

# 700 Mission Bishops Need Your Help

Feast of St. Theresa of Lisieux  
1965

My dear People:

Sunday, October 17, is Mission Sunday for the Diocese of Rochester. This year, by reason of the work of the Council, the occasion will take on added meaning.

The topic of the missions — after much study and revision by a special commission — will again be considered by the Fathers of the Vatican Council. But, even more than that, it is noteworthy that nearly

eight hundred of the Bishops at the Council represent lands under the care of the Congregation of the Propagation of the Faith. It is this particular area of the Church that is especially aided by your contributions on Mission Sunday.

Throughout the year you may receive begging letters from one or two of the Mission Bishops. Yet, it is well to remember that there are over seven hundred Bishops who never send you a begging letter from the missions. And these successors of the Apostles desperately need your help.

Your membership — either a new one or a renewal — in the Propagation of the Faith Society will do much to assist all the Mission Bishops. I feel confident that most of us can add something extra to the customary offering of a dollar for a year's membership. Many, possibly, may be in a position to make an offering of five dollars.

In addition to our material generosity to the missions, let us not overlook the spiritual gift of our prayers. This year we can invoke Mary not merely as Queen of the Missions, but also as Mother of the

Church. Today and every day throughout the year, may our prayer be that the mantle of Mary may soon spread to cover every human being on this earth. Today's missionaries are dedicating their lives to this cause. Our prayers and generosity can do so much to help them!

Confident of your customary generosity, I remain  
Your devoted Shepherd in Christ,

+ James Kearney  
Bishop of Rochester

## Mission Report

### A Record of Generosity

## Prayers, Alms on Mission Sunday

Catholics of the Rochester Diocese will give their alms and their prayers this Sunday for the Church's worldwide mission program.

The Mission Sunday observance is marked annually in all parishes in the United States to focus attention on the Church's efforts to bring the gospel of Christ to the millions of people who have not as yet heard its saving message.

Father John F. Duffy, diocesan director of the Propagation of the Faith Society, official mission agency of the Vatican, said Catholics of the Diocese contributed this past year \$75,000 more than during the previous year to the missions.

The 1964 report of mission contributions, as listed on the next page of this issue of the Courier, shows a total of \$531,630.41, channeled through Father Duffy's office for home and foreign mission support.

"Actually the complete total is over \$600,000," Father Duffy said, "because Bishop Sheen, our national director, has in his report to the U.S. Bishops given us credit for an additional \$76,943.24." This latter figure represents offerings sent directly to the national office in New York City and credited to the Rochester Diocese, Father Duffy explained.

"In every phase of our ac-

tivity, with but one exception, we advanced over the previous year," Father Duffy observed as he commented on his report. "And the one department where we had a drop for 1964 was the work of the Holy Childhood Association — a decrease of \$3500 from the previous year.

"But on the 'plus-side' of the ledger," Father Duffy said, "we were especially gratified in the \$15,520 raised for the Leper Work." This amount, raised principally from the annual appeal in December, was a twenty percent increase over the previous financial year.

Marked increases in both funds received from legacies and also in the offerings for Masses were evident in 1964. The \$84,823 from wills was some \$8,000 greater than 1963, and the more than \$73,000 as offerings for Masses nearly tripled the results of the previous year.

Approximately 75 percent of the Mass offerings in 1964 came to the Office in the form of bequests," Father Duffy remarked.

"Mission offerings from estates, whether as outright gifts or as Mass offerings can fluctuate greatly," Father Duffy observed. "In some years the results are small; in others, exceptionally large. An example would be the years of 1960 and 1961 when this office received approximately a half million dollars from the Ward and McCort Estates."

How does the Rochester Diocese compare with other dioceses in the country for 1964? "It is interesting to note that



FATHER DUFFY

In the annual report of the Holy Childhood Association, our diocese holds eighth place in the country, and in the Propagation of the Faith Report from Bishop Sheen's Office, our diocesan position is ninth, Father Duffy reported. He added, "In both of these lists among the dioceses ahead of Rochester were such huge dioceses as Pittsburgh, Brooklyn and Buffalo — all far larger than our Diocese."

FAR GREATER in importance than the financial contribution to the missions from the Diocese, Father Duffy emphasized, "is the contribution of personnel — priests, brothers, sisters and lay missionaries."

