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### CSSP Newsletter-No.9 (1970)

Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers

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June 20th, 1970

No 9

27A-57-9

NOMINATION OF PROVINCIAL SUPERIORS

Belgium: Father Raymond Maenen - for second three-year period.  
 Ireland: Father Christopher O'Brien - for first three-year term.

PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS

France: French Government recognises "autonomous" French Province of the Congregation.

A decree published in the official Gazette of the French Republic under the date March 9th/10th, 1970 contains information of <sup>late</sup> interest to the Congregation as a whole. According to the text of the decree: "the autonomous Province of the Holy Ghost Congregation in France, based on 30, rue Lhomond, Paris, is legally recognised and shall henceforth be governed by the statutes attached to this present decree".

With this statement, a long period in the history of our congregation comes to an end, a period which goes back to the very inception of the Holy Ghost Society in 1703! During the course of 267 years many changes took place; the history of the house in rue Lhomond provides an introduction to modern French history. Swept away by the confiscations at the time of the Revolution, it was restored by Napoleon, only to be taken back by him during a fit of pique. At the Restoration of the Monarchy the Society was recognised once more by the State, and this recognition was confirmed by the Republic in 1901.

Considerable changes had taken place in the structure and membership of the Congregation during the 20th century. Fully-developed provinces and numerous mission districts made it imperative that the Generalate should take its place among the other international institutes whose headquarters are found in Rome. The decision to move to Rome, taken at the General Chapter of 1962 was finally realised in 1966 when the General Administration came to Monte Mario.

As a result of this important development it was realised that the French Province should continue to enjoy the legal advantages hitherto granted to the Congregation in France. Hence a long and arduous series of negotiations involving the Holy See, the French Government and the Congregation, which finally led to the decree referred to above.

In practice the State recognises the French Provincial Superior and his Council as the legal governing body of the Congregation in France. As a direct result, the Provincial will be henceforth elected by the Provincial Chapter. And the first of these elections will take place this July during the first Chapter of the "autonomous Province of the Holy Ghost Congregation in France". Though these changes are primarily juridical, they do affect the evolution of government in our congregation. This was foreseen during the recent General Chapter; and, as in the case of Holland, represents a further application of the principle of subsidiarity to our structure of government.

Holland: Dutch Province re-structures government - important session of Provincial Chapter.

The Dutch Provincial Chapter has been taking place in the form of short sessions which allow greater scope for reflection, preparation and discussion. During sessions held this year on January 15-16 and 30-31, the question of new structures of government was discussed. Two systems were compared: the traditional form - a Provincial Superior assisted by his council - monarchic in character; a newer, more collegial concept of government in which a group works under the chairmanship of the Provincial Superior.

As a result of this debate, a study group was appointed and given the task of producing a position paper on government for the Chapter. The result of their work was a document which recommended the adoption of the second system outlined above. According to this concept of government, the highest authority in the Province is the Provincial Chapter. During the period between the Chapter sessions authority resides in a five-member college or executive group, of which the Provincial Superior is chairman and coordinator. In other words, the biblical concept of authority which is collegial at every level, has been applied to the government of the circumscription. This new approach to the problem of administering the Province has been accepted in principle by the Dutch confreres.

Accordingly the five-member college will be elected in the following manner: a straw-vote among all the members of the Province took place at the beginning of February. Each voter was asked to provide 5 names in order of importance. The first 30 names at the head of this poll will be presented to the electors for the second ballot. Once again all the members of the Province are asked to vote for two lists of five names each; the first indicates the voter's first choice, the second provides a list of substitutes.

These names will be submitted to the members of the Provincial Chapter meeting during the period, June 10th to 20th. The delegates are 36 in number, and have been empowered to elect the collegial governing body of the circumscription. This form of consultation by means of an "electoral College" is foreseen in CDD 197-B, and has been adopted with the approval of the General Administration, "ad experimentum". The approval of the General Council is needed to confirm the election.

Of the 36 delegates to the Chapter, 7 are "ex officio" members. These include the Provincial Superior, the 1st Assistant and the five Principal Superiors of the mission circumscriptions. They will decide a number of important questions concerning the function and jurisdiction of the five-member executive group. Among the more important problems to be resolved: how many of the members of the college shall be full-time executives? what are the precise duties and rights of functionaries such as bursars, and those appointed to supervise formation at provincial level?

