

# World's Poor People are the 'Incognito Christ'

(Continued from Page 1)

"A stewardess on an airplane, a beautiful young woman, very efficiently and courteously went about her duties on a trans-Atlantic flight I was on not so long ago," the Bishop reminisced.

"I asked her, 'Why don't you give your beauty to people who never see anything beautiful?' Two years later she came into the Propagation of the Faith office in New York City and said she accepted my suggestion. Now she's working as a volunteer taking care of lepers in Vietnam. She can't cure the lepers and she can't take care of the lepers who are elsewhere but she's making one spot on earth more beautiful than if she had shrugged away the opportunity."

Bishop Sheen admitted the poor people of the world must, at times, be quite puzzled at the extent of Christian charity.

"Here in the United States we have an annual per capita expenditure of \$56 on alcohol and cigarettes — that's half the total income for at least half the world's population. U.S. Catholic high school students average \$2.36 a year in Mission contributions."

He paused in thought, looked out his window overlooking Chestnut Street and East Avenue and turned back, "Suppose you and I were starving over in India or down in Latin America and the Catholics in the United States told us, 'Be patient, we think of you once every year!'"

Faith, of course, remains the final goal of the missionary's efforts.

"And what a faith we find in Mission lands!" said the Bishop.

He retold two stories told him at the Vatican Council by a Mission bishop from China to illustrate his point—

"The Reds wanted an eight-year old girl to deny her

faith. They forced her to kneel on a board with nails punched up through it. They put her up on a platform for public ridicule and made her playmates go up and spit in her face. She was crippled for life and bloody but she refused to renounce her faith.

"And another little girl became a martyr for her faith too — Her parish priest was put under house arrest next to his church and he could look through a little window and see the altar. The Reds punched open the tabernacle, strewn the hosts on the floor and took the sacred vessels. The priest stood there in perpetual adoration hour by hour as best he could but fell asleep exhausted.

"He was awakened when he thought he heard someone in the church in the early morning hours. He peered into the darkness and could just make out the dim figure of a little girl. She came up to the sanctuary, knelt down and blessed herself and stooped over and pressed her tongue to one of the hosts to give herself Communion. She came day after day — really night after night — one host each day until there was but one left. The Reds had boarded up the church, she must have wiggled in through a crack.

"And then on the last night she repeated her brief ritual and squeezed out of the church. There was a rifle shot. The little girl had given herself her own Viaticum."

"Now do you see why I love the Missions?" asked Bishop Sheen.

"And what do you want to tell the people who read this article in the Courier?" we asked him.

He pursed his lips, thoughtfully.

"Remember the little boy who said, 'If you love me, love my dog?' — well, tell them, if you love me, love the Missions and they can prove it on Mission Sunday."

—Father Henry A. Atweil



A frugal life characterizes missionary's day.

## People to Talk During Sermon

Hobart, Australia — (NC) — Discussion between priest and people will replace sermons at many Sunday Masses in the Hobart archdiocese.

This was decided at a meeting of the archdiocesan senate of priests, after a discussion on how to make the people more aware of the teachings of the Second Vatican Council.

The senate agreed that both mass instruction and group

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study are needed. The time of Sunday Mass was regarded as most suitable for mass instruction, and discussion was considered more effective for learning than mere listening.

Each Sunday, in the first half of 1968, parishioners will receive printed sheets giving a condensation of the council's teaching on a particular topic. On the following Sunday, discussion of this topic by priest and people will replace the sermon.

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## Bishop Sheen Proposes Seminary Reform at Synod

The Tiber isn't turbulent in the Eternal City these days — but some meetings there are.

Representatives of the world's Catholic bishops and representatives of the world's Catholic lay people are meeting simultaneously but separately in Rome.

The topics at the two meetings are not necessarily the same — nor are the conclusions the same even when the topics are the same.

Bishop Sheen, at the Bishops Synod, showed the same oratorical fire that made him America's best-known television churchman.

He told the close to 200 other bishops at the Synod that seminarians can't be expected to be Christlike unless they are also linked to the Cross. He said, "It is our task to eliminate the divorce between Christ and His Cross. . . Christ without the Cross is an effeminate image while the Cross without Christ leads only to persecution and harsh cruelty."

He proposed to the world's bishops that all seminaries do what he will do at St. Bernard's Seminary — let "competent laymen" in on the running of the seminary "because some of them have a deeper spirit of faith than we find in some priests."

Revision of the present system of seminary training for the priesthood occupied the bishops' attention for several days of the Synod last week. Some prelates were reported as complaining that some seminary professors actually distort the Church's doctrine rather than clarify it — a charge also made against Catholic editors and even against Sunday sermons in parish churches.

This week the bishops took up the thorny problem of mixed marriages — particularly the present Church laws which prohibit Catholics to be married by anybody other than a Catholic priest and the requirement to

bring up all children as Catholics.

