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Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers

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CSSP - NEWSLETTER - CSSP

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

Clivo di Cinna, 195 - 00136 Roma

OCTOBER 1971

Nº 8

CONTENTS

27A-51-21

C.S.Sp.: Generalate - Ireland - Belgium - Holland: 1
Canada - United States - Nigeria: 4 - 5

Acts of the Holy Sea: Message of the Pope to the International
Catechetical Congress - the Foundation "Pro Africa" & 12
the Pontifical Council COR UNUM:

Missions: West Africa - Senegal - Guinea - Camaroon -
Tchad - Central African Republic - Congo- Kinshasa -
Angola - Mozambique - East Africa - Madagascar: 5-6-7-8-9

The first Panafrican-Malagash Assembly of the Laity: ...9-10-11

Our Dead: 13-14

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CONGREGATION NEWS

ROME - Generalate

At the Synod which is being held at the moment in Rome, the Congregation of the Holy Ghost is actively present in the person of its Superior General, Father Lécuyer. He is one of the ten representatives elected by the Union of Superiors General (U.S.G.).

On the 1st October he made an intervention, not in his own name, but in the name of this organisation, on the first theme proposed for the attention of the Synod - the ministerial priesthood. He stressed the fact that the priest is at the service of the People of God, and proposed that the Synod devote its attention principally to the practical problems which the priest has to face today: - the responsibilities of the priest in the social and political spheres; the financial situation of the priest; and the "family dimension" of his life (celibacy). He noted with regret that the pre-Synod document said nothing about the situation of the religious priest, nor about the missionary aspect of the priestly ministry.

Father Lécuyer has been appointed spokesman for one of the twelve "circuli minores". This is the French group "B" and has Cardinal Marty as president. The subjects already treated include: the mission of the Church in the world and for the world, the role of the priest in this mission, and the relations of the priest with the other members of the Church. On Friday October 8th he presented the report of this group in the Aula. He will intervene again on behalf of the Union of Superiors General on the theme of "Justice and Peace".

- Father Ernst VERDIEU who has replaced Father EBERHARDT as

General Assistant, is in residence at the Generalate since September 22nd.

- Father Louis LEDIT left for France on October 15th, to continue his visitation of the District of Auteuil.

- The Superior General plans to visit Congo-Brazzaville, Gabon, the Central African Republic, and Cameroon during December 1971 and January 1972. The annual meeting of the Principal Superiors of these districts will be held in Bangui in the course of this visit.

DEVELOPMENT SERVICE

In the CSSP Newsletter of July 20th, we spoke of the Social Development Service being operated by Father Anthony Byrne. We have recently received a provisional schedule of his travelling programme, and this should be of assistance to confreres who wish to contact him.

1971 - September - October	Eldoret (Kenya)
November - December	Gimma & Haran (Ethiopia)
1972 - January - February	Nairobi (Kenya)
March - April	Masaka (Uganda)
May - June	Moshi (Tanzania)
July - August	Tanga (")
September - October	Lodwar (Kenya)
November - December	Nairobi (Kenya)
1973 - January - March	Angola
April - May	Rome
June - July	Canada
August	Ireland

Confreres are again reminded that Father Byrne visits a District only on the written invitation of the Bishop. He does not represent any particular organisation but works in liaison with several. He is supported by 'Misereor' and acts as adviser for various ecclesiastical authorities engaged in Social Development work. More details concerning the scope and progress of his work will be found in the Newsletter of July 20th.

IRELAND

The province has accepted the charge of a parish newly erected in Dublin where there already exists a new Church dedicated to the Holy Spirit. It is the first time that the Congregation has undertaken this kind of responsibility.

The novitiate reopened on September 20th with 28 novices - 24 Irish, 3 English and 1 Trinidadian.

