

### Slums in Cathedral Shadow

Nha Trang, So. Vietnam — (RNS) — Christ Church Cathedral, built by French missionaries in 1933, stands atop a rocky hill in Nha Trang, overlooking one of South Vietnam's worst slum areas. Now a crumbling building, the cathedral maintains regular services conducted by Vietnamese priests. About 5,000 of Nha Trang's 15,000 Catholics are members of the parish.



Nha Trang, So. Vietnam — (RNS) — This is the interior of the 33-year-old Christ Church Cathedral built by French missionaries in Nha Trang, South Vietnam. Although it looks like a 200-year-old European cathedral, its stained glass windows are broken, its pews are worn and weak and its gardens are now weeds. Located on a rocky hill, the church overlooks Nha Trang's slums. Though seemingly deserted, the church holds regular services conducted by native priests. Its parish comprises 5,000 of the 15,000 Catholics in Nha Trang.

## Healing the Wounds of War

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR

Society of St. Columban

Danang — (NC) — "Capt. Lofgren—Dental Work Requested for Small Vietnamese Boy When and Where?" said the message on the wall of Lt. Howard MacDonald's office here.

Captain Lofgren, U.S.N., is a dental officer of III MAF—the Third Marine Amphibious Force. He gives free dental service to the poor, in addition to his official duties. This is only part of the civic action directed by Lt. MacDonald, native of Long Island City, N.Y., now a member of St. Christopher's parish, Chester, Md.

And the civic action is only part of Naval Support Activity (NSA), an enormous, multiple operation of the U.S. Navy. Under the command of tall, soft-spoken Rear Admiral Thomas F. Weschler, it has headquarters here in Danang and ramifications in the five provinces of Vietnam's First Tactical Zone.

"There are four things we do," the admiral explained in his office overlooking Danang harbor. "We give logistic support to some 80,000 Marines and Navy men in this zone. We run the 400-bed station hospital. With the Vietnamese Navy, we and other U.S. Navy units join

in harbor defense. And we have our civic action program."

"Logistic support" means supplying everything from bears to bullets. The men thus supplied include those in the area adjacent to North Vietnam—the area into which the Hanoi government, violating the demilitarized zone, has sent its 324B Division this year.

Some 7,500 men keep this Naval Support Activity going. The four-fold burden of leadership is borne by Admiral Weschler with quiet competence.

An Annapolis graduate of 1939, he knew one of the Great Lakes long before he knew the sea. He grew up in Erie, Pa., which is still home to himself and his family. He went to the Naval Academy from Cathedral Preparatory School, Erie. His sister, Sister M. Charles of Mercyhurst College, Erie, has a Ph.D. in nuclear chemistry and has attended Oak Ridge Institute of Nuclear Studies in Oak Ridge, Tenn.

One of the admiral's biggest tasks begins right under his window.

"Here in Danang we have the largest military terminal operated by the Navy," he said.

Across the wide inlet the station hospital carries on its work of healing. It has grown from a

beginning last January with 60 beds. By June 30 it had admitted 2,500 patients, of whom 60 per cent were enabled to resume full duty after less than 10 days. A survey of the first six months showed that half the patients were medical cases, and about half of these had malaria.

"We are better able to deal with malaria now than formerly," the hospital commander, Capt. James L. Spencer Jr., a native of Carrollton, Miss., now of Charleston, S.C., said.

The wounded have been literally whirled from the field to the hospital by helicopters in anything from 10 to 20 minutes.

Attached to the hospital is a preventive medicine unit that renders valuable public health service to Vietnamese authorities and people in the five provinces of the First Zone.

One of the most valuable assets of the hospital is its frozen blood bank. The blood-in storage can be used up to two years from now.

A valuable spiritual asset is the service given by the hospital chaplains, Chaplain (Lt. Cmdr.) Gordon Paulson and Father (Lt.) Alfred Pepera of Greensburg, Pa.

Father Pepera recently finished his tour of duty as Catholic chaplain and has been suc-

ceeded by Father (Lt.) Sebastian Muccilli of Trenton, N.J.

The Navy's civic action brings manifold help to the civilians of Danang and the area outside it. Lt. MacDonald steers the program with enthusiasm. His workers include volunteer Navy men who donate their time and skill.

