



## Appeal for Needy Planned

Diocesan Directors of the Catholic Bishops' Overseas Relief Fund Appeal from 38 dioceses of the North and Middle Atlantic states attended a recent meeting at the New York Chancery to launch the 20th annual Catholic Bishops' Overseas Relief Fund Appeal. With Cardinal Spellman in photo are Rev. James Lawlor, representing the Diocese of Rochester; Rev. Philip Jarmack, Diocese of Buffalo, and Bishop Edward E. Swannstrom, executive director of Catholic Relief Services. Proceeds from the collection help support the relief and welfare programs operated by Catholic Relief Services in areas of need in 80 countries.

## Dutch Friars in Politics and You Mufti

Amsterdam — (NC) — Three prominent Dutch Capuchin friars have shaved their beards, donned civilian clothes and moved to a small house in a working class district here to experiment in adapting the religious life to modern needs.

Chosen by the provincial council of the order for their experience, they are dropping the use of their religious names and also such titles as "father" and "reverend." Two are taking jobs as workers, while the third is assigned both to do the housework and to concentrate on study and contemplation.

In a related experiment, three other Capuchins have rented a little house in Walswijk in the diocese of 's Hertogenbosch, where they will try to aid the See's 10,000 Sisters and 4,500 Brothers in their postconciliar adaptation.

Of the six pioneers, one is a former provincial superior and another was a philosophy professor.

According to Father Leonardus of Helmond, O.F.M., Cap., leader of the Amsterdam experiment, the goal is not only to adapt the ideals of St. Francis of Assisi to the demands of the modern world, but also to show workers that religious life is something ordinary. At the same time they plan to help wherever they can.

"If we take jobs as every body else does, we can more easily be accepted as belonging to them," he said. "By joining their working life we hope to get a better understanding of their joys and troubles."

Father Leonardus said that while the friars do not plan to broadcast who they are, they won't keep it secret either. And they do not wish to be compared to the working priests of France. The French situation is very different from the Dutch one, according to Father Leonardus, because as a rule the working class of the Netherlands has not been estranged from the Church.

## Parish Priests School Aides

Cleveland — (RNS) — Six Roman Catholic high schools will soon begin an experimental pastoral counselor program.

Forty-six priests have been assigned to the diocesan schools to provide additional spiritual guidance and to give the students extra opportunities and receiving the Sacraments and assisting at Mass.

Father James A. Viall, diocesan vocations director, said that each of the six schools—Narareth, Hoban-Dominican, St. Peter, St. Joseph, St. Edward and Archbishop Hoban—will have a parish priest on duty throughout the day and for a short time after classes.

It has been found, he said, that some students hesitate to take their problems to the priest or religious who is also their teacher.

## God's World

### Occasionally we hear a talk from the pulpit on the Christian's duty to be a good citizen. Usually such sermons deal with our obligations to obey civil laws, to vote, to pay our taxes and, if need be, to defend our country against unjust aggressors.

There is another duty of citizenship which seldom is touched upon, except perhaps by Father Keller and his Christophers. This is the duty, for those of us who can, to play an active role in politics and to work energetically for the election to office of well qualified candidates.

One reason why this duty has received little attention may be the fact that there is no reference to it in our Lord's day the common form of government was the monarchy. It was emperors and kings who made the Laws, not the citizens. A citizen's only duty was to obey. Obviously neither Jesus nor the Apostles could preach on the obligations of a citizen in a democracy when democracy as we know it today did not even exist.

However, both the Gospels and the Epistles are rich in emphasis upon our responsibility to do all that we can to better the lot of our fellow man and to labor for the triumph of justice. In a democracy this means, at a minimum, to make our own vote count toward the election of well qualified representatives, and to let those representatives know our opinion on matters that concern the common good.

Our individual vote and our individual expressions of opinion to town, State and National officers are important aspects of citizenship. However, it often happens that before we come to cast our vote, the candidates already have been chosen or have been given heavy backing by their respective political parties. Our choice, at best, is a limited one.