Ireland: News of the Irish Missionary Union.

At the meeting of the Executive Council to be held on June 2nd, the following subjects were listed for discussion: Appointment of a committee to study a Centre of Research and Mission Studies, and an Institute of Missiology at Seminary and University level. Directors of the larger missionary seminaries will be called on for advice and help in the setting up of these bodies. The Union

would be grateful for comments and suggestions concerning these projects.

A copy of the Union Newsletter, dated May 1st, 1970 contains a list of short courses which will be held in Ireland and Britain during the Summer and Autumn of this year. Few of the courses are specifically missionary in content, but could prove useful to missionaries on leave who wish to be up-dated in a number of important fields such as community development, communications, catechetics, liturgy and theology in general.

Preparations are nearly complete for the Missionary Course to be held at Glenart from September 6th to October 2nd, 1970. It will be staffed by members of the principal "sending" groups in Ireland. The demand for places at this course is sufficient to warrant the organisation of a second session in November of this year. Further plans for 1971 are already in course of preparation. Information can be obtained from the Secretary, Irish Missionary Union, 75 Merrior Square, Dublin 2.

Canada: District of Ontario prepares for District Chapter.

All the members of the District assembled in a retreat house from December 27th to January 2nd, 1970, to study the Chapter Directives and Decisions. A panel was formed composed of Father McCarthy, Principal Superior, and Fathers O'Sullivan and M. De Verteuil to "face the confreres". For two and a half days the Chapter ideas and decisions were carefully dissected.

All declared that the documents came alive for them. Lively discussion arose from the panel's expose of each document, a proof of the confreres' growing awareness of the dynamism underlying the CDD., a dynamism which is easily overlooked by those who glance through the text!

The remainder of the week was devoted to an examination of some of the more important problems of the District, particularly the question of the small harvest of vocations gleaned since the District began. One was impressed by the candour and objectivity with which the confreres questioned the relevance of the works hitherto undertaken, and their relationship to the missionary end of the District. The District declared itself determined to implement the decisions of the General Chapter.

Since all the members of the circumscription were present, this meeting could have been declared a Chapter, with its decisions binding on the Provincial Superior. However, it was decided that a Provincial Chapter deserved more careful preparation, and that decisions should not be taken unless the agenda had been drawn-up and circulated a long time in advance of the sessions. Fr. McCarthy however, said that he would act on the motions which had received an unhesitating majority.

One of the last motions, passed unanimously, was that the study week be considered as the District Annual Retreat; the person who proposed the motion said that he was making it in all sincerity, having experienced more spiritual profit during this week than during any retreat he had ever done.

Victoria (B.C.) Bishop publishes report on the state of his diocese.

Despite the uncertainty of the times, we can be sure of one thing: the Church is entering the age of public accountability. It

may in time, become commonplace for a bishop to publish the five-year report on the state of his diocese, but at the moment such a report is news. The one we refer to here may well be the first to be published in the history of the Church.

Bishop Remi De Roo, 46 year-old bishop of Victoria, British Colombia, recently published a lengthy report on conditions in his diocese. The document is also signed by the chairman of the Priests' Senate and by the co-chairmen of the Diocesan Pastoral Council. All aspects of life in the local church are considered in this report which is intended for the faithful as well as the Vatican. Furthermore, the financial state of the diocese is explained and exact figures given. The candour and sincerity of this document is not surprising when one considers that it results from the initiative of a bishop whom John Tracy Ellis considers one of the most prophetic bishops in the Catholic world.

Germany: The second session of the Provincial Chapter has been announced. It should begin on September 21st and last about two weeks. Pre-capitular commission reports should be sent in by the 1st of August.

United States - East: A letter dated June 12th, 1970 announcing a second round of consultation for the election of a Provincial Superior, has been sent to the confreres. They are asked to vote for their choice from among the first five names from the last ballot.

Nigeria: Diocese of Calabar.

