

AROUND THE COUNTRY

CHILE: Cold Julys But Warm Hearts



Negro Heads Xavier University

The first layman and the first Negro has been named president of Xavier University of Louisiana, a school having a predominantly Negro enrollment. Norman C. Francis succeeds Sister Maris Ross, S.B.S., who served as president from 1965-68. She has been named head of the university's Education Division. (Religious News Service)

Religious Urged To Publish Financial Data

Mundelein, Ill. — (RNS) — The permanent secretary of the Conference of Major Superiors of Men has suggested that religious orders and communities publish a complete accounting of their assets and liabilities.

Father Boniface L. Wittenbrink, O.M.I., told religious superiors meeting here that repeated charges of church wealth are "a source of malaise and embarrassment to many in the establishment."

Publishing "the indebtedness of religious orders," Father Wittenbrink added, "would, in my judgment, make a significant contribution toward silencing our critics and activating the generosity of our benefactors."

U.N. Helps Build Buddhist Shrine

United Nations, N.Y. — (RNS) — The United Nations is attempting to build the birthplace of Buddha into a shrine comparable in tourist attraction to Moslem, Christian and Jewish shrines around the world.

Secretary General U Thant, himself a devout Buddhist, is the principal promoter of the project. UNESCO is looking into the archeological background of the prospective shrine. The government of Nepal, where Guatama Buddha was born about 2,600 years ago, is marshaling domestic resources to make Lumbini, the birthplace, accessible to millions in the future.

Paulists To Elect Own Leaders

New York — (RNS) — The Paulist Fathers have announced sweeping changes in their governmental structure to allow members to take part in decision making and election of officers.

The religious community is believed to be the first religious order in the United States to endorse popular election of leadership.

Changes in the Paulist constitution which will go into effect in June, 1970, were announced at a press conference here by Father John F. Fitzgerald, C.S.P., superior general. Under the new constitution, his title will be changed to president. The nearly 260 Paulists will elect a president, vice-president and eight consultants. The eleventh member of this Board of Consultants will be appointed by the president and will have the title of First Consultant.

The Rochester Diocese has sent 22 priests and Sisters to missionary duties in South America in recent years. Another five Sisters of St. Joseph and one Sister of Mercy will go to Brazil and Chile respectively this summer.

Here are excerpts from recent letters of Mercy Sister Thomas More (Barbara McGrath), written to her parents, Mr. and Mrs. John McGrath, 21 Parkside Cres., of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, from a mission-parish in the poor section of Santiago, Chile:

By Sr. Thomas More, RSM
It is hard to describe in words what our parish is like. There are 100 blocks of apartment houses with four floors each. These apartments are divided into two sections.

The first is Villa Olympis which houses a middle class group of professional people. We have a chapel that is completely finished in this section. The second is Cruz Gana which houses a lower middle class group. These people are the friendliest and it seems as if this section will be the one most apt to form a living Christian community.

The other two sections of our area are a different type housing. They are small box homes with two rooms and are connected to each other. In Rebecca Matte section we have an uncompleted chapel. There are only four walls and a make-shift roof. Father isn't completing this chapel until 1971. The people here are very poor. A few of them are educated.

The fourth section, Gonzalez, is our "savag" section. The people here are uneducated and very poor. The Communist youth movement is very popular here. In this section we have a complete chapel and a hall adjacent to it. S. Maureen and I will have offices in the hall for awhile.

There are over 400,000 people in this area and 800 more families are coming in steadily each month. One thing for sure, we'll always be able to meet a new face and make a new friend.

Our work in the parish is centered around religious instruction. We help prepare the classes for the catechists who in turn give the classes to groups of 10 children in homes or in the parish center. We are trying to develop a Christian community which means individual contact with each family. After this contact we hope to begin to instruct the adults and give them a deeper understanding of their faith.

The weather in June is still very nice—similar to September and October at home. I wonder how some of these people ever survive the winter. So many live in wooden one-room houses or in homes made of heavy cardboard. Most of these homes have no doors or windows. Our real winter will arrive in July and last until September. It will be without snow but the rain and dampness will make up for it. I'm getting my smile ready and the electric blanket, too.

These people for the most part do not make more than 300-500 escudos a month (\$24-40). I still can't figure out how they make ends meet. Food and clothing prices are equal to U.S. prices. Many have only cold water, a few



Mercy Sister Thomas More, now stationed in Chile, as she waved goodbye to family and friends in June 1966.

have refrigerators and no one owns a car.

Sister Maureen and I are moving into an apartment next week. Most of the apartments have three bedrooms and a combination living-dining room and a kitchen. Usually in all these apartments you will find anywhere from 5 to 12 children in the family.

We will use our apartment for many of the meetings we

have. The apartments that we will move into have been built from money from the Alliance for Progress. I guess we owe the President a thank you for our new home! One of the little chapels is very near us so we won't have far to go for Mass. Anyway we are now used to walking. There were a few days when we began our work that I thought I lost my legs from walking, but now I look on it as good exercise.

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(Bishop Sheen, preaching last Sunday at the centennial ceremonies of St. Patrick's Church in Prattburg, discussed the relationship of parish to its community at the use of church property for neighborhood welfare.)

Age is a very touchy subject. It is considered impolite even to ask a person's age. Children like to seem old — hence they will say, "I am 5 1/2 years old" as if impatient for the maturity of six. Lateness in life, age is hidden. Limited to 39, except when one is very old, such as 90. Then age becomes a subject of boasting.

What then shall we say of parish like Prattburg which is 100 years old? Is it old or is it young? Shall we compare it to an old woman or to a bride? It is both.

It is an old woman because of its relation to the past.

Suppose now that you could have lived at the end of the first century, say about the year 90 A.D., only 60 years after the Resurrection and twenty three years after the martyrdom of Peter and Paul. What would you have called the Church in her infancy?

AROUND

Merger of Parish
Amsterdam, The diocese of Haarlem is merging in central parishes headed by a layman, says a source.

Special Diocese
The Netherlands has sent the papal nuncio to Zwarte Kruis of Haarlem.

The plan includes the merger of the Nicolas church. It was which was started in 1965. Five churches would special programs to area.

The new consolidation of priests, psychologists and social workers.

Unselfish C...
On U...

Montevideo — The archbishop of Uruguay has operated "without personal gain" in a search for rapid, effective solutions to social problems.

Widespread unemployment and rapidly increasing living costs are causing concern to the Latin American continent, a source said, "we see reasons in the fact that the continent is occupied only with being, to the detriment of doing."

The letter warns that it is possible to avoid a situation which would aggravate and cause us to throw hatred out of our hearts.

U.S. Brother Killed In Nigerian War
Dayton, Ohio — (NC) — Missionary Brother Roman Wick, a native of Cleveland, Ohio, was killed (April 18) during the Nigerian civil war. The Society of Mary provincial here was notified by the U.S. State Department.

Brother Roman was killed in a clash between Nigerian federal troops and those of the secessionist Biafra. Brother Wick had been assigned in January of this year to serve as principal of a school in the Missionary Province of Nigeria. The Biafrans are trying to open.

NCC Official to Join Syracuse U. Faculty
Syracuse — (RNS) — Dr. B. W. Marvin, associate general secretary for communication of the National Council of Churches, will join the faculty of the School of Journalism of Syracuse University.

Dean W. C. Clark of the Syracuse School of Journalism that in addition to becoming professor of journalism, expected that Dr. Marvin also direct the school's new health information training program.