

Neighbors on Mars?

By Monday we may know if we have neighbors in space. That's the day the U.S. Mariner probe will take a close look at Mars and signal back to earth if it detects any signs of life out there.

Already theologians are divided on the value of space exploration.

Jesuit Father Karl Rahner, one of the Vatican Council's most famous advisers, thinks it's "moral vulgarity of a low order to pour out so many billions of dollars to send people to the moon while at the same time we are faced with world-wide hunger."

He said Catholics shouldn't "trail along in the wake of this or that technological development" but should examine "the moral implications of space travel."

Bishop John Wright of Pittsburgh termed Father Rahner's pessimistic view as "chilly" and "negative."

He said Queen Isabella's pawning her crown jewels to finance Columbus' voyage of exploration in 1492 was also thought to be a madcap adventure. "In the long view, the poor of Europe were well served (far better than the rich, as it finally turned out) as a result of the decision to go along with Columbus' project," Bishop Wright said.

"This may recall the lesson that human culture has never been advanced (nor, in fact, have the human problems of the poor been solved) by the dispirited civilizations inhibited by fear of life . . . or fear of bold action." Bishop Wright said he was surprised at Father Rahner's "unexpected melancholy."



Qui Nhon, So. Vietnam — (RNS) — Little ones are the real victims of war. Comforting the weeping refugee is Sister Karen Gossman of Louisville, Ky., mother superior of the Holy Name Family Hospital in Qui Nhon. Eleven nuns at the hospital — all from the U.S. — provide spiritual and material comforts to hundreds of war refugees streaming in for help.

Zone D, Area of Terror

By FR. PATRICK O'CONNOR
Society of St. Columban
(N.C.W.C. News Service)

"That's bad news over there," said Warrant Officer Foley.

The belt of dark-green jungle on our left looked harmless. But John Foley, a helicopter pilot, knew from experience what could come blazing out of it. He and others had been fired on from that tangle of branches and foliage.

We had just landed from helicopters (in October, 1963) in a clearing near Ben Cat in Zone D, about 20 miles north-

west of Saigon. Acres of untended rubber plantations, undergrowth and plain jungle make up most of Zone D. In those acres the Viet Cong communists have been taking refuge, organizing, training, planning and storing supplies, for years. It has been the scene of efforts at the end of this June by U.S. and Australian forces alongside Vietnamese troops.

It is said that even in the days of French rule and Japanese military occupation, Zone D was not brought under control. For decades it has been bad news for somebody.

There are little towns and villages inside the zone and on

its edges. A few years ago some of these were in government hands. Even now a well armed unit of national troops might go through one of them by day and see nothing amiss. It is one of the Viet Cong advantages in this war that they can choose their own time to be visible.

They go literally underground.

"We've estimated that they had 35 kilometers (22 miles) of tunnels in this province," an American military adviser said. "Around Ben Cat they had 10 kilometers of them. Some of these tunnels have been dug recently. Some date back 20 years."

Entrances to the tunnels are hard to find.

"Once an M113 (armored personnel carrier) went through the ground and the crew found themselves in a large room," the officer said. "Some tunnels have been discovered when two or three men were seen pulling back branches and grass to disappear into a hole."

The communists use the tunnels for hiding, for storing food and weapons and for communications.

"You can't walk upright in them," an American adviser told me. "They are only 3 or 4 feet high. The rooms would usually be about 12 feet by 12."

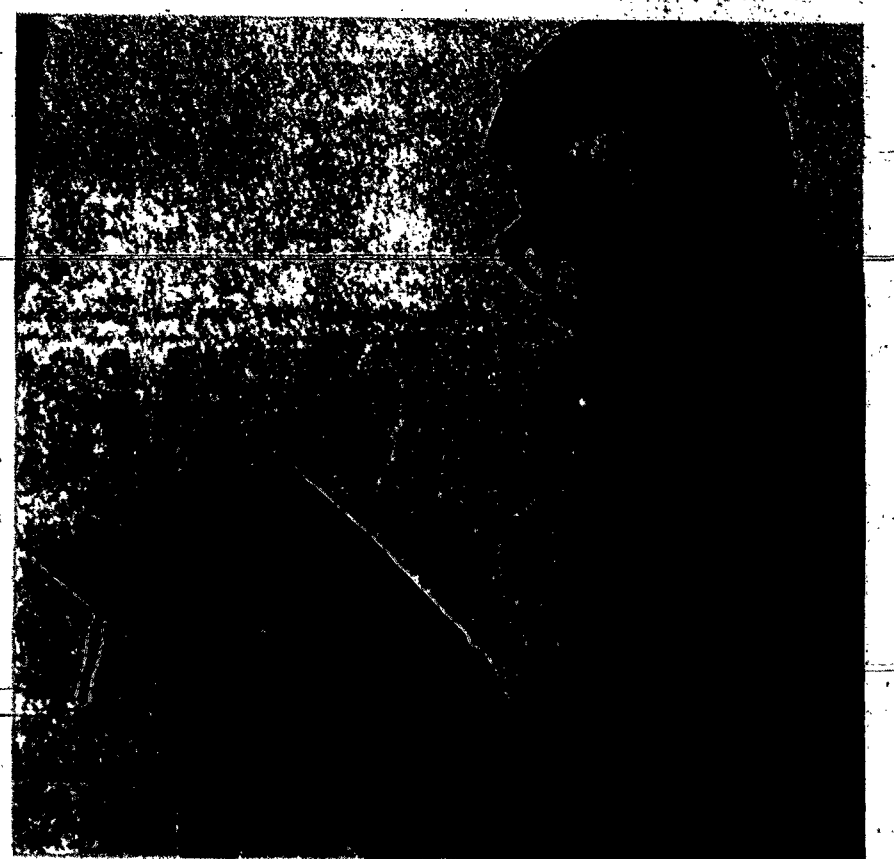
From these hide-outs the Viet Cong come forth to ambush, to assassinate village officials, to raid and to fire on planes and helicopters.