The Holy Father has accepted the resignation of Bishop J. Moynagh, Bishop of Calabar. Most Reverend Brian Davis Usanga, Titular Bishop of Ubaba, has been nominated to the See of Calabar (L'Osservatore Romano, May 31st, 1970).

District of Kabba holds novel retreat.

The confreres of the District of Kabba made their annual retreat this year at Obudu, a mountain resort near the border between Nigeria and the Cameroons. A government rest-house which forms part of the cattle-ranch of Obudu was reserved by the District, and so privacy was guaranteed, while the climate of the plateau allows relaxation and the change of air needed on such occasions. There was no retreat-master in the traditional sense of the term; a number of the fathers undertook to give conferences based on the Chapter Directives. Agreement was reached on the importance of establishing regional communities for those living alone.

The retreatants were delighted with this new approach, and felt sure it would give strength and vitality to their community structure. They were unanimous in stating that they found the CDD relevant to their life and work.

Cameroons: Jehovah Witnesses banned in Federal Republic

In virtue of a Presidential Decree of May 13th, 1970, the Association of Jehovah Witnesses has been declared illegal throughout the Federal Republic. With 50,000 adherents, the Cameroons was headquarters of the organisation in Central Africa. The Regional Ministry was located at Douala, and last year a well-organised assembly was held in that town.

The Federal Government objects to the movement on the basis

of lack of civic spirit, and is the second African State (Gabon was the first) to outlaw the movement. This action on the part of the government seems to meet with general agreement on the part of the population.

Dahomey: Congress on African traditional religions.

A symposium on the cultural values of African traditional religions will take place at Porto-Novo from August 16th to 22nd. Christian and Islamic influences will also be considered within the context of these religions. For further information contact the Secretary General of the conference: Présence Africaine, 48 rue Descartes, Paris V.

East Africa: Bibliography of Tanzanian History.

A bibliography of early documentation concerning Tanzania from 1799-1899 has been published by Dr. A. Roberts of the University of Zambia. A number of entries concern our early history on the East Coast of Africa.

District of Kenya: The Golden Jubilee of Kilungu Mission in the Diocese of Machakos, Kenya was celebrated on May 17th, 1970. As part of the celebration, Bishop R.S. Ndingi consecrated the new church of SS. Peter and Paul at Kikoko.

Mauritius: Inter-Church meeting on Communications

Forty journalists and communication specialists representing Catholic and Protestant Churches in the Indian Ocean, met for a study-conference from May 20th - 30th. The themes discussed were as follows: 1) ecumenical collaboration as a more effective way of spreading the Gospel; 2) liberty in the field of information with a view to serving the public and resisting pressure from economic and financial interests; 3) the creation of a Coordinating Office for religious information in the Indian Ocean area - this office would exchange information and serve as a press agency on a genuinely professional basis.

Brazil: Twenty parishes to be run entirely by the Sisters

Recent information coming from this vast region confirms the impression we always had that the Brazilian Church is in the forefront of courageous apostolic initiatives. Twenty of the 5,400 parishes will soon be in the capable hands of the Sisters, according to a recent report published in the The Tablet. They will be allowed to preach, catechise, baptise, preside at funerals and distribute communion. This work is additional to their normal activities in the field of education, medical services and social welfare!

#### Missionaries and Development-Aid

On January 8th, 1970 a group of Oblate missionaries from several South American countries, together with their co-workers, presented a memorandum to the Canadian government. The subject of their document was more effective aid to the people of Latin America.

The memorandum has received an extremely warm reception from all quarters of the Canadian press, radio and television. A copy was presented by Dom Helder Camara, archbishop of Recife, to the Holy Father during a private audience. The Brazilian prelate was

careful to underline the fact that never before has a document of this nature shown such a grasp of the situation and needs of Latin America.

The truth is all too evident in an observation made by Leopold Senghor, president of Senegal, that "rich countries become richer and poor countries poorer". Aid from rich countries can only benefit emerging nations when it truly helps the latter to emerge. We know only too well that this is not always the case. This memorandum, which is certainly valid for Latin America, has equal validity throughout the entire Third World. Hence the immense interest and the repercussions in both French- and English-speaking Canada. It should be read in conjunction with the documents and resolutions issued by the African Caritas organisations during their meeting in Rwanda this year.