He recounted some of their activities:

"We're operating a technical school for 200 boys and girls, using the school constructed by USAID. We're teaching carpentry, auto mechanics, sewing and typing. Our sewing class has been making pajamas for Danang city hospital. Our teachers are mostly Navy men, using Vietnamese interpreters.

"Six Navy men cleaned and painted the interior of the local surgical hospital. Five are teaching English in Vietnamese schools. A team of four Navy hospital corpsmen go every day to a village 10 miles south of here to hold sick call. We've a three-man Navy team living in a village for a month at a time, working with the people, making drainage ditches, digging wells, improving the houses.

"These men are all volunteers.

It was a long and lengthening list of good deeds, done during a war that's very near.

### Cong Gunfire Kills Priest

Saigon — (NC) — Father Paul Le Van Linh, the pastor of Tan Hai, Monh Duc, in the Vinh Long diocese of the Mekong Delta area, was killed by gunfire from a communist post along the river bank.

The priest had crossed the river in the parish to say Sunday Mass at an outlying mission station. The following morning, returning alone in a small outboard motorboat, he passed a communist post. The communists called the priest ashore and detained him for an hour. When they allowed him to leave, he set off across the river. When he was 30 yards from shore, there was a burst of gunfire. Father Van Linh fell with bullet wounds in the head and chest.

### Flood Victims Given Aid

New York — (RNS) — The American Catholic bishops have sent \$100,000 to aid the victims of the floods in Italy, it was announced by the Catholic Relief Services — National Catholic Welfare Conferences.

Archbishop John P. Cody of Chicago, treasurer of the NWC administrative board said that the funds, directed by Pope Paul VI, came from the proceeds of the 1965 Catholic Bishops Overseas Aid Fund.

### God's World

## Parish

By DENNIS

What do you expect a priest to do who pulls the congregation or joy as he reverently he not be a man who in the pulpit, a good leader, a community leader, a good mixer with the poor, young and old, men, women, Protestants, Jews, non-believers, a man of but-simple tastes, a true of God for all seasons and all parts?

Frankly, I have known few priests, in my lifetime would fit this description. I am sure that I move in gaudily or priestly circles and that the priest your area are different—ed, holy, sinless to an ordinary degree, as one expect priests should be.

Why should one not expect this kind of priest? He is of God's anointed. He has been ordained for Holy action deal with the sacrament handle the Bread of Life, the Word of God. If I should one not expect him lead the way and live it himself? Is this unreasonable?

He has been given the sacrament of Holy Orders like ried Catholics receive the sacrament of Matrimony to help live up to his holy calling, the Western world, present

## Poverello of the Sahara

(Continued From Page 1)

at all cut off from the world deeply involved in it a poorest level.

This remains the each the Petits Freres. Even there are only about 25 them (though there are 1,000 Little Sisters with a far vacation) but in 25 ferent countries they are found in the most depre- quarter of their chosen ar-

They work like the f around them; as a truck in Hamburg, a fisherman in Conca-neau, a blacksmith in Marrakesh. It is a kind of er-priesthood, ex c e p t priests are rare here and brothers do not wish to be taken for anything but the ordinary people who do an intense form of Christ in the most unpropitious circumstances. For the E- fraternity in Leeds this working separately in fa- all day and becoming a re- community in the evening terraced house where the of next door's telly is lie- flavor vespers or break it- hour of meditation.

It means, as nearly as ble, being in a permanen- dition of prayer, which laume defines as "think Lord with loving attentio- seems, on the surface, a bleak existence, and the are themselves do not any spiritual growth i- neighborhood as a res- their presence.

The world might reas- think this a fruitless pur- the ideal if it were not th- religious life as a whole i- moved by it. A numl- things are making for ch- the monastic and other- munities today; the phil- and example of the Litt- ers and Sisters is one- most potent. Rene Villi- books — "Seeds of the I- (Burns and Gates) and " ers of Men" (Darton, Lo- and Todd) — must by i- required reading in mo- munities.

