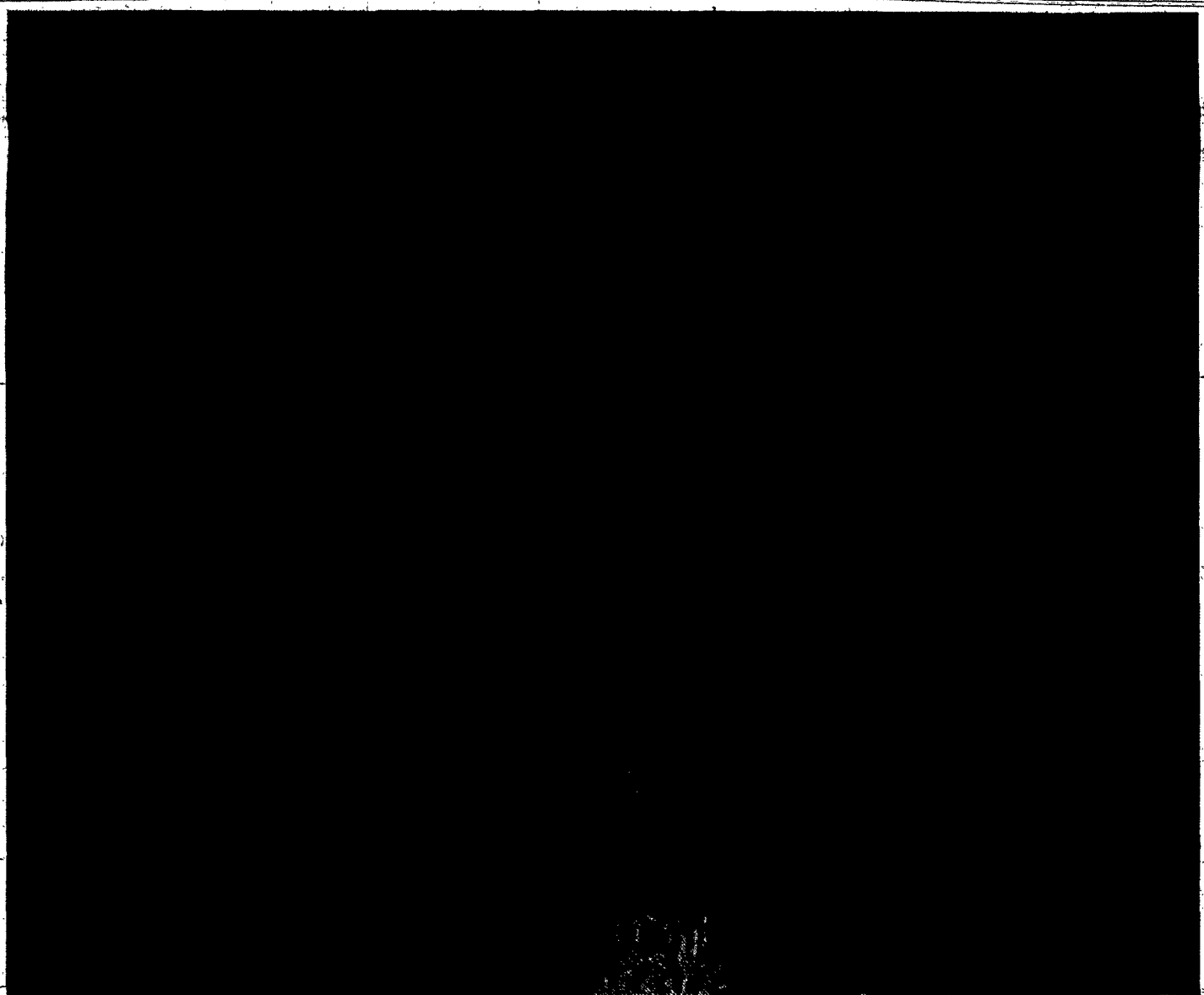
• Pope Paul VI has called to us again this year for greater personal involvement in the world mission of the Church. "... though unknown to each other and without visible means of communication, every member of the church is brother to every other, and must bear realistically the responsibilities of this brotherhood."



• Fifteen years ago Pope Paul VI, then a Monsignor on the Vatican staff, instituted the Pontifical Mission for Palestine to care for the 1.5 million Arab refugees. President of this mission is Monsignor Ryan. His well known National Secretary of the Catholic Near East Welfare Association, of which Francis Cardinal Spellman is the President, is Monsignor Nolan. Assisting Monsignor Ryan in both these works is Monsignor Nolan and Father Denis Mooney, OFM, both whom spend much of their time in the Near East working out of offices in Beirut and Jerusalem. Headquarters for both organizations are at 530 Madison Avenue, New York City.

• The refugees include those in Syria, Lebanon, Jordan and the Gaza Strip, some of whom have spent more than a dozen years in wretched camps, waiting for resettlement... let us take a closer look... the patient lines of women and children waiting for food rations, the parched faces cracked by the wind, and sad eyes unused to tears... a woman barely able to stand, her hands loose at her side, empty and open, those hands which have been forced to let go all the familiar things, her pots and pans, the needles and thread, the cherished wedding gift, the warm living clasp of her husband, the child she nurtured for so short a time... this continuing tragedy of the driven men, women and children, making their way along the roads of the world remains one of the major issues of our time. The Church is acutely aware of this situation among the refugees of the Near East and has set up these official channels for us to respond to their needs.

• "To feed the hungry, clothe them, teach them how to help themselves, is a privilege God offers to fortunate Americans. "In the Holy Land today, where Our Lord worked miracles to wipe out hunger, the Pontifical Mission for Palestine is the Holy Father's agency through which we can effectively practice the works of mercy. "I commend American Catholics for their selfless generosity in this most essential work. I urge all Americans to increase their efforts for the poor." FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN



(ABOVE) "God gave me the grace to walk with pain," says this old refugee, safe now at last in the Old People's Home at Furn El Chebbak, Lebanon. But space must still be made for those eking out their existence in the camps around the town.  
(LEFT) Disease-laden dust and other causes blind thousands of the refugees. One of the main works for which American Catholics have responsibility over the years is the Blind School on the Gaza Strip. Through Arabic braille, children like these will follow the same curriculum as ordinary elementary school children in the area. Later they will learn a trade and be able to support themselves.  
(RIGHT) Undernourishment calls forth the most basic urge in man, the urge for survival. It is this which has made hunger one of the most fundamental and explosive forces in history and the world today.

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