Whenever mention is made of the under-development of Latin America, says the Canadian memorandum, a question is unavoidably asked: "What has Latin America done with all the aid that it has received during the past 15 years? An article entitled "When aid does not help" in the Economist para America Latina, of September 8th, 1967, demonstrates with telling statistics and graphs that the so-called aid to Latin America is far from being as much of an aid as is generally believed. The aid is often by international trade agreement, a field in which the law of the jungle is still in force as between the developed and developing countries. A proviso is often attached to a grant stipulating that goods procured by means of the grant must be purchased from the donor country.

In this way, the aid supplied by Australia, Canada, the United States and Japan carries such a condition affecting from 60% to 80% of the credits allowed. And, as we have already shown, falling prices of primary commodities on the world market cause the "aid" to be considerably devalued. As for the vaunted benefits derived from private foreign investments, the Economist para America Latina thinks that they should be taken with quite a bit of salt...

### SECOND ALL-AFRICA BISHOPS' SYMPOSIUM

The second all-Africa Bishops' Symposium will be held at Abidjan, Ivory Coast, from August 18th to 24th this year. The first was held at the end of July last year, on the occasion of the Pope's visit to Kampala.

Two main themes will be given special attention: the problems of priests and of catechists. Father Teo Van Asten, Superior General of the White Fathers, has been asked by the Symposium's President, Cardinal Zoungrana of Upper Volta, to prepare the background material on the problems of priests. This is being done with the aid of questionnaires sent out to the different Episcopal Conferences. Father Shorter of the Gaba Pastoral Institute, Uganda, is preparing the documentation on the subject of catechists. Our readers will remember that this same question of catechists was the theme of the recent Plenary Assembly of Propaganda Fide in Rome (cf. Documentation-CSSp, June, 1970).

### SOUTHERN AFRICA URBAN CONSULTATION

Eight Catholics were among the 44 delegates from 7 countries at the second conference organised by the "Southern Africa Urban Consultation" in Salisbury, Rhodesia from April 22nd to 26th. The countries represented were: Lesotho, Malawi, Rhodesia, South Africa, Swaziland and Zambia. "The Church and Rapid Urban Growth in South-

ern Africa" was the theme of the symposium. Each country gave its report on the present situation, with its problems, and the attempts of the different Churches to find solutions. Five commissions examined the specific problems of social and cultural change; civic responsibility; employees and employers; youth; communications.

Delegates were able to inspect the Salisbury School of Social Work, as well as the Youth Centre at Highfields, a low-cost housing settlement for 2,400 families at Kambazumi, and a hostel for 100 working girls, built by the Methodists in collaboration with other Churches.

The members of the Conference drafted a letter to the heads of the various Churches in Rhodesia, encouraging them in their stand against the Land Tenure Act. At the end of the meeting, one delegate from each country was appointed as a member of a "contact" group which will meet each year, while the "Consultation" will meet only every two or three years.

### THIRD WORLD STUDENTS IN EUROPE

Britain was the host this year to the International Conference of Chaplains to Overseas Students. Launched in 1961, it was re-organised after the Vatican Council. The Conference links together the chaplains in European countries working for university students from Africa, Asia and Latin America. This year's meeting, the first to be held in Britain, brought together the central committee and delegates representing ten nationalities.

Amongst the points studied were the means of contacting students when they first arrive in Europe. This is often difficult because the ecclesiastical and other authorities in their country of origin do not always contact chaplains the "receiving" country.

In England there is a national chaplain, Father P. Bourne who is responsible to a member of the hierarchy. Besides, the hostel at Portland Rise, under the direction of Father D'Arcy, is a student centre which caters for the needs of a multitude of students every year. Dublin has its "Overseas Students' Club", and similar structures exist in other university centres.

West Germany would seem to be particularly well-organised to handle the problems of foreign students. Misereor is active in providing a number of scholarships for African and Asian students. And though there are no hostels in the Federal Republic, the chaplains organise seminars where Third World students can meet and study current problems and overseas development.

A characteristic of the work in Austria is Cardinal König's insistence that Catholic chaplains should help other Christian and non-Christian students, amongst them the Moslems, who have no chaplain or equivalent social worker of their own.

