



Father Louis' rectory in Chungnam Korea—wall-to-wall dirt.



A Korean village's kitchen sink.

# USO is 'A Bit of Home'

By FATHER PATRICK O'CONNOR  
(NC News Service)

Saigon — "When you walk through the door, you feel you're home again," is a typical U.S. serviceman's comment on the USO in Vietnam.

There are 15 of these doors wide open to him all the way from Danang down to Vung Tau southeast of Saigon. A 16th will soon be opened farther south in Cantho.

Inside the door he can find hot dogs to eat, a juke box to listen to, a tape recorder for his voice message to the folks and a Polaroid camera for a photo to send with his next letter.

The homey feeling comes naturally, since the home folks have created the USO and keep it supplied with everything from money to melody.

Six American civilian agencies form the USO, which stands for United Service Organizations. The six are the Young Men's Christian Association, the National Catholic Community Service, the National Jewish Welfare Board, the Young Women's Christian Association, the Sal-

vation Army and the National Travelers' Aid Association.

The National Catholic Community Service is represented by 11 men and women in the professional staff of 45 operating the USO clubs in Vietnam.

It is estimated that in one month some 650,000 servicemen make use of USO facilities in this country.

What do they appreciate most?

"The snack bar," answered Sam Anderson of Pine Bush, N.Y., USO executive director here. "They get the things they eat at home, a hamburger, for instance, a hot dog, ice cream or a milk shake."

It's all part of the home atmosphere.

"Sometimes you see them sound asleep in the chairs, completely relaxed," Margaret J. Roach of Corvallis, Ore., who works in the Da Nang USO, said. "This club serves the men of the Big Red One, the 1st U.S. Infantry Division."

The USO clubs in Vietnam are invaluable, in fact essential, because of the war conditions. Here the armed forces can provide only limited facilities for relaxation and entertainment.

Without the USO, many servicemen would be restricted to these limited facilities or would have recourse to the kind of "bars" that are a disgrace to both the Vietnamese operators and their American customers.

Letters come, too, to remind the serviceman that he is not forgotten.

"We get heartening letters from communities of nuns," Mrs. Patricia K. Krause of San Diego said, in her crowded little office in the USO here. (She is the widow of a U.S. Navy officer.) "I have read some of these letters on our radio program. We want you to know we are praying for you," one letter said, and it was signed by a whole group of Sisters. We get spiritual bouquets, too, and assurances of Masses offered."

Some Russian refugees in Glen Cove, N.Y., wrote at Christmas: "We are thankful to all of you. May the Lord bless and favor you."

Some organizations send gifts for distribution to orphans. To the delight of both orphans and servicemen, parties are given in the USO clubs for children from neighboring orphanages.

"It's a tradition now to have orphans' parties in the USO at Christmas," Mrs. Krause explained. "Each serviceman acts as an adoptive father for a child."

To reach as many servicemen as possible, with at least a friendly message reminiscent of home, the USO conducts a daily half-hour program of music and announcements, over the Armed Forces Radio.

The USO is maintained entirely by voluntary donations. A Catholic chaplain, member of an advisory board, lamented a common misunderstanding. "Some people think that the letters US mean United States and that the USO is therefore a government- supported organization," he said. "In that way it fails to get help that would otherwise be given."

Founded in 1941, the United Service Organization opened its first club in Vietnam in April, 1963, in Saigon.

## Local Symposium Gets TV Airing

New York City—"Population Problem: A Catholic Reappraisal" a report on a symposium that recently took place in Rochester will be presented on "Lamp Unto My Feet" Sunday, Dec. 10 (10:30 a.m.) in color on the CBS Television Network.

The symposium was held under the joint sponsorship of the Planned Parenthood League of Rochester and Monroe County and the McQuaid Jesuit High School in Rochester.

Guest on the program will be sociology professor Dr. Thomas D. Melady, a leading Catholic layman in the United States and delegate to the third World Congress of Lay Apostolates held in Rome, Italy, last month.

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## Missionary

# Makes His House Of Odds and Ends

About seven months ago a Rochester native arrived in a forsaken little village across the globe to hack away at the earth with pick and shovel to build a center of worship for Christ.

Father Louis Vezelas, a member of the Franciscans of St. Casimir's Custody (which means

that Father Louis belongs to the Lithuanian branch of the order) whose base of operations is Kennebunkport, Maine, is the son of Mrs. Alexander Vezelas and the late Mr. Vezelas of 111 Dayton St. in Rochester.

Since last May Father Louis has been stationed in the tiny resort village of Chungnam, Korea, attempting to build a prosperous Christian community there on the barren land.

The 200 souls of the town are his only resource. Physical structures are at a minimum. Father Louis' roughing it—his a pioneer in a dense is a minute Korean-style house of scrap lumber and odds and ends with a thin layer of granite pebbles for decoration, floors and privations God will grant the gift of Faith to many pagans in our midst."

## Cardinal Recovers

Paris—(RNS)—Pierre Cardinal Veuillot, Archbishop of Paris, was reported "making satisfactory progress" here after surgical treatment of internal hemorrhaging.

He had been flown to Paris for treatment after an attack at Lourdes, where he was resting after a meeting of the French hierarchy. The 54-year-old prelate has been Archbishop of Paris since the retirement of Maurice Cardinal Feltin in December, 1966. He was made a cardinal in June.