FRANCE

The Recollection Month at Chevilly

This exercise was suspended for the past two years - in 1969 because of the General Chapter, and in 1970 because of the Provincial Chapter. This year it was re-introduced, was held from the 8th July to the 5th August. Doing the Recollection were 23 Spiritains, 4 Sisters of the Holy Spirit and one lay-woman. The direction of the operation was entrusted to a team composed of Frs Hirtz, Creac'h, Aubert, Pariat, Tassin and Sister Bernadette. The group considered together the world and the changes taking place in it - which affect also the Church; they placed themselves in the presence of the Lord in Faith and Hope; they listened to the Word of God and plunged themselves in prayer; they shared their thoughts and discussed their

- 3 -

experiences with each other; finally they undertook a study of the three principal priorities of the missionary apostolate today:- community of destiny, basic community, apostolic community. The youngest of the group gives us his impressions: deep joy to have lived four weeks in such a fraternal community... joy to see that the spirit of renewal in the Congregation is not just a matter of words... the discovery of our limitations and the necessity for continued training and a serious programme of updating.

Annual Congress of Spiritans

Under this title (which was worth a 20% reduction on the railway) 143 (out of a possible 210) missionaries-on-holiday gathered at Chevilly from 3rd to 5th August. They were particularly impressed by the marvellous welcome and the sympathetic atmosphere. They enjoyed renewing contact with confrères after years of separation with whom they were able to exchange views and experiences, finding again the true signs of fraternal unity in the Eucharistic concelebrations. Father Des DESERTS spoke on missionary animation in France. Father THIBAUT, along with two young teachers and the new Master of Novices spoke of the mentality of the youth of today and their formation. Father P. GODARD threw light on the relations between the Province and the Districts. Father BAZIN, the Provincial Bursar, gave a clear picture, with figures, of the financial situation. Father AGENEAU reviewed "Spiritus" and underlined its interest for missionaries. "As to the welcome by the Province", wrote one of the participants, "I think we were all very much impressed. Words are hard to find to describe how very obliging and fraternal was the Provincial Team whose true charity was equal to the occasionally exacting demands. We have had three days of information and friendship which made the journey worth while..". An experiment which calls for repetition.

BELGIUM Old age pensions for Belgian Spiritans

Father Maenen, the Provincial of Belgium, sent round, last July, a precise and detailed circular concerning the old age pensions to which those confrères of the Province had a right; The different possibilities were envisaged with an indication of the measures to be taken. At a time when the number of "ancients" tends to increase while that of the young decreases, the problem arises of assuring a decent retirement for the aged. The Provinces and their Bursars are becoming more and more pre-occupied by this need.

HOLLAND Meetings

Father Van Der Poel has taken it upon himself to organise from time to time a "get together" for the families of our missionaries, - in the first place for their enjoyment and also to inform them of the conditions under which our missionaries work, the intention being to create a "base" for those at the "front". These days are organised according to district and there is always to be found a member of the district to give first-hand information. More than 400 persons have profited by these get-togethers which have been a resounding success.

Other meetings have been organised for the benefit of the missionaries themselves when on holidays, - either missionary

weeks directed more to study and discussion or meeting days which give the missionary the chance to meet the Provincial Council and have an exchange of views.

In this way, some forty confrères met in the chateau of Gemert on the 16th and 17th September representing all the districts where Dutch Fathers are working. Father Th. Slaats gave a talk on Nyere's socialism in Tanzania; Father H. Verdijk spoke of the situation in Angola; Father R. Haffmans described that of Congo-Brazzaville; Father Houdijk informed them of the possibilities of the Church in Brazil. Difficulties are to be found everywhere but there are also positive elements which permit work to be undertaken. Long and animated discussions followed each talk. A further meeting on the same lines will take place in the Autumn.