Warrant Officer John G. Foley of the 120th Aviation Company, a Catholic from Revere, Mass., had flown over Zone D many times. He and his comrades ferried troops, wounded, families of Vietnamese soldiers, correspondents, rice, chickens, pigs.

The regular crew in a U.S. helicopter in Vietnam comprises the pilot and copilot and two soldiers "riding shotgun" — with automatic weapons — (Continued on Page 3)



Tools of his trades — stethoscope and breviary.



One Man — Priest and Psychiatrist

At the age of 31, George Freemesser still has several years of formal training ahead before he's ready for his life work. But then, he's hoping to combine two careers that are usually not linked together.

George Freemesser hopes to be a priest-psychiatrist.

With already 25 years of schooling behind him, he has a B.A. degree (St. John Fisher, 1956), an M.D. degree (University of Ottawa Medical School, 1960), and an S.T.B. in Theology (St. Basil's Seminary, Toronto) and the end is not in sight!

Dr. Freemesser is also called Rev. Mr. Freemesser, since he was recently ordained a deacon. He hopes to be ordained a priest this December, in the Basilian Order.

(For simplicity, we'll call him

Dr. Freemesser for the rest of this article.)

After that, his religious superior, the Very Rev. John Way, C.S.B., wants him to take a year or two off from studies, "just to be a priest for awhile," Dr. Freemesser smiles.

And then—four years as a Fellow (graduate study) in Psychiatry at Mayo Clinic in Rochester, Minn., and this unusual young man with the dual vocation will be ready for his work.

Why does a man want to be both a priest and a psychiatrist?

Dr. Freemesser's own answer is quite simple:

"Because I think that's what God wants me to be."

How, specifically, will he pursue these two careers?

"That's not easy to pinpoint right now," he admits, "but my superiors and I feel that some sort of teaching assignment would be the best way to use this background."

Dr. Freemesser wants to help bridge the apparent gap between religion and psychiatry. He sees the priest-psychiatrist as a living symbol of the "dialog" now ensuing between religion and science.

"In 1965, both fields can admit that the other side has something to offer them in their respective ministries to mankind," he feels.

He'd like to devote his life to further this dialog.

Back in Rochester this summer to continue his medical residency requirements at St. Mary's hospital, Dr. Freemesser lives at the Basilian Fathers

houses on Augustine St. Interviewed recently for the Courier-Journal, he has been named the main turning-point which have brought him to this juncture in his career.

One point he likes to make clear—that his desire to become a priest was no afterthought:

"I have always wanted to become a priest," he states flatly, "at least since the fourth grade."

But when, in 1956 and nearing the end of high school, he spoke to a vocation director from a missionary order, and was told "wait a while," he put the idea aside for the time being.

Undecided what to do next, he worked for a year, then entered St. John Fisher College. The idea of serving others through medicine was also in his thinking, so he first considered dentistry, later decided to try for medical school.

SCHOLASTICALLY, Dr. Freemesser has done better at each higher rung of the educational ladder. His record at Fisher, when he graduated in 1956, was average, but not outstanding. Fisher officials weren't too confident that he would be accepted in medical school.

"After being rejected by 9 medical schools, I tried a brand new medical school at the University of Ottawa in Canada. They accepted me," he recalls with gratitude.

Ottawa had no reason to regret its decision. When George Freemesser received his M.D. four years later, he ranked No. 2 in his class, and had a "cum laude" degree.

In the meantime, his interest for the priesthood, which had never completely left him, was reviving.

