

# Maryknoll Team Starts Reshaping Hong Kong Complex

By GERMAINE SWAIN  
(NC News Service)

**Hong Kong**—A team of five Maryknoll missionaries here are embarking on a three-year divide-and-conquer experiment aimed at reshaping their parish complex at Kwun Tong into a "more viable and dynamic Christian community."

As Father John Chioppa, M.M., of Albany, N.Y., the parish's pastor and senior member of the team, can tell you, built-in, inner-city problems flourish like weeds in semi-isolated townships honey-combed with sprawling factories and densely populated housing areas catering to diverse economic and social groups.

The team includes Maryknoll Fathers Chioppa, Thomas Danaher of St. Joseph's, Mo.; Anthony Brennan of Brooklyn, N.Y.; Vincent Corbelli of Rochester, N.Y.; and Thomas B. King of Fairfield, Conn. All were ordained less than 10 years ago and by now speak English with a Cantonese accent.

Kwun Tong is the terminal link in what has been nicknamed "Maryknoll-land"—a chain of five Maryknoll "resettlement" parishes arching from just beyond Kai Tak airport to the east coast of the Kowloon peninsula. Viewed from a hilltop, Kwun Tong does not appear to be one of many building block monuments to Hong Kong's boast that for years it has "led the rest of Asia in the skillful task of packing people."

Yet its population, now more than 220,000, including 11,362 Catholics, has increased tenfold since 1959 and is projected for at least 392,000 by 1971. This figure could zoom, according to some reports that 1,500 escapees are arriving here monthly from Communist China as compared to an average of 500, the usual estimate of illegal monthly entries during the past year.

Under the new setup, two major

resettlement areas will be cut off from St. John the Baptist's, the "mother" parish, and allowed to develop with full parochial authority by their rectors:

Father Brennan at the Sau Mau Ping resettlement area and Father Corbelli at the Kwun Tong area. Father Chioppa remains as pastor at St. John the Baptist's.

## Local Missioner Heads New Parish In Hong Kong

By MARCI LUX

Father Vincent Corbelli, M.M., a 1951 graduate of Aquinas Institute, started his career in missionary work through the influence of a magazine.

(Read the Hong Kong story in the adjoining column.)

While a senior at Aquinas, Father Corbelli found a Maryknoll mission magazine and became interested in their work. When he announced his



FATHER VINCENT CORBELLI

decision to become a priest, Mrs. Corbelli assumed he would become a parish priest. The fact that it would be a parish overseas never occurred to her.

"A Maryknoll missionary!" Mrs. Corbelli exclaimed in a recent interview. "I didn't even know what that was!"

Various people tried to sway him towards diocesan parish work here at home, she said. "But his mind was set. That was his calling."

He attended the Maryknoll Seminary for nine years and was ordained in 1950. After four years spent teaching in Cleveland and Cincinnati, Father Corbelli was sent overseas to Kwun Tong, Hong Kong.

He is now pastor of his own parish in the Kwun Tong area. As yet, the parish is unnamed.

"He wrote to us asking for a suggestion of what to name the parish," Mrs. Corbelli said. "I told him in my letter, it's your parish. But I said we'd all think about it anyway."

In Kwun Tong Father deals with a great many children, grade school and high school age, and has become very impressed with them.

"He writes how good the children are," his mother explained. "They work very hard. The people in his parish are very, very poor. They escaped from Red China and they have absolutely nothing."

Father Corbelli returned to the United States last December for the first time since his transfer overseas for a two-month vacation. While here he performed the marriage of his sister.

John the Baptist parish, assisted by Father Danaher, who also is active in labor work, and Father King.

Ground floors of the resettlement blocks at Kwun Tong and Sau Mau housing nurseries, clinics, sewing schools, catechism classes and social centers run by the Fathers and the Maryknoll Sisters, also double for daily parochial work but are too small for large Sunday Mass attendance.

But now the Maryknoll team can look forward to the development of parishes that are really communities in which the people know one another, see one another, and talk to one another, parishes that are "Christian communities for service and witness."