## Bravery Medal to Chaplain For Disarming Berserk Man

By FATHER PATRICK J. BURKE, S.S.C.  
(NC News Service)

Danang Air Base, Vietnam — Father (Capt.) Gerald M. Whelan, a priest of the Cleveland diocese, arrived on this base as assistant Catholic chaplain on July 13, 1967. On Aug. 4 he went into a room and personally disarmed a crazed man of his M-16 rifle. Two months later, Gen. Gabriel P. Dissonay, commanding general of the Tactical Air Command at Langley Air Force Base, Va., pinned the Airman's Medal on Father Whelan for bravery.

The incident took place at the Military Affiliate Radio Station (MARS) on this air base.

On Aug. 4, Father Whelan was called to the station, where a crazed serviceman had held two airmen hostage for two and one-half hours. Armed with an M-16 rifle, the man threatened to kill the airmen if they did not contact his girl friend in the U.S. They tried frantically but failed.

Several shots were fired before Father Whelan arrived at

## Louisiana Baptists Urge Scholarships 'For All'

LaFayette, La.—(RNS)—Federal scholarships to allow "all of America's young people" to attend the college of their choice were advocated here by the Louisiana Baptist Convention.

The resolution asking Congress for the scholarships claimed that U.S. aid to higher education has "created a financial crisis for church-related colleges that cannot in good conscience accept direct federal aid."

"Some of our best colleges," the Baptist declared, "are (now) threatened with extinction because they cannot successfully recruit students at the necessary tuition costs when other colleges accepting federal aid are in a position to offer a college education at practically no cost."

The resolution also charged that "recruitment of qualified administrative personnel and faculty involves unfair competition between church-related col-

leges without direct federal aid, and other institutions greatly subsidized by the Federal government."

A nationwide scholarship plan, the Baptists said, has precedents in the programs of the G.I. Bills.

At the same time, the convention passed another resolution stating that the Baptists are "unalterably opposed to the use of tax monies for the promotion of any religious beliefs in violation of the First Amendment" to the U.S. Constitution. The resolution asked the state legislature and governor "to resist those who would seek funds for promotion of religious purposes."

Last year the Louisiana Baptists voted against federal grants, but approved "in spirit" loans to its institutions. A church-state report at that time did not mention federal loans specifically, but left the decision up to the trustees of colleges and other institutions.

## Weilert Duo Captures Aquinas Pin Tourney

Over 200 Aquinas lads and their dads participated last weekend at Maiden Lane and Gates Bowl for the school's first Father and Son Handicap Bowling Tournament.

The tournament was sponsored by the Students Activities Committee of APACE, Aquinas' parents group. Adolph D'Ettore was chairman, assisted by Jack Wilder.

Bob Weilert and his son, Ron, with a score of 1290, received the top prize, including a trophy presented in memory of Frank Walsh, father of Aquinas Bowling Moderator Father Jay Walsh. The elder Weilert was a close personal friend and bowling teammate of the late Frank Walsh.

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New York—(RNS)—ject of Jesus Christ simply and literally. "ible." Father—Fred Crowe, S.J., of Regis Willodale, Ontario, sa Nov. 24 issue of Can lay-edited Roman Cath ly magazine.

The statement, in on "Christology and rary Philosophy," was throughout the entire second in the magaz "Commonweal Paper: The first of the Coe papers, in February, voted to "The Problem The second is headen "Jesus."

Sixty-four pages in a specially priced in non tion copies, the issu largest in the magazin except for the 40th an issue of Nov. 20, 1964.

Father Crowe's ar veying the "multiplic cepts about Jesus," this multiplicity "sim lies to the inexactitud of his person and i and his role in histo

Father Avery Dulles Woodstock, (Md.) Co veying the scholarly of the "historical Ch that a solution, to t tion between the Chr tory and the Christ of lie in a view of histo interpersonal event v call for nothing short conversion in the o self to what previous yond the range of exp

"If the 'historical' taken to mean the as grasped by those best situated to grasp intention of his caree Dulles said, "It becom ously difficult to dr between the Jesus a and the Christ of Fai

A particular aspe in history was discus ther Raymond E. B of St. Mary's Semin more, in "The Resurr Biblical Criticism." R focus on the concrete the physical questio Resurrection, he su e Christians might well term of "conting "transformation." I tity of the risen Chr One who died on the the Gospel stress "i or another that the i was different."

Ethles of "J In an article on " Teaching of Jesus Charles E. Curran

## More Re On Cath

Washington — (F national conference Catholic education presented with a p greater emphasis on a point of view" rath theological one in ing of contemporary later education.

The paper on Catholic Educational was prepared by F F. McHugh and Dr. Madaus, both of I lege, a Jesuit univer

It was distributed 100 participants of ington Symposium c Education, which h theme: "Blueprint f ture." The sympo sponsored by the Nat olic Education Ass discuss contemporary education.

It was distributed 1 participants of the Symposium on Cath tion, which had for "Blueprint for the symposium was c by the National C tion Association to temporary' problems tion.

The Boston Colleg contended that the Catholic education been adequately ide sonable alternatives been presented and ness of church-relate has not been firm ed because of the li vant research.

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