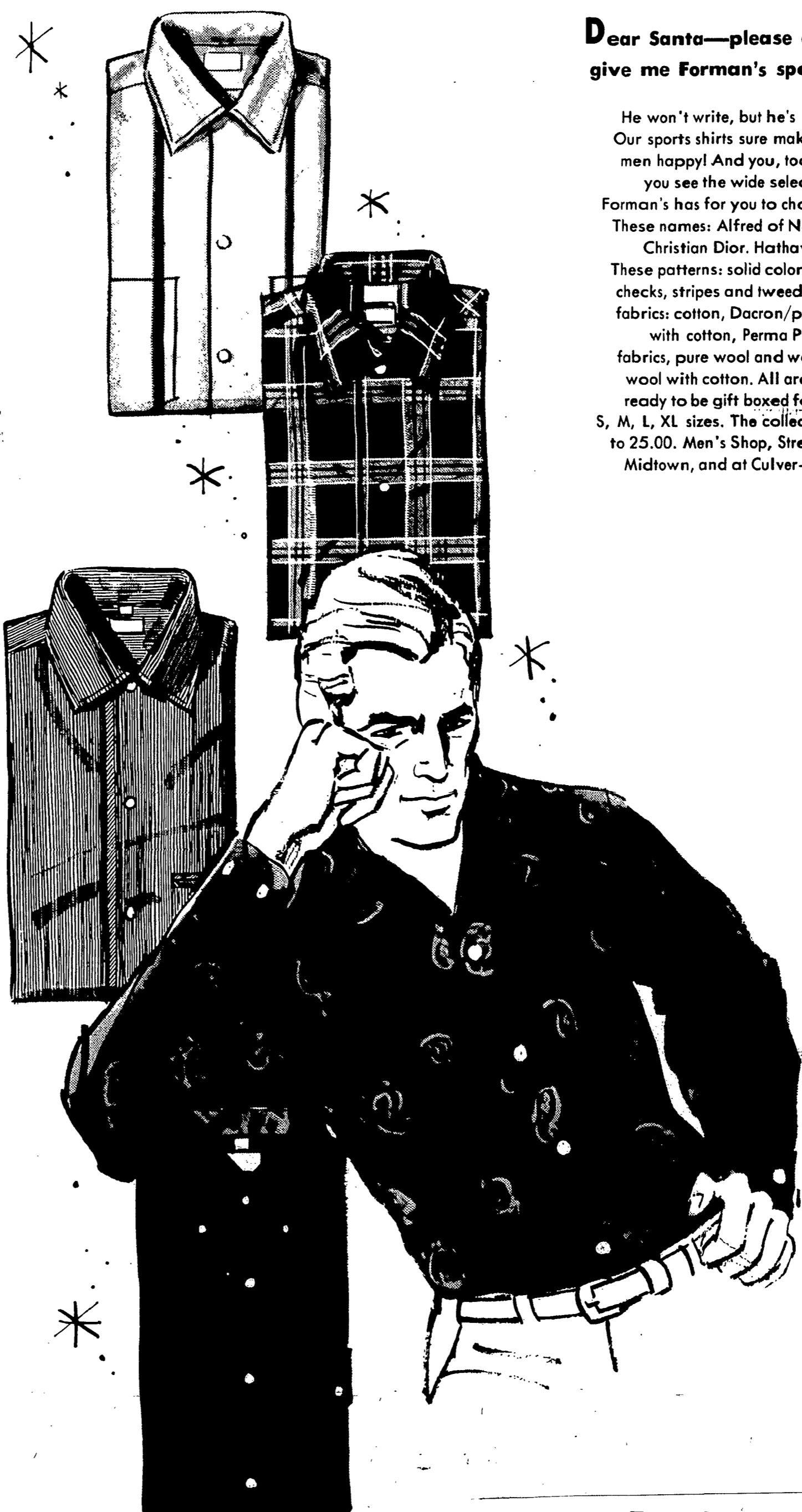
In Benedictine and T- monasteries this young- are patiently under their- ence. At the very leas- laume's work is causing t- revise their own inad- ideas of holy poverty; it- making them review th- monastic tension betwe- temptation and demons- love to the world outsid-

It is possible that- things would have happ- there had been no Cha- Foucauld. But there w- he can now be seen as- ing point in the history- religious life, just as B- Francis, and Egnatius w- fore him.

His life has not yet- more than a speck of diff- to the world at large. I- influence is now adritt- a great and potentially th- mobile segment of Christ- And so there is no telling- it may end.

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