

Missionary in Red China's Gunsights

By FATHER IVAR S. McGRATH, S.S.C.

Quemoy (NC)—The only thing that has not changed in the last 13 years on this island is the fact that it is a Red Chinese island. Near the Red Chinese mainland is Franciscan Father Bernard M. Druetto, the island's only missionary, who is as lean, energetic and tough as ever.

His thin, ascetic face framed in a halo of white hair and flowing white beard, he tirelessly covers the roads of the 60-square-mile island, often staying two or three Masses in different places, visiting scattered Catholics and leading the sick. He is welcomed everywhere with a wave and a smile from civilians, with a salute and a smile from soldiers.

Quemoy has changed and progressed almost beyond recognition during the past 13 years, and the operations of the 59-year-old priest from Marseilles have developed and expanded along with it.

When I first visited Quemoy, or Kinmen as it is called in standard Chinese, in April, 1955, Father Druetto operated out of a tiny, two-room rented house on the street of Kinmen city.

Quemoy, about 100 miles from Formosa, was at that time a barren, almost treeless mass of rocky soil, the roads unpaved and the people growing very little in the rare cultivated fields.

"Of the total 32,000 civilian population in 1954, about 27,000 were on relief," Father Druetto said. "Today that has all changed. The civilian population has now passed the 56,000 mark, and of these, only some 3,000 need limited relief."

Today Quemoy is a green island. A large part of the 40 million trees planted—bamboo, acacia, casuarina, pine—are full grown and the more than 200 miles of paved roads that crisscross the island are treelined and shaded. Sweet potatoes, corn, sorghum, peanuts, beans, wheat, barley and vegetables are extensively grown—the one million kilograms of wine or spirits distilled from sorghum annually is exchanged for rice. The underground fortifications a mile or two from the coast are hidden by greenery.

Comfortable buses and numerous taxis serve the people for transportation. Hog and poultry breeding assures an abundance of cheap meat for civilians and soldiers, and the sea around Quemoy abounds in many varieties of fish. The children are clean and healthy, with more than 11,000 attending 21 grade schools and 1,580 enrolled at 4 secondary schools.

In 1955, Father Druetto traveled the island in a battered jeep, saying Mass in rented rooms at two separate points.

When I next visited Quemoy in February, 1958, there stood near the airstrip a stone church, built by Father Druetto almost entirely with his own hands. He lived at the church and was serving two chapels (rented rooms), one in Kinmen city, another at the far end of the island. From the church, some roads paved, and the island was already taking on its new look.

During the Quemoy crisis in the autumn of 1958, when, during a 45-day period from Aug. 23 to Oct. 6, the island was subjected to a prolonged bombardment and 479,910 rounds of communist shells fell in the area—an average of over seven shells per minute—Father Druetto, like all the people of Quemoy, was digging a shelter in the rocky soil near his church. As I chatted with him then during a bombardment, he continued his digging of the winding, five and a half feet high tunnel.

Church Giving At \$6 Billion

New York (NC)—Religious causes received nearly half of all of the philanthropic contributions given in the United States in 1966, according to a report of the American Association of Fund Raising Councils.

And Mr. and Mrs. John Doe—the individual citizens—led the way, donating \$10.6 billion of the nearly \$13.6 billion donated for all causes last year.

Religion was the largest single recipient of the money—48 percent or \$6.6 billion—and it has been in the past. But the contribution was up significantly: \$1.6 billion more than 1965 and \$2.3 billion more than 1960.

Prelate Regrets Publicity

Detroit (NC)—Bishop Walter W. Curtis of Bridgeport, Conn., deplored the publication by the National Catholic Reporter of the final advisory reports of the majority and minority groups of theologians on the papal birth control commission.

Bishop Curtis, episcopal moderator of the Family Life Bureau, U.S. Catholic Conference, criticized the publicizing of the secret reports in the opening address at the biennial meeting here of the directors of diocesan family life bureaus.

In the closed session, he urged the directors to concentrate in their discussions on other issues than birth control, saying that any change in the Church's position on the matter is reserved to Pope Paul VI.

"I have worked on and off at the dugout ever since, and now it winds for 130 yards," Father Druetto told me yesterday. "Now all my patients can shelter in not too great discomfort in case of shelling."