CANADA

Provincial Chapter

The second session of French Canada's Provincial Chapter took place at St Alexander from 21st to 26th August. The Superior General and Father Verdieu assisted at this session. The principal problems envisaged were: how to save the Province; evangelisation and development; degrees of membership in the Congregation. Something of the campaign for autonomy which is felt in all domains in Quebec crept into the very lively discussions. The only resolutions that resulted were the following: a) that the Provincial Council function according to the capitular decisions with deliberative voice on all occasions, and that until the next Provincial Chapter; b) that the Provincial if authorised by the General Council, be elected by the Provincial Chapter by absolute majority after consultation with all the members of the Province. Further there must be noticed the active participation of the young, the absence of quarrels of a personal nature and above all a remarkable mutual goodwill which is not to be found everywhere, and which nevertheless holds out hope for the future even if the present situation is serious.

UNITED STATES The Superior General's visit Western Province

From the Provincial Chapter of Canada Father General crossed into the United States. He began his visit by a tour of the Western Province where he arrived on August 29th and he stayed until September 18th. He visited the communities and expresses his gratitude for the warm welcome he received throughout the Province. Although not an official or canonical visitation, he was able to get an idea of the vastness of the Province and of the principal works. Unfortunately he was unable to go and see our missionaries in Mexico.

EASTERN PROVINCE

From the Western Province the Superior General passed over into the East where he arrived on September 19th. That evening, a reception and dinner were held in his honour at Manchester Lane followed by a tour of "Washington by night". Tuesday following he was received by Cardinal Cooke after which there was a reception at the Hotel New Yorker, with a hundred or so guests, among whom Bishop Ackerman CSSp. Bishop Durning CSSp., Bishop of Arusha, a good number of the diocesan directors of the Pontifical Missionary Works and numerous confrères. Father John Moran represented the Western Province and Father Con Woulfe the Irish Province. After the reception there was a

GUINEA

Mgr Tchidimbo again on trial

In the course of the "peoples' great trial of the fifth column" which took place at Konakry and is still going on, Mgr Tchidimbo has once again been accused of belonging to an anti-Guinea movement. Already condemned to life imprisonment, he has admitted the facts which were brought against him, principally to have worked towards the political demobilisation of his clergy, by asking them to keep out of politics, to have received money from West Germany for his works, etc... All those accused confessed to their faults but one knows what value to put on confessions of this sort in such a trial. According to the adopted procedure, the 8,000 local Revolutionary Powers charged with establishing the nature of the offences and the scale of punishment have demanded the death penalty for all the Africans and some of the aliens; hard labour is proposed for the rest of these latter. In addition there is question of the confiscation of the goods of all the accused. On October 3rd, Radio-Konakry announced that the verdict had been given but it is not known yet what this verdict is.

TCHAD

Interdiocesan Pastoral Course

The pastoral course in which many of our confrères of the Cameroons and the Central Republic of Africa took part was held from June 20th to July 10th at Fort-Archambault (Tchad). The subject matter, on which much preliminary field-work had been done, was concerned principally with marriage and the family. Among the general conclusions, the following can be mentioned:

- Our discussions have helped us to see marriage and the family in their true setting, as lived by our people. This study is, in our opinion, an important preliminary to any elaboration of pastoral development in these domains.
- The atmosphere of the study group helped enormously to bring our ideas up to date.
- The importance of the time factor and need to remind oneself of this frequently.
- To have one's attention fixed on reality and on the changes taking place; to seek to understand these things in the light of a theology ever in need of deeper penetration.
- The attention given to African culture has convinced us of the need to further the establishment of an African Church.
- The Gospel is not a law but a pressing need. The Church is not a society outside the world but a ferment in the world. A deeper understanding of these realities revitalises our faith in the importance of the mission which we are accomplishing together.
- In our work we had no intention of elaborating orientations which would be obligatory for our fellow missionaries or the dioceses nor to draw up a scheme of pastoral activity without reference to the community as a whole. It simply gave us the chance to appreciate the value of our experiences and assess their possibilities and limitations. We are of the opinion that these conclusions amount to a positive contribution of great importance to the pastoral conception of marriage and the family and we hope that those engaged in this work will take them into consideration.