The axis of the experiment will be

a large government-subsidized boys' secondary school that the Maryknoll team will build at a point contiguous to all three areas.

Equally important will be the Kwun Tong Catholic Center to be erected next to the school. It will have a chapel for 100 to 150, a library and reading room, six to eight offices and as many meeting rooms of various sizes, and living quarters for the priests.

The center will belong to no one area but will be used and supported equally by all three parochial units.

"What do we hope to achieve, in addition to a more dynamic Christian community?" Father Chioppa asked. "For one thing, more effective pas-

toral care and greater opportunity for initiative responsibility on the part of priests, Sisters and others involved in parochial work.

"Naturally, we hope to promote greater participation of the laity... a greater sense of community identification and responsibility and to bring the people more quickly to the idea that they must help to support the parish."

"Much of this, of course, was emphasized at our last Maryknoll Chapter, which pointed out the need to reduce 'oversized' so-called communities to small witnessing and worshiping communities with genuine face-to-face relationships which promote truly personal involvement, adaptability and efficiency."

## Nigerian Hits 'Interference' In Civil War

Brussels — (RNS) — Joseph S. Tarka, Nigeria's commissioner of transport, said here that Churches, and particularly the Roman Catholic Church, have been "interfering in Nigeria's civil war."

He accused them of misrepresenting the dispute and regarding it as "a religious war" with Biafra representing Christianity.

"Everyone seems to think the only Christians in the country are in Biafra," Mr. Tarka said. "I myself am a Catholic. I was born a Catholic, but I object to the Catholic Church interfering in Nigeria."

## Internat



Archbishop Michael Terence Canterbury Cat 462 Anglic

## Theme: The R 500 Bi

By JOHN A. GREZ (NC News Serv)

London — Nearly 500 the Anglican Church from the world have gathered for their equivalent of Vatican II—the 10th Lambeth

Official Catholic and G servers were attending for time since the conference held every 10 years, was convened in 1857.

The general theme is newal of the Church."

The bishops, while pastions and making recom do not have the ultimate ity of laying down new n the worldwide Anglican C only advise, leaving it hierarchies to implement if they wish.

The conference from opening at Canterbury mother church of Aug July 25 until its final st Paul's cathedral, London, will be held in pleasant

## Nine E

New York — (RNS) nine U.S. Episcopal Chu are not at the Lambeth in London.

According to Bishop executive officer of the worldwide communion, the bishops are not attending racial trouble in their di

## Czech A Religion

United Nations, N.Y. —The future of religio in Czechoslovakia dep much on the outcome ball-to-ball confront tween Moscow and Prag

Those Czechoslovak d the United Nations w the liberal policies of Party chief Alexander unprecedented opportuni church if Dukels wins made resumption of policies should the So prevail and settle the tization program of the months.

Visitors here from vaks tell stories of a ple which has tempora past divisions to face u mon threat — a reimpe cruel, Soviet-made syste ideology. Catholics, Communists, fo r m e prisms and they star of yesterday today star so that the nation m Soviet intervention in t life of Czechoslovakia.

There no longer seem concern about the degr alization of its approp There is only a commo to be crushed and pl into the darkness of th decades of Stalinist rul

Recent visitors to Cz say that church attend past few weeks has quiet crowds seeking st determination in prayer are no sermons point Soviet threat People o open manifestations o Soviet mood could p necessary pretext for e Soviet intervention.

A Czech Communist dent at the United Nat ly made a brave attem the issue of Soviet viola ous U.N. resolutions d principles of sovereignt pendence. But he coul ment from Secretary Thant, and eventually w by the Foreign Ministry

## Negro Nuns Set Agenda For Meeting

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — Some 200 Negro nuns from Catholic communities in the U.S. will discuss such issues as "Black Power and Christian Love," and "Responsible Christian Violence" at their meeting here Aug. 17-24.

Father Harold Salmon, whom Archbishop Terence Cooke recently appointed the first black pastor in Harlem, is scheduled to speak on the topic "Catholic Education and the Crisis in Black and White."

Several topics will deal specifically with the problem of the black sister in a predominantly white community of nuns, as well with apostolates of black sisters teaching in white and black areas.

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