For Father Druetto has built a hospital near his church. He calls it Mercy House and that's what it is. He takes in the incurables and keeps them there as long as they live or until he can manage, as he sometimes does, a cure. Father

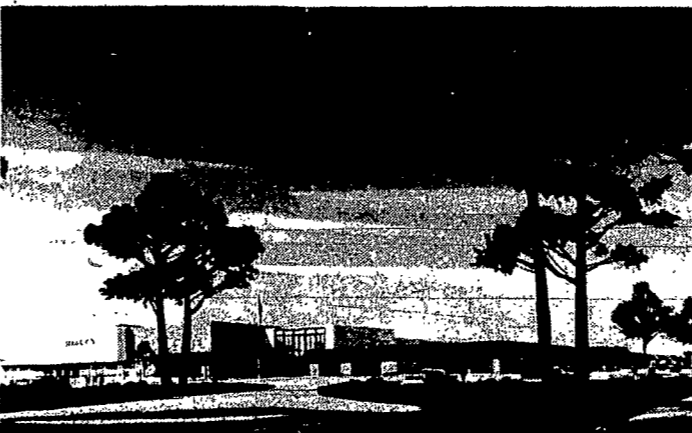
Druetto pursued medical studies before coming to China over 30 years ago. He has combined medical practice with his missionary apostolate, both on the China mainland, before he was imprisoned and later expelled by the communists, and on Quemoy. There are 16 semi-permanent patients at present in Mercy House, which he built almost without assistance.

Today a second church stands on Quemoy. Father Druetto has built a reinforced concrete church on a street of Kinmen city to take the place of the rented rooms he used for years. He has a dispensary there and

plans a small hospital. As one would expect, an entrance behind the altar leads to an underground shelter.

"There are some 1,000 Catholics among the military here, and about 400 civilian Catholics," Father Druetto said.

At one departure from this island, surrounded on three sides by batteries of Red Chinese guns, Father Druetto drove us to the airfield, no longer a dirt strip but enlarged and paved and capable of serving jets. The vehicle he used was a Volkswagen van he received last year from the U.S. bishops' Catholic Relief Services.



Greece Towne Mall, which opened May 1, features year-round climate control for the comfort of area shoppers. Sixteen of the proposed 45 stores in the complex are now open. Greece Towne Mall, located on 30 acres on Ridge Rd. West near Long Pond Rd. was built by Wilmore, Inc.

Divinity School Lists Faculty, Lecture Series

Four visiting professors and speakers for the President's World; Harmon R. Holcomb, Theology and the Contemporary Novel; Cynthia Wedel, Sex, Family and Society; Neville Clark, Theology, Current or Traditional; Dr. Gene E. Bartlett and Father Joseph Brennan, Ecumenism, Where Are We.

The professors will be Rev. Neville Clark who will lecture in theology, John Priest, Old Testament—scripture; David Jacobson, psychology of religion; and Richard Heschke in church music.

The lecture series, intended for women interested in deepening their religious knowledge, will be held the Mondays of October at 10 a.m. and include in order: Kyle Haselden,

What's New in the Religious World; Harmon R. Holcomb, Theology and the Contemporary Novel; Cynthia Wedel, Sex, Family and Society; Neville Clark, Theology, Current or Traditional; Dr. Gene E. Bartlett and Father Joseph Brennan, Ecumenism, Where Are We.

Reservations at \$3 may be made with Mrs. David Allyn at the Divinity School.

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Catholics, I Study Faith

De Witt, Mich.—(NC)—Representatives of the Catholic Church and the American Baptist Convention have launched a study into two areas of particular interest to Catholics in 1966—the relationship between religious freedom and ecclesiastical authority and the role of the laity in the life of the Church.

The study was launched the end of an April 3 meeting of delegates from American Baptist Convention and the U.S. Bishops' Commission on Ecumenical Relations.

It was the first official contact between the two religious bodies, although leaders of two groups, Bishop Joseph Greer of Reno, Nev., and Robert G. Torbet of Val Forge, Pa., executive director of the American Baptist Convention's Commission on Christian Unity, had held previous talks for more than a year.

The next meeting will be in

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Oakland, Calif.—(R) Minister, officiates at the Catholic church Immekeppel, 21 of S. rtes was Father John California in Berkeley ceremony was grante