REPUBLIC OF CENTRAL AFRICA. "Encounter"

The dioceses of the Republic of Central Africa met recently in order to launch under the title "Rencontre" a review for research, study and exchange of information. Besides numerous details on the composition and activities of the five dioceses, this first edition includes an article in which Mgr. N'Dayen, Archbishop of Bangui, reflects on the ten years that have gone by since Independence and considers the moral and spiritual perspectives stemming from the introduction of a christian outlook into the present society. Another article recalls the much lamented late Mgr. Coucherousset CSSP. who died last year and who played such an important role in the evangelisation of the country.

CONGO-KINSHASA Eighth General Assembly of OIEC.

The General Assembly of the International Office of Christian Instruction brought its discussions to a close on August 12th at Kinshasa. Among the conclusions reached the following may be singled out:

- The Conference solemnly declared that without denying the importance of the mass-media as a means of education, the school still retains a privileged position. It provides an instrument for socio-economic development; it contributes in an important way to the formation of a Nation, it acts as an element of unity and as a centre of living culture.
- In the prospect of development, the school is indispensable for giving a grounding in letters; it is useful for national unity in a country in the course of development and is an important element in the educative project for the community.
- There could be no question for us, catholics, and especially Africans, disengaging ourselves from the school.
- The christian school can only be faithful to its ideal under the following conditions: a) that the professional conscience of the teachers and their zeal in promoting the permanent formation of their subjects be motivated by charity i.e. the desire to render better service. b) that the catholic school be an open school (i) open to the world to initiate the young to the problems of development, (ii) open to strangers in a spirit of hospitality versus racism, (iii) open to other schools for the sake of dialogue and collaboration, (iv) open to the Church in general in all sectors of its activity.

ANGOLA Meeting of the Dutch confrères.

On June 16th and 17th the major part of the Dutch confrères working in Angola gathered together at Camunda to commemorate the 25th anniversary of the arrival in the country of missionaries from Holland. Father Q. Houdijk represented the General Administration. On June 16th during a lunch offered by the Superior of the District and the Director of the Holy Ghost College, in the presence of the Apostolic Administrator of the diocese, homage was paid to the fraternal and devoted collaboration of the Dutch confrères. In a concelebrated Mass, next day, thanks were offered to God for the apostolic work realised during those 25 years and the dead and the absent were remembered. In the course of the day, many subjects were discussed in a fraternal gathering. The question of the exodus of the White Fathers from Mozambique was discussed: our situation here in Angola was recognised as something different; but, in the event of the Generalate being constrained to take a similar decision, the Pro-

vincial of Portugal, the Principal Superiors of Angola and the missionaries concerned should be consulted beforehand. The desire was expressed for greater solidarity among the Dutch confrères themselves with regard to ministry and personnel; the General Council has expressed its support for such a move. The meeting approved of the initiative of Father Rocha Ferreira in constituting a Conference of the Religious Institutes of Angola. Relations with the local clergy, the repercussions of the political situation, the social question, the practice of poverty and the need for dialogue, were also discussed. The advantages of a better information service on all that concerns the apostolate in Angola was underlined. The question of those coming on the missions for a training period was also dealt with. We may add that Radio Holland accorded a 40 minute programme on the jubilee of the 31 missionaries; that his Eminence Cardinal Alfrink sent a letter of congratulation; that the Dutch Ambassador in Lisbon sent a 40 word telegram; and that the representative of the Generalate brought the compliments of the General Administration as well as those of the Province of Holland. It was a day of fraternal rejoicing. We thank all who contributed to it.

EAST AFRICA The AMECEA is ten years old

The Association of Episcopal Conferences of East Africa has celebrated on July 26th its 10th anniversary. Founded in 1961 it has important achievements to its credit.