"My brother, Paul, was or-

(Continued on Page 2)

Critics Criticized

Laymen Ponder Need for Priests

Serra Club members at their Miami convention heard this ditty from Atlanta's Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan:

The layman's emerging—

who let him out?

He'll cause confusion—

without a doubt.

Who taught that chap—

to pray out loud?

He was easier to handle—

in a nice quiet crowd.

Someone grab his misal—

take his hymnbook too.

Push him off the lectern—

back into the pew.

Submerge that layman—

lower the boom.

We'll get this place again—

quiet as a tomb.

The prelate, in a tongue-in-cheek tribute to Catholic laymen who are playing increasingly key roles in Church programs, told the Serrans, "Some of my best friends are laymen. Actually, I'm an ex-layman myself."

The 2,500 Serra delegates represented local units of the international organization which promotes vocations to the priesthood.

Archbishop Egidio Vagnoni, Pope Paul's envoy to the U.S. bishops, closed the Serra convention by saying Mass with 10 other bishops and eight Serra Club chaplains. More than 3,500 attended the Mass.

Baltimore's Cardinal Law-

FERBY FLOWERS for all occasions. Ethel M. Perry assisted by Tom Zavaglia, Mgr. Eon Weingartner, Asst. Mgr. 441 Chili Ave. FA 5-7725. Adv.

HAMILTON AND OMEGA watches. Budget terms. William S. Thorne, Jeweler, 318 Main St. East.—Adv.

rence Sheehan and Archbishop Staffs of the Vatican's Congregation of Seminaries and Universities also spoke at the convention.

Cardinal Sheehan stressed talks—stressing "the Church's desperate need of vocations" instead of rapping "dark, one-sided . . . mischievous" criticism of seminaries.

His original text given to newsmen voiced his strong opposition to recent talks and articles, "in some segments of the Catholic press" which, he said, "picture the seminary as a dreary place of regimentation, bells and minute rules, of mental apathy and spiritual gloom."

In the talk he did give at the convention's final banquet, the Baltimore prelate said there are "various explanations" why seminary applicants are dwindling and why the number of drop-outs are increasing. He listed "the character of the times, material allurements, permissiveness within families and within schools and a lack of discipline" as factors in declining vocations.

He said "the Church is going to have to adjust her methods of vocation recruitment to meet the new conditions."

Archbishop Staffs said of all the world's current problems, "the most vital, the most urgent, the most immense" is "the problem of the Catholic priesthood."

He said Catholic laymen must "bring Christ back into the world which has lost interest in religion" as a necessary first step in restoring an adequate supply of priestly vocations.

ANOTHER speaker, Monsignor Paul F. Tanner, general secretary of the U.S. bishops' coordinating agency, the National Catholic Welfare Conference, warned the Serra members on a "crisis of obedience in the Church." He said the "rapidity and profundity" of changes in "every department of life — philosophy, morality, religion, sociology, technology . . . have shaken loose from their foundations the intellectual and moral systems that men a generation ago regarded as immutable."

He criticized "the shallow and poorly balanced attacks upon authority in the Church" which he said have appeared in books and magazines since the Vatican Council and urged the Serra Club members to preserve a "sense of solidarity . . . obedience and of unanimity in the faith."

Monuments and Markers for Holy Sepulchre. The better way to choose a monument is to see our indoor display. You will appreciate our no-agent plan. THOTT BROS., 1129 Mt. Hope. GR 2-3711.—Adv.



Games for the Missions

Massapequa, N.Y.—(RNC)—Children of the Massapequa area staged a backyard carnival with games and other activities to raise funds for foreign missions, the needy and the sick. A popular game at the fun-fest was "ring the bottle." Trying his luck is John McCormack, as Tom Ore waits his turn. Watching closely is Frank Prochilo. This year the youngsters raised about \$200 for the missions, which was about three times more than last year when they made toys for children in St. Charles Hospital, Port Jefferson.

Pope Spurs Devotion To Sacred Heart

Vatican City—(NC)—In a letter to religious orders dedicated to fostering devotions to the Sacred Heart, Pope Paul VI expressed a desire that this cult "increase more and more each day and be looked upon by all as an outstanding form of true piety."

The Pope asked the Religious to give an example of love of the Sacred Heart by word and deed and to draw from it the inspiration for a renewal of the spirit and of their way of life. He said he hoped this devotion would bring "greater efficacy to institutions at work in the Church, according to the wishes of the Vatican Council."

Statues Swept Away, Sermons Bad as Ever

The German people have a reputation for being efficient.

One pastor newly appointed to a Bavarian village parish proved the point by blowing up his church. He wanted a church more in keeping with recent changes in the liturgy but after trying to adapt the elaborately decorated old structure he decided it would be best just to eliminate it and start an all new one.

A parishioner commented, "The first thing he did was take away all our statues, but his sermons are no better than those of the old pastor. The only difference is now the walls are empty."