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If You Love Me, Love the Missions

My dear People of God:

It is a hungry world.

It is a wandering world.

Hungry — If the poor and hungry passed naked in procession before this church, single file, one per second, it would take 25 years to review that misery.

It is a searching world—for if those who as yet know not Christ, walked single file around the globe, they would encircle it 32 times.

It is a missionary world — 150,000 priests, nuns, brothers and laity have left their country to serve others.

Today you are asked to help the kind of laity, like the father of two priests in Korea — beaten by the Communist for not giving up his faith, he said: "It is your business to beat me; it is my joy to forgive you".

Today you are asked to help the kind of nun, who when a Communist spat in her face, answered without any bitterness: "Thanks, you have made me understand how Our Lord must have felt when He was spat upon".

Today you are asked to help the kind of young woman, who decided that she would give herself to the care of lepers in Vietnam.

Today you are asked to be mindful of the people in a Pacific Island who consider it their greatest sin to eat alone — everything must be shared.

Today you are asked to be mindful of the 250,000 people who sleep in the streets of Calcutta every night because they have no home.

Today you are asked to be mindful of a bishop in South East Asia, of whom an American General said: "Everytime I saw him, he was carrying a man on his back."

Today you are asked to be mindful of others as a woman in Uganda was to me. I saw her first at a little hut church. Her legs were eaten off to the knees by leprosy and her arms were off to the elbows. I asked her how she came. She answered: "I crawled four miles on my knees and my elbows." I told her that the next morning I would get a bicycle and bring her Holy Communion. But the next morning she was there again. I asked: "Why did you not allow me to come to you." She answered: "Because I did not want to be a trouble to you, Bishop."

May I trouble you today to love the missionary church which I served for 16 years and which will be my deepest love until the day of my death. If you love me, love the missions.

God Love you.

Devotedly yours in Christ,

✠ FULTON J. SHEEN

Bishop of Rochester



To announce among the nations the good tidings of the unfathomable riches of Christ and to enlighten all men as to the mystery hidden from eternity in God. - Ephesians 3, 8-9.



Bishop Sheen visited mission outposts around the world during the 16 years he was national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith. In the article below he



describes the people and episodes which stand out in his memory—and what he thinks is our continuing duty to the Church's worldwide mission work.

World's Poor People are the 'Incognito Christ'

So Much More On the Inside

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"My deepest, greatest love is for the poor of the world," said Bishop Sheen.

He's obviously impressive on television but when there's just the two of you talking together you get the full brunt of a searing fire burning in his heart.

He poured out a litany of heart-rending examples to some questions we raised about this Mission Sunday issue of the Courier.

"Missions are for faith, Bishop," we pointed out, "Why do you always stress such things as hunger, poverty, disease? Aren't there other agencies to take care of those problems? Why shouldn't the Missions stick just to the religious aspect?"

His reply was quiet, slow, emphatic —

"The Lord announced the Eucharist only after He fed the hungry multitudes. Before the doctrine of faith He gave them the pabulum of food. He healed the lepers disease before He sent them to the priest. He gave forgiveness to the soul of the paralytic even as He was about to heal the poor man's crippled body!"

Bishop Sheen has seen first-hand the poverty which stalks the face of the earth.

"It's wrong to say: 'Half the world goes to bed every night hungry,'" he commented, hands thrust out in his typical, familiar gesture, "It's wrong because half the world doesn't have a bed to go to."

He told how once in Uganda he slept on the dirt floor of a missionary's home—one room next to a thatched chapel, and then, after Mass next morning, went on to other mission outposts — "but the missionary had to stay there and, I suppose, he still has to sleep on the floor every night."

In a Latin American slum, the Bishop saw vultures and people scrapping for food at a garbage dump—"I have pictures of that," he added, wincing at the sickening thought.

"We talk about bringing Christ to the pagan world. There are a thousand theological reasons on that subject but when you go into those countries," Bishop Sheen stated with a convincing eloquence, "you don't ask how the people there are going to get to know Christ — they are Christ, the

Incognito Christ! Jesus told us, 'I was hungry, thirsty, homeless, loveless.' We go to the Missions not so much to bring Christ there but to serve Him there."

Poverty is so pervasive! Can we really heal its blight? "If you just help one person, it's worth it, isn't it?" he countered with his own question.

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<p>CLASS OF SERVICE This is a fast message unless its deferred character is indicated by the proper symbol.</p>	<p>WESTERN UNION TELEGRAM</p> <p>W. P. MARSHALL CHAIRMAN OF THE BOARD</p> <p>R. W. McFALL PRESIDENT</p>	<p>SYMBOLS DL=Day Letter NL=Night Letter LT=International Letter Telegram</p>

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IMPARTS HIS APOSTOLIC BLESSING TO ALL PRIESTS
RELIGIOUS AND PEOPLE OF THE DIOCESE
BISHOP FULTON J. SHEEN

A Tabulated Report of Diocesan Parish and School Contributions to the Missions in 1966---See Page 13