Does Thailand Have 20 More Years?

By Father William J. Richardson

Nakhon Phanom, Thailand - There are two Thailands. local residents say-the Thailand of Bangkok, the prosperous and bustling capital with its air-conditioned hotels and shops, and the Thailand of Nakhon Phanom which typifies the remainder of the country, removed from big city progress.

Here in Nakhon Phanom, on the banks of the Mekong River which separates the country from troubled Laos, is where the future of Thailand lies.

This is the great Northeast Territory, Almost 450 miles from Bangkok, it is where the bulk of the country's population lives in thousands of tiny villages scattered throughout the jungle and dense teak

The land is poor and the people are nearly destitute because there is little water for the rice fields outside of the rainy season.

calls for irrigation of this rice-growing and cattle-rais- tory is also the home of Com-

(NC)—The hospital facilities,

electricity and pure water sup-

plies of this small island in

the Yellow Sea of South

Korea's west coast are due to

the untiring efforts of one

He is Father Benedict A.

Zweber, Maryknoll missionary

priest from Lakeville, Minn.,

a soft-spoken man with a big

smile, sandy thinning hair

and a deep tan which comes

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EDITOR'S NOTE: This is Part 3 of seven articles on the Southeast Asian nations of Indonesia, Singapore, Thailand, Vietnam, the Philippines, Taiwan and the subcontinent of India, written by Father William J. Richardson, editor of Maryknoll Publications. A former NC correspondent on Taiwan and currently engaged in a doctoral degree program at the Asian Center at St. John's University, Father Richardson is on an 11-nation tour of Southeast Asia, gathering

ing area. The question is, does

bed hospital that has a TB

ward, operating theater, X-ray

equipment, laboratory, phar-

macy, and is as ecomplete and

modern as any in the Far

The hospital is staffed by

three doctors — a surgeon, an

gynecologist-three register-

ed nurses, a lab and X-ray

With a gift of \$4,000 from

South Korea, Father Zweber

purchased a generator from

the U.S. Army and has set up

an electrification program for

the entire island. The villagers

did the work of erecting pow-

technician, and a pharmacist.

internal medicine man and a

This great Northeast Terri-

easily cross the Mckong River to roam—almost always at from the mountains of Laos, and slip 'inland' to the mountains of Thailand.

The people here call them 'khon ba''-men of the forest-and they are counted in the thousands. One Thai priest who has spent his life time in the area told me that the terrorists frequently have gone into his village to impress young men into their

The people here fear the terrorists, but listen to their promises of a better life. Long neglected by the central government in Bangkok, the Northeast people grasp at any promise of a better life.

These Communist terrorists have been operating in the Northeast for years and have had repeated clashes with both regular troops and the Home Guard—civilians armed by the government to protect their villages.

This raid was the first of its During the rainy season, kind in Thailand and indicawhen tanks and armored pertions are that it can, and probsonnel carriers are almost ably will, happen again.

munist terrorists, who can useless, the terrorists are free

Evewitnesses at a terrorist

meeting in one village told

me that they are sure the

Communists are tipped off to

an impending arrival of gov-

ernment troops. The leader

at one meeting looked at his

watch and said, "It is time to

go." The terrorists left, and

one hour later the troops ar-

rived to engage them. This

would indicate either subver-

sion or corruption in high

The Vietnam war is being

fought from Thailand, where

eight large American air

bases dispatch bombers for

Vietnam and the Ho Chi

Minh trail.

In the past few years, the Thai government has become aware of the dangers in the Northeast, and is now building new roads, sending doctors to the area, and, in general, is trying to change the discouraging conditions in

U.S. Civic Action teams of doctors and medics are working hard for this same end in the villages, but in such a way that the people identify with and give credit to their own Thai government.

which Communism breeds.

The question remains, can Thailand stop subversion in the Northeast before it develops into a Vietnam-style guerrilla war?

But military might is not The war was suddenly brought home to Thai-based enough. The living conditions troops on July 26 when terrorof the people must be imists slipped into the giant proved, or the terrorists will succeed. Once again, it's a complex at Udon airbase and question of poverty and social blew up several U.S. aircraft. iustice.