Between August of 1964 and August 1965 the Rochester Diocese witnessed two mission events of deep significance. Both of the major teaching communities in the Rochester Diocese — the Sisters of St. Joseph, and the Sisters of Mercy — sent their first groups as missionaries to South America.

The nun missionaries from the two communities of diocesan Sisters are but a few of the many missionaries whose 'home-towns' are in the Diocese of Rochester. In its latest report of "U.S. Catholic Missionary Personnel Overseas" the Mission Secretariat in Washington, D.C., lists the Rochester Diocese with a total of 70 missionaries whose 'home-towns' are in the Diocese — 39 priests, 24 Sisters, 2 Brothers and 3 lay persons.

"And even, this does not give the complete picture," Father Duffy pointed out, "for this report does not pretend to list the many religious and lay missionaries of our Diocese who are laboring in the missions in the United States. In Seima, Alabama, alone, there are at least ten of our Sisters of St. Joseph."

"Just to scan the signatures in the Guest Book at the Diocesan Office is always very edifying," the Diocesan Director observed.

Gleaming quickly over the names of 'home-town' visitors in the past two years, Father Duffy mentioned the names of Father John Hurley, a Rochester Diocesan Priest, on loan to Mount Carmel Mission, San Luis — Quezon Province in the Philippines; Father Louis Vezelis, a Franciscan in Korea; three missionaries of the Philippines — Father Bernard J. LeFrois of the Divine Word Fathers, Father Harold T. Bleber of Maryknoll, and Father Harold Rousch of the Passionist Fathers; Miss Marietta Wickes of the Grail, stationed in Paris; and two Oblates of Mary from Brazil, Father Thomas Brown and Father John Drexel.



Pope Paul greets Bishop Fulton J. Sheen, U.S. director of Propagation of the Faith Society, mission aid agency.

### Modern U.S. Missionaries

## Envoys of Ancient Faith

By FLOYD ANDERSON

Lima, Peru — (NC) — "The American priests and Sisters and Brothers are the best ambassadors of good will between our country and the United States," said Cardinal Juan Landazuri Ricketts in an interview here.

In his office alongside the Plaza de Armas in the bustling and growing capital city of Peru, the Cardinal emphasized again that "it is a pleasure for me and for the Peruvian hierarchy and for the Peruvian people to have the aid of the American priests and Religious."

The Cardinal of Lima and Primate of Peru said that "the Peruvian people see the people of the United States through the American priests and Sisters and Brothers, and see the generosity, the good qualities, the high education of the American people through them."

"And when the communists want to speak against you and to propagandize against the United States, the people say, 'That is not true, because they have seen what the American priests and Religious have done.'"

Cardinal Landazuri described the Church in Peru, speaking "with reasonable optimism" and "with great hope," as in "good condition."

Cardinal Landazuri said that he would like the people of the United States to know "our great appreciation for the work of the American missionaries."

There are now approximately 29 American missionaries working in the schools, parishes, hospitals and in social work in Lima. But, he added, they would "welcome with open arms and from the depth of our heart, new American communities and more American priests."

The Cardinal of Lima said that according to studies they have made, it is necessary to establish each year 10 to 15 new parishes in the city of Lima. During the eight years he has been Archbishop of Lima, he has created 52 new parishes, and has plans for at least 15 or 20 more during the next three years.

"But the main problem I found," he said, "is the lack of priests and sometimes the lack of financial aid in order to build churches and parish halls and parish houses — but mainly the lack of priests."

He pointed out that Lima now has 2,200,000 people and is growing constantly. Each month, he said, there are 32,000 new residents of Lima, either by birth or by immigrating to the city.

The Cardinal mentioned one section of the city with 110,000 people, but with only three parishes — and each parish with only three priests.

He said that due to the conferences of the Peruvian hierarchy, the bishops work together very closely through many episcopal commissions on social service, on the catechism, and the like.

The influence of the Church in Peru at present is at a very high level, the Cardinal believes.

He spoke highly of the Centro de Informacion Catolica, headed by Father Joseph Michin-felder, M.M., an American missionary, which provides news to parishes and the press of the work of the Church.

"It is like a secretary of the Peruvian hierarchy, especially for me as Primate of Peru and Cardinal Archbishop of Lima," he said. "It is one of the reasons — too that the Catholic Church here in the last two years has more influence because the people can know better the social service activities, educational work, charitable and religious activities of the Church."

