

The Word from

MARSABIT, KENYA

This diocese, created at the end of 1964, has started from zero and it is now moving slowly and steadily ahead, despite the many difficulties we have to face. First, a desperate human situation for our primitive tribes which are living in an arid, dry and hot country where lack of water is a most serious problem at all times. Besides, they have suffered now for five years of drought and hunger from many diseases, malnutrition and starvation.

Among these simple, primitive people the Church has started 16 mission centers, 41 primary schools and 26 others of various kinds in which we are educating 5,221 children and young people.

We are working at a special new method of evangelization of our nomadic people by adapting our catechism to their mentality and expression, and hope to be able to reap a good harvest from it soon.

There is also a new type of mission in which the missionaries become nomads and lead a nomadic life with our people. The result is very encouraging indeed.

BHAMO, BURMA

I am not resigning for health reasons alone. In fact, my chief reason is to make room for an indigenous bishop and to leave him perfectly free to follow his own initiative in running the Church here. We Columbans are old vintage. But we are foreigners; our outlook can never be the same as that of people born into the local culture. Only they can really talk about integrating the Gospel into the life of the people. Our relations with our Kachin priests and with the laity have been very happy indeed. They do not want us to leave; we are attached to them, so neither do we want to go away.

I can assure you that the Church here appreciates Mass stipends, not just because they are a means of supporting the clergy but also because the giving of stipends can build up the faith of a people. I believe it has done that in the past for the people of the U.S. I often hold up the example of American Catholics in that matter for my people.

JUAZEIRO, BRAZIL

Presently, we have seven North American priests working in the diocese. I, being Brazilian and a new bishop consecrated only last February, do not have an easy task in arranging help for this diocese which is still very much a mission diocese. It is for this reason that I am so grateful to the Society for the Propagation of the Faith for the extraordinary help that they have just sent me. I want to thank the good Catholics of North America because I know they are very generous to the missions.

This money will be used for courses for training lay catechists, maintaining mothers clubs where we treat such basic matters as catechism, health and hygiene, human relations, cooking, baking, sewing, and for preparatory courses for extraordinary lay ministers of the sacraments of baptism and the Holy Eucharist.

KUCHING, MALAYSIA

Many villages are on the "waiting list" for instruction before baptism. Although we have some 30 priests, 21 catechists and many volunteer part-time catechists and prayer leaders, we cannot meet all the requests of the non-Catholics for instruction and baptism.

We are planning now to open a center to train lay leaders for villages so that the village Christians may be able to organize themselves for prayer and for mutual spiritual care, for the priests are too few to care for them.

The practice of the Catholics is generally very good. In villages, where priests visit once a month or every three months, the attendance at Mass is almost 100 per cent.



Oppressed by heavy burdens, the poor of the Missions stand in need of hope.

Preaching the Good News of love and peace, the Church is often the sole source of comfort for the poor and hopeless of a hard world.

The Mission Church is ever concerned about its children. Orphanages, maternity centers, education in hygiene and nutrition for young mothers are all part of the Church's mission in helping children to grow in an atmosphere of security, health and love.



The darkness of defeat and despair casts its shadow over two-thirds of the world.

The Mission Church says, "there is One Who cares." And in His name the Church labors in 900 poor Dioceses of the world.

For over 155 years, the Society for the Propagation of the Faith has played a major role in supporting the Mission Church.