> NEXT WEEK: Vietnam - A Hospital Under Fire in Kon-

Aim of Ecumenism Deaths Not Conversion

J. C. Graham

John C. Graham of 255 Birr Emory, Va. —(NC)— Bishop Joseph A. Durick, apostolic ad. St., a veteran of World War I ministrator of the Nashville, old Sagamore Hotel, died Sept. Tenn., diocese, told a gathering 10. His funeral was held last of Methodist ministers here ecu- Friday at Immaculate Concepmenism' must be concerned tion Church.

Survivors include his widow, chiefly with reconciliation and Martha; a son, John, and three grandsons; one sister, Mrs. The bishop, speaking before Frank Dunning, and several the Ministers' Convocation, Hol- nieces and nephews.

"Vatican II does not speak of 'return to Rome.' It speaks of 'restoring unity' and of the 'rec onciliation of all Christians.'

ston Annual Conference, United

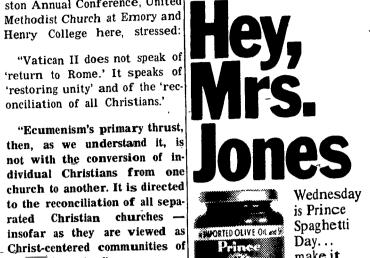
Henry College here, stressed:

Methodists Told

pot conversion.

"Ecumenism's primary thrust, If the U.S. pulls out of then, as we understand it, is Vietnam, Thailand hasn't a not with the conversion of individual Christians from one church to another. It is directed to the reconciliation of all separated Christian churches insofar as they are viewed as Christ-centered communities of love and service."

> "Therefore, most simply put —the predominant principle of Christian unity, as understood, is this: That as all the Churches draw closer to Christ, they will,



make it official SPAGHETTI with Sauce Prince Sauces.

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Time to Hi

THE PRO

By Barbara Ward

In the wake of the Czech some people may argue that : occupation with the plight of ing peoples, any commitment ple of "far-away" continents, a of diversion from the task taining communism are a da waste of time.

But there are two reason this attitude is mistaken.

The first is that communi best be "contained" in the ring of poverty-stricken, countries by the demonstrati social justice can be secured resorting to communism.

After the demonstration of suppression in Central Europ complete desperation will di veloping peoples toward comr Those who fear communism, in ica and elsewhere, have a qu chance to remove it from the provided they carry on and i the effort to destroy the e which communism feeds --hunger, injustice and irresp wealth.

The second reason to press development aid is that a great people in the West are not co that the selfish use of wea post-colonial policies of the world ccan be excused, sim cause Moscow behaves badly.

The difficulty we encount - among liberal congressme versity spokesmen and, abo among the young - is their s that Western aid is given to ing countries not to assist the ine growth but to serve Wes terests, to gain support for policies, and to keep out hostil which, in this context, usually Communists.

In its more extreme for criticism contains the asserti

Church ar

Frustration

By Father P. David Fir

Colgate Rochester Divinity opened its new academic week with an orientation day incoming students. On hand day of briefings were the mer its excellent faculty and a har

clergy, both Protestant and from various situations of known today as "urban minis A discussion of the fermen the active ministry due to c patterns on the local ecumen racial scene, in which I was pr to share, was lively and ever heated at times. There is no my mind, after discussion

these, that the Christian Ch its struggle to find out how carry on the ministry of Ch His Gospel in a world of reve is a very exciting place to b days.