One bishop raised the question about those "heartbreaking cases" where a Catholic's marriage has been broken but Church law blocks any second marriage as long as the first spouse lives.

Only one agenda topic remains for the bishops — further changes in the liturgy.

Elsewhere in Rome, more than 2,000 lay people — including U.S. astronaut James McDivitt — wound up their October 11 to 15th World Congress on the Apostolate of the Laity after rippling the ecclesiastical waters a bit.

Thom Kerstiens of the Netherlands gave the keynote address to an applauding audience.

A "breakthrough" in religion, paralleling developments in technology and in the status of women, youth and emerging nations, has changed the traditional idea of authority, he told them.

Even the supreme authority of the Pope must be re-examined, he said.

Each sector of the Church must enjoy freedom and responsibility, Mr. Kerstiens said. The hierarchy may no longer dictate to priests, clerics to laity or men to women.

"This concept of autonomy, freedom and responsibility," he told them, "is very closely linked with that of authority."

"In the Church, as in worldly institutions such as the army or industry, most people agree that the ultimate responsibility for decision-making must remain with one person on the appropriate level.

"But the decision-making cannot and should not remain the exclusive domain of one. It must be the result of a process of consultation and cross-fertilization, linked with data-gathering."

The international gathering in the Palazzo Pio near St. Peter's Square found men and women in the fashions of New York and Paris mingling with those in the exotic dress of Taiwan, India and the Ivory Coast. Languages ranged from Oxfordian English to Swahili.

In outlining the role of laymen in the post-Vatican II world, Mr. Kerstiens said "we must finally persuade the Church hierarchy that we are with them, not as meek children, but as responsible collaborators."

Neither should lay groups feel that they have the "only authentic answers," but should be increasingly attentive to questions Vatican II did not answer and to tasks "which do answer the real needs of men," he said.

"If laymen are to analyze man's situation today, he advised they must become aware that 'the mood of the world is for change.'"

One topic that came up early at the Laity Congress but hasn't been reported as yet raised at the Bishops Synod is the problem of overpopulation.

A delegate from India raised the question and said the Church must "speak out clearly on responsible procreation." McDivitt, the U.S. spaceman, showed the Congress a film on his space flights and told them we have "to look with new eyes at our problems."

Another U.S. delegate, Raw-

son Woods said "we dare not wait" to take emphatic action to reverse the present trend toward "a growing racial alienation in the world."

McDivitt, at a press conference, was asked about the re-

ported statement of a Russian astronaut that he hadn't seen God or the angels while in orbit.

McDivitt replied, "I didn't see angels or God, but then I didn't really expect to because

I cannot see them on the ground. I feel God exists on the same way. In space I was able to see stars and the earth and I see what I think are evidences of God's work."

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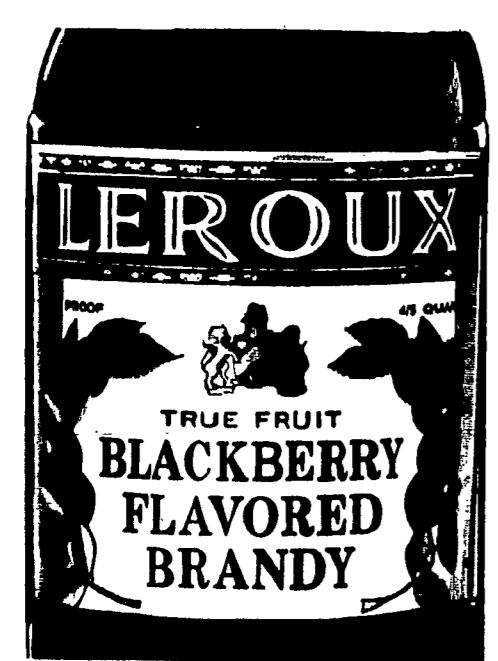
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## Waterfront Priest Dies

New York — (NC) — Mass. for Msgr. John J. Kelly, known as "waterfront priest," by Patrick Cardinal O'Connell, a long-time friend of the priest, Oct. 12, the day before his birthday.

The Monsignor, this city, who served in the priesthood, was chaplain of the Port of New York since 1934 after the spiritual staff members of the Immigration and Naturalization Service and workers.



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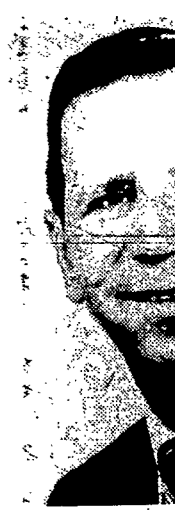
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Candidate for Northwest District, Citizen of Rochester. Director of Wing Ball Club, Italian Club, Graduate of University of R and B School. U.S. 1943-46. Resident wife, Dolores children at 65 Parkway. Member of Sacred Heart Church, Man of the Year, Civic Society in