"I am satisfied and appreciate very much the work of the Centro de Informacion Catolica," the Cardinal said. "It has fulfilled the main purpose for which it was founded."

### Only 10 Priests Left in Sudan

Rome — (NC) — Fides, the missionary news service here, has reported that only 10 native priests are left in the southern Sudan, all others having been killed, arrested, or forced to flee into neighboring countries by oppressive government measures.

The struggle in the southern Sudan has been caused by the Khartoum government's determination to enforce an Arabic culture on the predominantly Negro south. Parts of the south have been in rebellion for several years. The Sudanese government has blamed the revolt on Christian missionaries.

## Making Bricks to Save Souls

New Orleans — (RNS) — An American priest learned to make brick by studying an encyclopedia and a fellow Maryknoll missionary cleared a jungle and built a town. These were the secret weapons of the free world in a remote part of Bolivia — and, says a U.S. diplomat, they were sufficient to wreck a growing Communist movement.

The work of the Maryknollers, according to John F. Troy, "knocked in the head" concerted Communist efforts in poverty-stricken areas.

Troy, now commercial attache at the U.S. Embassy in Buenos Aires, Argentina, was stationed for several years in Bolivia with the State Department.

Vacationing here before returning to Argentina, Troy cited the activities of the American priests — Father Conard R. Steed, M.M., assigned to Guayaramarin, and Father John A. Dietrich, M.M., whose post is in Blanca Flor.

Father Steed was the priest with the encyclopedia and an

idea. From an encyclopedia he found a method to make brick, vital to the growth of his poor area of Bolivia. He may have been only a bit ahead of his students, but he taught the townspeople to make brick.

From bricks came a large housing project long needed for the poor people of his district. At that point, Troy indicated, Red propaganda weapons were dulled.

Father Dietrich established a cooperative on Blanca Flor, one involved in the gathering of nuts and rubber. But to get the cooperative in action was a mammoth job. Troy said the priest supervised the clearing of a jungle area and the building of a town which even had its own school. One of the Maryknollers' problems: reconditioning a 60-year-old boiler capable of processing Brazil nuts.

The State Department aide said that as a result of the operation the income of the people of Blanca Flor was trebled. Communism? No longer a problem.

Troy lauded the work of Maryknoll, Franciscan and Dominican missionaries in Bolivia. "These fellow Americans are doing a tremendous job — socially and religiously."



Cardinal Juan Landazuri Ricketts of Peru signs cornerstone document for church staffed U.S. Columban missionary priests.

### Prayer for the Missions

Most loving Lord Jesus Christ, who hast redeemed the world by the shedding of Thy Most Precious Blood, turn Thine eyes in mercy upon our poor humanity, which still lies, for the most part, sunk in the darkness of error and in the shadow of death, and grant that the light of Thy truth may shine gloriously upon all mankind.

Multiply, O Lord, the apostles of Thy gospel, give them new fervor, and bless with Thy grace their zeal and their labors and make them fruitful; that by means of them, all unbelievers may know Thee and be converted to Thee, their Creator and their Redeemer.

Call back to Thy fold all who have gone astray, and restore to the bosom of Thy one, true Church all who are in rebellion against her.

Hasten, O Saviour, the happy day when Thy kingdom shall truly come upon earth; draw all men to Thy loving Heart, so that all may be partakers of the unspeakable blessings of Thy redemption in the everlasting bliss of heaven. Amen.

### G.I. Victim of Vietcong Planned to be Missioner

Maryknoll — (RNS) — Capt. Humbert R. Versace, one of two U.S. war prisoners executed by a Vietcong firing squad in Vietnam, was identified by the Maryknoll Fathers here as a candidate for the priesthood whose application had been accepted in October, 1963.

Capt. Versace and Sgt. Kenneth M. Rorback of Fayetteville, N.C., reportedly were killed in reprisal for the execution of three civilian, non-uniformed Vietcong agitators by a South Vietnamese firing squad.

Maryknoll spokesmen said Capt. Versace, whose home was in Baltimore, Md., became interested in the priesthood while at West Point from which he was graduated in 1959. He had participated in a number of retreats conducted by the Maryknoll Fathers for West Point cadets.

His application to enter the Maryknoll Order was accepted in 1963, and he was to enroll for pre-seminary training at Glen Ellyn (Ill.) College when his term of Army service expired. He was captured in November 1963, when the Vietcong overran a camp west of Saigon near the Cambodian border.