

### NBC Studies Church Changes

The many changes sweeping through the Roman Catholic Church in America will be examined by NBC News in "The Church in Transition: Roman Catholicism in the United States" Sunday, Dec. 10 (9:05-10 p.m. NYT) on the NBC Radio Network.

This broadcast of NBC News' "Second Sunday" monthly series will be reported by NBC News correspondent Elie Abel. The program will be produced by Albert Burchard.

The program will present the views of priests, former priests, and Church authorities including John Cardinal Krol of Philadelphia and Archbishop John Dearden of Detroit. It will also present the reactions of a suburban parish.

### Kavanaugh Announces Wedding

LaJolla, Calif.—(NC)—James J. Kavanaugh, author of the best-selling "A Modern Priest Looks at His Outdated Church," who announced his resignation from the priesthood in October, will be married Dec. 16. Kavanaugh announced that he would marry Patricia Jean Walden, 35, a San Diego nurse he met in August, 1966. The wedding will be witnessed by an Episcopal priest.

## Life in Viet Village; Struggle For Survival

New York —(RNS)—About 3,000 people live in Nam Hai Village near Saigon. There are 500 families, each crowded into a single room with sometimes as many as ten children, chickens, a pig (if they are very fortunate) and an undetermined number of rats.

"One difference between Vietnamese and Americans," according to Sister Lolita, C.S.C., who has just returned here after three months working in Nam Hai, "is that the Vietnamese are not afraid of rats. They eat them."

Sister Lolita's assignment in Vietnam was to conduct a public health survey and set up a

medical dispensary in Nam Hai, which has not previously had any medical facilities of its own. She has returned to the U.S. briefly to give orientation to groups of Sisters who have been made available by their orders for work in Vietnam. She plans to return to Nam Hai as soon as possible to complete her 18-month tour of duty there.

Before going to Vietnam, she was a hospital administrator. She is a part of a pilot team of two nurses, two social workers and a community development person sent to Nam Hai by Catholic Relief Services, an agency of the U.S. bishops for overseas aid. The experience in

Nam Hai will be used by CRS in preparing similar teams to work in other refugee villages and in urban areas. CRS hopes to have eight such teams in the field by June, 1968.

### Their Fourth Town

The villagers of Nam Hai, of whom 80 per cent are Catholic, are now living in their fourth location. Before 1954, the village was near Hanoi. The villagers' left en masse, with hundreds of thousands of other North Vietnamese, during the major exodus which followed.

From 1954 to 1960, the people of Nam Hai lived together in South Vietnam near the Cam-

odian border, but they were driven from this second home by the war. In 1960, they moved to the Saigon area, living in shacks along the Saigon River. Their present village was built by the villagers themselves, with cement donated by the U.S. Agency for International Development, on a site that had formerly been a garbage dump, covered with the aid of bulldozers.

"There is no sanitation in Nam Hai," Sister Lolita said, "and no running water at all. Water is still brought into the village by truck. The roads are all dirt and almost impossible to get through in the monsoon season. A lot of families are

fatherless—the fathers have either been killed or are in the military. Most of the fathers who are still with their families, and some of the mothers, too, work as coolies in Saigon. Some of the children go to school, but only if the families can afford the tuition. There are no public schools."

"The people of Nam Hai are very poor," she said, "and they are tired of moving around so much. They are rice farmers who now have nowhere to grow rice and may never be able to live as farmers again. They have not really become a part of their new surroundings. But they would rather have done

### Health Problems

Medical conditions, which she went there to survey and improve, reflect the poverty and lack of sanitation and medical care in Nam Hai, she said. "There is a lot of upper respiratory infection, which often develops into tuberculosis if it is not treated. You don't expect to see that much tuberculosis in a hot climate. Half the people who have it don't even know it."

"They also suffer from malnutrition and lack of vitamins.



SISTER LOLITA  
—Survey health picture in Viet village.

There is generally enough rice to eat but very little meat or fish. They lack immunization shots for a variety of diseases. I have bubonic plague in Nam Hai—it is carried by the rats. So is typhus."

The rats which are eaten by the villagers of Nam Hai are not chosen indiscriminately, Sister Lolita explained. "They don't eat city rats—only the well-fed rats that have lived in rice fields."

With a dispensary about to be opened and negotiations under way to have a doctor visit the village twice a week, the medical picture is about to be improved, Sister Lolita believes.

At the same time, other members of the CRS team are tackling other problems in Nam Hai. The social workers are developing a child-care center and trying to form day nurseries for parentless children or those whose parents must work away from home. They are also giving the women instruction and counseling in home maintenance techniques and the solution of family problems.

The "development" side of the CRS project is devoted to community problems—securing a water supply, improving roads and perhaps eventually developing specialized industries and crafts which will give the village a basis for trade with other villages.

Sister Lolita said she "couldn't begin to guess" how many villages like Nam Hai there are in South Vietnam. There are over 800 recognized refugee camps, she said, but Nam Hai is not one of them. Because of financial limitations, the South Vietnamese government is only recognizing and aiding a refugee village and give it aid only for about three months after its establishment.

Officially, she said, there are about 800,000 refugees in South Vietnam—that is, persons who have come down from the North. But this figure does not include "tactical refugees"—South Vietnamese who have had to leave their homes because of Vietcong activity. The number of "tactical refugees" may be as high as 2 million, she said.

A thing that bothers her about reporting in Vietnam, she concluded, is the distorted picture of American soldiers that some accounts convey.

From her observation, she said, most of the American soldiers in Vietnam are doing an "outstanding" job of civic action for the people of the country in their spare time.

"I know of one village where the American soldiers set up showers for the people and another where they built a playground," she said. "They are always looking for things they can give to the poor people of South Vietnam—food and soap and even building of medical supplies. Some of them never take time off for themselves and they risk their lives. I have seen them carry materials out to a village, looking so tired... I'm sure that they deprive themselves to get things for the youngsters."

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