But like all human instituti time of rapid cultural char Church faces the struggle of full of widely differing opin

It is only a year and a h Bishop Sheen bravely placed the position of vicar of urba try for the Rochester Catho cese. It has been a year an filled with massive frustrat regards communication and resources, but balanced wit

doses of creative hope for t ent and future of the urban This combination of frustra hope, I believe, is sympton the ambivalence of the city

This ambivalence we have call the "urban crisis". Charles Abrams the s wrote a book a few years ago he said: "Our civilization is

ing urban, and the advance in is one of the most spectacula phenomena of our time. The ecome the frontier." In this vein, the General A

of the United Presbyterian last year issued policy guidel the development of its missi Church for the next ten year is its opening paragraph: "Un Church engages in mission toward metropolitan society, engaged in mission to this porary world. Therefore the must search for the factors t it can be guided in develor metropolitan mission strategy

Both these documents are that the reigning human li today is an "urban life style" the Church must minister to banized man or its ministry be understood or accepted. Th style of life encompasses mo just a geographical location.

.The pioneer days of the ru dividualist like the patriarch TV show "Bonanza" are lor The days are over when th merchant was king; when t family could live in relative i

Ours is a fantastically com society where all, rich and po dependent to a greater or le gree upon one another.

The life of an individual a family is deeply affected by vironment in which he lives. vironment is made up of inter-related set of communi political, social, economic, c religious. For the Church to n

material for a book.

entire area and, when completed 20 years from now, will The Mekong River Project - turn the Northeast into a rich

Father Zweber makes is-

land calls aboard the Gil Mo-

Ho, a 40-foot motor launch he

has been using while his own

proved over this past winter

it was too old for the Yellow

Sea's pounding waves — is re-

That boat, the Star of the

Sea, was the sea-going exten-

sion of Father Zweber's Bless-

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Thailand have 20 years?

Tek Juk Do, a magnificient 60-

throughout the island.

The people pay about 18 cents a month for the electricity. So far almost all of the people on the island, about 1,000 families, receive electricity from the generator.

Still another facet of Father Zweber's program is to provide clean, pure water for the people. Just above his mission station there are two springs. Working with about 50 islanders, he has constructed a large 30,000-gallon water tank which will hold pure water for drinking and also for irrigating the fields.



Diocese 'Project Equality'

Pittsburgh -- (NC) -- The Pittsburgh diocese has pledged its multi-million dollar purchasing power to equal opportunity in all aspects of employment as Project Equality of Western Pennsylvania, Inc., announced its formal launching here

Project Equality, the nationwide interfaith program sponsored by the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice with headquarters in Chicago, place; the purchasing power of religious organizations behind a drive for fair employment practices. The program insists that all firms doing business with participating religious jurisdictions maintain a strict policy of non-discrimination in hiring and purchasing.

Center Named for Dr. King

Seattle -- (NC) -- Archbishop Thomas A. Connolly of Seattle dedicated the archdiocesan new day care center in the city's ghetto area and named it for Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., slain civil rights

The new center will have facilities for the care of 30 children with accommodations gradually expanding to the handling of 50 youngsters.

Sisters Elect African Nun

(RNS) --- For the first time since its foundation in 1944 the 87-member community of the Sisters of the Annunciation have elected an African as their superior general.

Mother Mary Bernadette is the new mother general of the religious congregation which until recently was directed by the Missionary Sisters of Notre Dame.

Catholic Agency Denies Hiring Bias

Newark (NC) — The Mt. Carmel Guild, social welfare agency of the Newark diocese, has denied that it is guilty of discrimination in hiring contractors and workers for its housing project in the ghetto section of Englewood.

The charge was leveled by the Bergen County Community Builders, a group of Negroes active in the building trades.

Joseph A. Brown, associate housing directorfor the guild, said that the project was designed by a black architect and that people of the area. who will be given preference when-rentals start, have been consulted on the design of the buildings.

He said the guild began accepting employment applications from Negroes in the area even before groundbreaking ceremonies were held and that two subcontractors have been engaged for excavation

The guild is also involved in building projects for low-income families in other areas of the archdiocese. A special housing department has been established for this purpose.

Missionary Changing Life on Korean Island K. of C. Votes Backing draw closer to Christ, they will, by the same token, more holily, draw closer unto each other," er poles, up and down the sides of the mountains Of Papal Authority his own theologian or his own

Anaheim, Calif.—(RNS)— The Knights of Columbus confessor. pledged their wholehearted support of the Pope and the bishops "in all matters. of Christian faith and Chris-

tian morality. The Roman Catholic fraternal order's vote of confidence was given at the close of the 86th annual meeting of the supreme council of the 1.2million-member organization.