One fact emphasised in all the national reports was the need to enlist the help of priests and individual Catholics and Catholic organisations if an effectual contact is to be established with the many thousands of university students from overseas. In the United Kingdom alone, there 80,000 of these students, not to mention the student nurses who total an additional 16,000!

### KARL BARTH ON DEVELOPMENT/EVANGELISATION

"It is because the Christian hopes for ultimate and defin-



itive realities that he hopes also for temporal and provisional things."

## CENTRAL FRENCH - SPEAKING AFRICA

A few months ago the Association of Episcopal Conferences of Central Africa and the Cameroons made a policy-statement on the subject of priestly celibacy. The principles adopted by this important group which includes the Cameroons, Gabon, Chad, R.C.A. and Congo-Brazzaville, were embodied in a letter sent to Cardinal Villot, Secretary of State to Pope Paul VI.

These bishops, like their counterparts in the rest of the Catholic world, are in agreement on the necessity of maintaining priestly celibacy. They express their anxiety in the face of the shortage of priests to serve their flocks, and propose that the ordination of married men be seriously examined by the highest authority in the Church. We here provide a summary of the letter based on the text published in L'Effort Camerounais, May 24th, 1970:

1) The bishops of the five episcopal conferences named above are unanimous in wishing to preserve the discipline of priestly celibacy. They believe that young men destined for the priesthood and those already engaged in the ministry should be helped efficaciously at every stage of their life to live according to that generous spirit of service of God and man of which their celibacy is the sign.

In the young Churches of Africa it is most important that priestly celibacy should continue to be a truly valuable sign of evangelical witness. Married Christians and young people preparing for marriage will find in priestly celibacy a constant reminder of the purity which is most suitable to all the members of the People of God.

Considering the special difficulties of the ministry, as it is exercised among people who do not yet understand and value the Christian virtue of chastity, the bishops consider it most desirable that their priests should live a form of community life so as to assure them the spiritual support and the human equilibrium of which they have special need.

2) Just as the bishops are united in maintaining the principle of priestly celibacy, they also unite in calling the attention of the Holy See to their own pastoral problems. These problems are particularly agonising, and concern the future of the clergy in some regions.

Studies carried out on the subject of the future prospects of the clergy and of the Church in some dioceses where the Catholic Mission is of recent origin, cast doubt on their prospects of survival or ability to function normally over the next few decades. Some will not have more than one native priest in 1975. Besides, the missionary societies cannot guarantee to maintain personnel at present levels during the same period! A survey of the rate of growth of the African clergy in other, more favoured areas, is not optimistic. It is doubtful whether they will be able to carry on in the traditional manner after the year 2000.

The bishops of these less-favoured areas of the Church call on the Holy Father and the Episcopal College to consider the possibility of finding new ways and forms of the priesthood to serve the needs of communities moving towards extinction through lack of priests. Two points are respectfully proposed for consideration: a) Maintenance of priestly celibacy - priests should not be

allowed to marry after their ordination. b) The Latin Church could make an exception in cases where the very existence of Christian communities is at stake. This could be done by admitting married men to the priesthood after careful scrutiny of their lives. The People of God have the right to spiritual guidance and nourishment; hence they have the right to their own priests. The Church must face up to this basic pastoral problem.

#### ROME: FINANCIAL AID TO MISSIONS IN 1969

The Pontifical Missionary Works held their annual general assembly on May 12th, at the Propaganda Fide headquarters, Piazza di Spagna, Rome. National Directors from various countries were also present. The accounts and statistics presented during the meeting are of interest because they provide an index of missionary interest throughout the world.

Two important observations can be made on the basis of these reports:

1) Although the sum collected by the Work for the Propagation of the Faith in 1968 was 3.24% higher than that of 1967, the "per capita" contribution is still extremely low: on average 6 U.S. cents per Catholic. This includes children, but does not take into account countries that sent in nothing at all. And the amount collected by the Work of St. Peter Apostle for training local clergy represented only 1 U.S. cent per Catholic.