- At Gaba a Pastoral Institute for East Africa.
- Organisation of Paul VI's visit to Uganda.
- First Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of all Africa at Kampala.
- Twice weekly Bulletins during Vatican II of the progress of the Council.
- Study sessions at Katigondo on priestly formation.
- Help provided for a project of research in catechetics.
- Course on oecumenism at Nairobi.
- Meeting at Lusaka and the publication of "The priest in today's Africa".
- Seminar AMECEA-MISEREOR at Nairobi.
- Research on marriage in Africa.
- Organisation of courses and work-shops for the study of social communications. etc.

KENYA Seminar of the Association of Religious Superiors

The Association of Religious Superiors of Kenya of which Father J. Delaney, Principal Superior CSSP. is the prime mover, organised from 15th to 21st August a seminar on the theme "How to construct a christian community". Among the speakers was Father Brian Hearne CSSP. who discoursed on the following subjects: The Holy Spirit and the community: open or closed? - The signs of the community: oneness in freedom or uniformity under law? - The role of the community: convert or serve? - Sin in the community: success or failure? - The faith of the community: old or new?

MOZAMBIQUE Those who depart and those who remain

On the occasion of the departure of the White Fathers from Mozambique Father P. Gheddo P.I.M.E. published in the August-September number of "Mondo e Missione" an open letter written by the other missionaries who have preferred to remain on the spot.

While declaring themselves partly in agreement with certain alleged motives justifying the departure they differ on the practical conclusions to be drawn from these motives. "... We are convinced" they write, " that the more evangelical method of protesting against the attitude of the Bishops and of bringing them eventually to abandon positions which are not in conformity with the Gospel, is to stay with them and speak out clearly until strong reactions are provoked, ready as we are to accept the risks incurred by our courage but not to depart and abandon the flock to itself. Your fear is that if we remain the people will not distinguish us from the political structures. That would be true if, in our behaviour we travelled the road of compromise. But the people, even the most backward, know very well that the true missionary, faithful servant of the Gospel, is not here for a political or colonialist motive but with the sole duty of evangelising and promoting man's well-being, man in his entirety. It is up to us in our political behaviour to show what we truly are, until the sphere of our apostolate is restricted, reduced or stifled to the point of reducing us to silence. Even then there would still remain for us the possibility of one of the fundamental points of our ministry, that of witness. We choose therefore to remain because ... the motives which brought us to Mozambique are still valid: in the first place the duty of evangelising even if in so doing we encounter difficulties and restrictions". Father Gheddo comments: "The gesture of protestation of the White Fathers has certainly had its positive aspect and it is not without a great deal of suffering that they came to their decision. But we wish to single out the courage of those who remained in a difficult situation in order to continue the work of evangelisation and bring to maturity a people always more and more conscious of their personality and their rights. Perhaps this form of courage is the one that people of Mozambique appreciate the most".

MADAGASCAR Plenary Assembly of the Episcopal Conference
 to 8th

From 6 th^July the 17 Bishops of the Great Island and the Bishop of Mauritius who make up the Episcopal Conference of Madagascar, came together to prepare the Synod (where they are represented by Mgr. Albert Tsiahoana, Archbishop of Diego Suarez). The questionnaire on the ministerial priesthood had been distributed to all the members of the People of God. The replies synthesised by the Secretariat for coordination, were studied by the Bishops who then decided their position on the subject. As to the theme "Justice in the world", it had been the object of a study confided to the Commission Justice and Peace in the context of malagasy life. The Bishops of Madagascar are, in fact, preparing an important pastoral letter for the end of the year on "The Church of Madagascar and its development".- Among the decisions taken may be mentioned the one by which all the Malagasy Bishops without exception accept responsibility for the weekly review "Lumière".

mwmwmwm First Panafrican-Malagasy meeting of lay people mwmwmwmwm

The first Panafrican-Malagasy meeting of Lay people was held at Accra (Ghana) from 11th to 18th August. Its theme was; the commitment of lay people to the advance of the Church and the integral development of Africa.