If we are going to exert our strongest influence toward the triumph of justice and the common good, those of us who can do so ought to be active workers in the political party of our preference. Our influence will be magnified a hundredfold if we not only have voted for a certain candidate, but are known to have labored diligently for his election and for the success of our political party.

Our participation in politics may be very humble in its beginnings. It may consist of nothing more glorious than addressing and stuffing envelopes or ringing doorbells. But with enthusiasm and a willingness to learn and to make sacrifices of time and labor, any competent man or woman can expect to rise higher in the councils of his party. And the higher he rises, the more clearly his voice will be heard.

The important thing is to make that beginning by offering our services to our local party chairman. It may seem a far cry from answering the telephone at campaign headquarters to making tomorrow's world a better one in which to live. But it is only when enough dedicated people set themselves to the task that democracy can achieve its full potential for good.

It would be well also if more

## 'Extension' to be Updated

Chicago — (NC) — The Catholic Church Extension Society of the United States, which has aided the home missions for 60 years, is in the process of an overhaul to meet urgent needs of the Church in this country.

A national training and research center to prepare laymen, clergy and Religious for more effective apostolic service is being planned.

The Society's magazine, Extension, which now reaches 350,000 homes each month, is in for major changes.

The Extension Society "ag-

gornamento" was announced by Msgr. Kenneth G. Stack, vice president, after a depth study by the society's officers.

The training and research center will be organized and staffed to provide training in catechetics, the social apostolate and all phases of pastoral work. Extension Volunteers for the home missions will be trained there as well as other lay persons who wish to become professional parish workers or catechists. Clergy and Religious will receive specialized training in some fields.

The center will also undertake research in sociology, psychology and other subjects which have a bearing on effective apostolic work. Material for study will be gathered from all over the United States and made available to any apostolic organization.

"We realize that every parish in the nation is really a mission," Msgr. Stack said. "It is our goal to provide the most modern approaches to pastoral work and to establish continuing studies and training so the Church can do its work most effectively in the midst of the complexities and constant social changes we now face."

Historically, the Extension Society has been concerned with providing financial aid to rural areas and places where there are few Catholics. Since 1961, it has been sending lay volunteers to teach, do parish and community work, nurse and carry out other essential duties in home mission areas.

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## Vatican Radio Raps Polish Reds

Vatican City — (RNS) — Vatican Radio broke a long silence to speak out vigorously in defense of the Polish hierarchy in what has become one of the most critical

confrontations between the bishops and the Communist regime. In a statement discussed the controversial letter in which Polish bishops, while attending Vatican II meetings in Rome, invited the German episcopate to attend celebrations in Poland next May marking the millennium of the nation's conversion to Christianity.

Vatican Radio said it had decided to make a lengthy comment on the situation because the Polish bishops had been "deprived of the elementary right to defend themselves in the press, radio or television against non-stop attacks made upon them by the Polish Communists."

(The Polish press charged the bishops had entered politics by taking a "soft line" on the issue of Poland's western territories annexed from Germany after World War II and encouraging "revenge-seeking elements" in West Germany. The Polish bishops, in extending their invitation to the German prelates, had called for fraternal understanding between Poland and Germany.)

Vatican Radio began by stressing that "in order to understand any announcement, statement or memorandum, one must take into consideration the over-all situation, otherwise the contents may easily be misunderstood or distorted, especially when taken out of context."

"Furthermore," it added, "one must approach the matter without prejudice or malice, especially toward the authors of any such statement or announcement." The station proceeded to point out that Polish press attacks on the bishops' letter had been based only on excerpts from the letter "which were taken out of context to present distorted views." Declaring it was first necessary to know what prompted the Polish bishops to write the letter, it said:

"There were a number of reasons. One was based on a sincerely and earnestly understood present day policy of the Church and especially of the last two Popes to work for harmony in international affairs, to bring about true Christian love built on charity toward each other.

"For these reasons, the Polish bishops in their letter even accepted guilt for any misunderstandings in the past with the

German nation. This, particularly caused a great outcry among the Poles.



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