2) In many countries less was contributed in 1968 than in 1967. Thus the overall picture of support for the missions is hardly encouraging. It means that in a whole year, each Catholic has not contributed even the price of a cup of coffee to the Church's missionary effort. Considering the clear call contained in the documents of Vatican II, and the emphasis laid on the missionary character of the Universal Church, the outlook for the future of our missions is not bright. In his speech to the members of the German Pontifical Works this year, Archbishop Pignedoli estimated that an additional sum of \$25 million per annum is needed to give reasonable aid to the missions. This would mean only an additional 6 cents per Catholic. But will it be forthcoming?

#### MOZAMBIQUE: ECUMENISM IN ACTION

Thanks to the inspiration and the direct action of Bishop Eurico Nogueira of Vila Cabral, relations between Christians and Muslims are becoming more cordial and fraternal. A recent happening in this town shows that good will in action can open the way to true ecumenism among communities with very different religious traditions and history.

After returning from Mecca, one of the Moslem leaders spoke during the thanksgiving service in the local mosque: "It is now five years since a truly great man came to live among us - a man of genuine spiritual and human greatness. That man is our bishop Mons. Dias Nogueira. It is written in the Koran and the Gospel that men should love each other without distinction, but in reality we did not know each other or respect each other. And then our bishop came to teach us to love. Today, here in this town, Christian and Muslim are friends and brothers."

#### THEOLOGY OF HOPE ?

A Hindu Minister of Planning in India once addressed a group of Catholic and Protestant specialists on development. He asked them to be "not merely experts, but sowers of hope".

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## NECROLOGY

Father John Reidy of the District of Kenya died at Nairobi on May 23rd, 1970. He was 70 yrs of age, and had been professed for 47yrs.

Father Alexandre Dumas of the District of Yaoundé, died at Cellule, aged 67 yrs. He had been professed for 47 years. (May 25th)

Father Manuel Ribeiro of the District of Nova Lisboa, died at Porto, aged 50 yrs, after 29 years of profession. (May 26th)

Father Anton Schwengers of the Province of Germany, died at Eschweiler on May 28th, aged 63. He had been professed for 35 years.

Father Henry Parkinson of the English Province died at Brighton on June 4th. He was 70 yrs of age and had been professed for 48 yrs.

Father James Breen of the District of Ontario, died on June 11th at Scarborough, aged 52 yrs. He had been professed for 27 years.

R. I. P.

### HOW TO FIND YOUR WAY TO THE GENERAL HOUSE !

If you arrive in Rome by air: At Fiumicino Airport take the bus which leaves regularly for the Air Terminal at the Central Railway Station (Termini). There you can take a taxi to the General House; or if your baggage is light, take the no. 99 bus which stops to the right of the main entrance of the railway station.

If you arrive by train: Follow the same directions, the main railway station offers plenty of taxis and the no. 99 is always available to those who are travelling light.

Taking a Roman bus: This is always something of a Marathon, but here are some practical directions. There is a flat-rate fare: 50 lire for all city routes. Taking the no. 99 from the railway station, you finally arrive at Piazza degli Eroi, a square with a large fountain in the centre. The road begins to climb to the right, and the traveller should watch out for the "Casa di cura S. Giorgio". If you get off at the next stop you can take the steep series of steps at Via Suetonio which will bring you to Viale Tito Livio. Take another flight of steps (Via Paolo Orosio) to a street called Clivo di Cinna, and follow this on the right to the gate of the General House.

If you arrive by car: Consult your map and look for Via Trionfale and Viale delle Medaglie d'Oro. Depending on your position on entering the city, you will find that these two thoroughfares lead to the Clivo di Cinna. The Hilton Hotel is not far from Clivo di Cinna, and almost anyone can direct you there. Once you have identified the Hotel you take Via Alberto Cadlolo to a narrow fork of which the right-hand street is Clivo di Cinna.

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Concerning Feedback: Now that both the Information and Documentation Bulletins are being published from the General House, we need "feedback" from the Provinces and Districts. Obviously we cannot satisfy everybody, nor should we try to compete with news-agencies or Catholic newspapers. But your suggestions are needed if we are to make the best use of the information available here in Rome.

Write and let us know the type of Congregation or Mission news you are interested in; bring up the subject at meetings of your regional community. A few lines scribbled on the back of a postcard will help us to make the Bulletins more useful to you.