



Father Amann, left, and Father Corbelli, right, establish parish sister relationship as St. Matthew's parishioners look on.

## Hamlin Parish Has Hong Kong 'Sister'

St. Elizabeth Ann Seton parish in Hamlin has established a "sister" relationship with the parish of St. Matthew in Tuen Mun, New Territories, just outside of Hong Kong. Both are recently established parishes and the relationship promises mutual prayer and support.

St. Elizabeth pastor, Father Bill Amann, visited the Far East area earlier this year and compared notes with Father Vincent Corbelli, also a founding pastor. The son of Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Corbelli of Rochester, he has been a Maryknoll missionary in Hong Kong for more than 20 years.

When Father Corbelli was home two years ago on sabbatical, Father Amann and Father Tony Valente, Strong Memorial Hospital chaplain and high school classmate of Corbelli, planned this visit and jaunt into the People's Republic of China. The missionary expressed the options he might have of starting a new parish or of working to form strong Christian lay leadership in the existing structures. The reality is he is doing both, according to Father Amann.

The two pastors, in discussing the challenges and methods of community-building, found striking similarities and some dramatic differences. Both parishes were necessitated by population shifts; SEAS in Hamlin, because of the growing number of city workers moving beyond the suburbs (the largest growth in Monroe County along with the greatest increase in children population); St. Matthew's in Tuen Mun because of the British gov-

ernment's moving of the throngs from the sampans, junks and shanties along the harbor into high-rises that cluster the hillsides around Hong Kong.

"Wall-to-wall people," Father Amann said, people with no place to go but up, because the Hong Kong area is surrounded by Communist China. Construction of high-rises is going on at a phenomenal rate, at varying economic levels. Father Corbelli pointed out one cluster which will house 20,000, another for 40,000, another for 70,000 -- many of them one-room apartments. The potential of the area is 550,000 people, served formerly by the mother parish of Holy Redeemer.

Some 4,000 are baptized now and Father Corbelli was pleased with the 100 families who registered in the first weeks. (The first name of the new parish was Transfiguration, the name of this diocese's newest parish in Pittsford but inasmuch as the feast day is the same as that of the mother church, Holy Redeemer, the new parish chose St. Matthew.)

As for priorities, the new Tuen Mun pastor listed community-building first. He described the situation as a "sitting duck" insofar as folks are all strangers to one another and really want their own community. Most people work 1 1/2 hours away and must use expensive public transportation. Father Amann noted a similar situation with the folks in the Brockport-Hamlin-Clarkson area.

"Christian formation" is the second priority in Tuen Mun -- not simply education

but genuine, thorough development of "followers of Christ." The Rochester diocese recently urged all education committees to become "Christian Formation Committees."

Finally, service to all in need is basic to any community in the Hong Kong area. Hamlin also reaches out to migrants and other needs in its area and tithes its income to respond beyond. St. Matthew's received part of SEAS tithe recently.

During their visit, Fathers Amann and Valente were thrilled to concelebrate Mass (Chinese) with Father Corbelli and with the parishioners in their school hall which serves as their church. The British government funds 80 percent of the building and faculty of such schools.

After Mass, Father Amann presented Father Corbelli and his people with a certificate of charter membership in SEAS, along with a first class relic of St. Elizabeth Ann Seton and medals blessed by Pope John Paul II.

A striking dissimilarity between the two parishes is the cloud hanging over the whole of Hong Kong and the New Territories caused by the fact that Communist China takes over the whole area in 1997 when the British treaty ceases. Property value is dropping, businesses are moving out and the Church is wary, though strong.

Upon his return, Father Amann played the Chinese Our Father at weekend Masses in Hamlin then invited the congregation to join their brothers and sisters in Tuen Mun in song.



High rises fill the bill for burgeoning population in Hong Kong area.

## Hiroshima Remembered

A ceremony commemorating the victims of the first atomic bombing will be held 7:30 p.m., Aug. 6 at the Interfaith Chapel of the University of Rochester, River Campus.

The program, sponsored by Voices for Peace of the Rochester Peace and Justice Education Center, will include a reading of the atomic bombing and the movie, "Button, Button."

The date marks the 39th anniversary of the atomic bombing of Hiroshima.

"As we move further in time from that tragedy and closer to a possible war in which thousands of Hiroshimas will occur, we must intensify both our mourning for the hundreds of thousands of past victims of the atomic bomb, and our efforts to prevent hundreds of millions from ever suffering and dying similarly," a flyer on the occasion stated.

## Antique Cars On Display

The Genesee Valley Antique Car Society will present its 24th annual and class car show from 11 a.m. to 4 p.m., Sunday, Aug. 5 at the RIT campus on Jefferson Road.

Cars dating from the early 1900s up to 1969 will be displayed. A 1925 Selden fire truck built in Rochester will be a highlight. Admission is \$2, children under 12 free.

## Blue Army Vigil

Father Ronald Tangen, a priest of the diocese of San Pablo in the Philippines who runs Victory Mission, Inc., a book distributorship from his parents' home in Brookings, S.D., an author and preacher, will open a special vigil for the Blue Army of Our Lady of Fatima, 8 p.m., Friday, Aug. 3 at Holy Rosary Church. The vigil will continue to midnight. Fathers Nicholas Arioli and Frederick Bush will also lead the rites.

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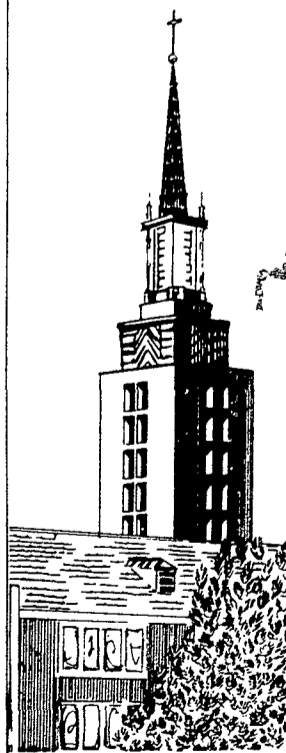
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