The 400 delegates attending the gathering of the order's top legislative body here based their pledge on recommendations offered by Supreme Knight John W. De-Devitt in his address to the main dinner on the opening day of the three-day convention. The following reasons for the pledge are similar to those outlined by Mr. Mc.

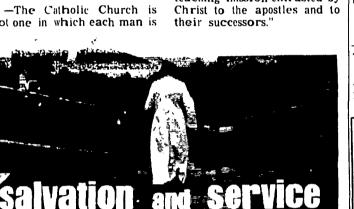
not one in which each man is their successors."

—The Pope "is divinely charged with forming not just

his own conscience but with guiding the conscience of all members of Christ's Church." -The implications of the

Gospel of Christ "are not so GUTTERS, Galvanized-aluminum, Free estimates, work guaranteel, Frank Streb, 328-6305. much determined by poularity polls of today as by the constant interpretation of the Church throughout the ages." The pledge concluded:

"Let the world know that it is the firm resolve of the Knights of Columbus to pledge anew their adherence to the pastoral direction of the supreme pontiff and of the bishops in all those matters pertaining to the benign discipline of Christian faith and Christian morality, as wholly in consonance with the -teaching mission entrusted by



"Not That Again!"

We see pictures of it every day; we read newspaper reports about it, we hear discussion on it. But have we Christians become insensitive to it? — the destructor of body and spirit, the destroyer of hope and fulfillment: POVERTY. For us, poverty has become just another word, used and reused so BOOK OF unusual grape recipes, \$1.00 that the reality it expresses no longer moves us to compassion.

We are transfer of the the massive it hours. We are turned off to the message it bears.

We read of starving children as we read the stock market bulletins. We view TV reports depicting starvation and misery in our own country and around the world, then go to bed and fall peacefully to sleep. Today poor people are merely numbers, statistics to be recorded and then forgotten. If only it were possible for the reality of the situation to seep into our minds, we might then be moved to act on behalf of others.

It might be well for us, then, to reflect on the actual conditions of poverty, to experience, through our imagination, the misery and hopelessness of the poor, to sense their futility, their embarrassment, their loss of personal dignity.

What is poverty? It is no running water, no electricity. means of communication or transportation. Poverty is a handful of beans for tonight's supper. It is one blanket, or no blankets, and a road-side curb for a bed. It is a city ghetto and a country shack. Poverty is being without necessities as well as conveniences.

Poverty is a father's shame in beggin food for his children. It is knowing that for some people around the world living in an American ghetto would be a luxury. It is Biafran children, sombre as old men, waiting to die.

Poverty is a chronic disease and no medicine. It is a sick child and no doctor within 50 miles. It is 25 to 30 years less to live. Poverty is staying away from school, because there is no school. It is paying farmers in some countries not to grow food, while in other countries millions are

Poverty is an old man who cannot dream, a youth who cannot see beyond today. It is the inability to believe in oneself, the pathetic refusal to accept the challenge of life. Poverty is the frustration of knowing that your children will never see a better day.

Try to imagine this life—not to make your own life miserable—but in order to sympathize with the suffering of others. We are all brothers, united in Christ under a common Father. As members of this world family, as in any family, we are obliged to care for and protect our brothers around the world. We must be instillers of faith and hope. We must give the poor not a way out, but a way in to life-with the haope to accept the challenge of today and the courage to believe in the future. But we must share in the suffering of others, not with paternalism or condescension, but with the campassion and gentleness of Christ who could alleviate the suffering of others without compromising their personal dignity. The question is how to accomplish all this. The answer is

simple, if indirect. We, who cannot follow Christ to the mission lands, can support, both spiritually and materially, those who do. Missionaries represent us, as members of the missionary Church, to all the poor around the world. How effective the missionary will be in alleviating the misery and despair of the poor, will depend largely on how generous we are, how sensitive we are to those in need. Now-what does the word POVERTY mean to you?

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