The gathering was presided over by Mr. Joseph Amichia, ambassador of the Ivory Coast to the Holy See and a member of the Consilium of the Laity, along with Dr. John Nimo, also a member of the Consilium and a consultant of the Congregation of Propaganda. The Holy See was represented by H.E. Cardinal M. Roy Archbishop of Quebec and President of the Consilium of the Laity, assisted by the secretary of this last-mentioned body, Mgr. M. Uyenbroeck, the vice-secretary Miss Rosemary Goldie, by Mgr. B. Gantin, assistant secretary to Propaganda, by Mlle. Marie-Ange Besson of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace, by Mgr. Bodet of the Secretariat of State.

In his message to the Congress, the Holy Father, after congratulating the members on their choice of theme, which resolves the "false dilemma: development or evangelisation", replied to the question: What to do in order to realise this ideal? "... Have no doubt that this will be done by giving your apostolate an Africanised form", to use the expression recently used in Rome by Archbishop Gantin, echoing our own conviction: "By now you Africans are Missionaries to yourselves" (Talk at the Symposium of Bishops of Africa at Kampala). Keep this constantly in mind as you take up, in your group discussions, the various objects of study: the economic, social and political evolution of your regions, the family, education and training, the laity in the life of the Church and, finally, the action to be undertaken.

"But, to give the lay apostolate its African character you will not for all that hesitate to draw from the Church's experience what has universal value and what reflects the great missionary teachings of the Old and New Testaments. It is fitting to make special mention of the deeply evangelical insight of the late Cardinal Cardijn, which has made it possible for a genuine lay-apostolate to spring up and develop in very many countries, in the most widely differing contexts. From that insight the Council's reflections upon the vocation of the laity benefitted greatly."

"Africa has not been the least in drawing inspiration from Cardinal Cardijn and is it not also noteworthy that his method reflects in some way the traditional procedure still sometimes followed by the elders of your villages for seeking the paths to justice and peace? But if it is a question of the laity's missionary activity in the Church, what dimensions this ancestral wisdom is called upon to assume, a wisdom which is animated, upheld, consecrated and made holy by the Spirit of God, among those who are enlightened by God's Word and nourished by the sacraments."

"There is no need to remind you that such action of the laity in your Churches, such a full exercise of the priesthood of the laity in Africa, will not be possible without a close and permanent communion with the hierarchy and in trusting and fraternal exchange with the priests whose mission is inseparable from yours. To those priests among you and to all their brethren in the priesthood, we wish to say how much we count on them and how much confidence we place in their role as educators in the faith, revealers of the Word of God and ministers of the Sacraments of Penance and the Eucharist... whether you be priests native to the place in which you work or from other lands, help one another to work in this direction and do not fail to associate in this essential task of promoting the laity the Religious Brothers and Sisters whose irreplaceable action complementing your own, you have experienced for so long..."

The meeting ended with the taking of the following resolutions:

- The urgent need for a solid and adequate formation of the laity at all levels with a view to being open to the world of today and to undertaking a re-assessment of their own culture; in addition, to attain a thorough doctrinal synthesis in order to develop a strong bond between life and faith.
- The need for close collaboration between clergy, religious, priests and nuns and the laity, recognising the irreplaceable role of each in the one Church and embracing not only the life of the Church but all the life of man.
- Work towards the establishment and efficient functioning of the parochial diocesan and national councils.
- Development of organised movements, adapting them to the needs of the African scene.
- Create where necessary a secretariat, office or committee to study the participation of the laity in the divers spheres of development.
- Avoid the too great multiplicity of organisations: these need to be simple, supple and answering to real needs.
- Create a national coordinating organism.
- Take into account the financial problems at all levels.
- The experience at Accra implies the need of a follow-up to the panafrikan collaboration of the laity.
- Establish and consolidate the national and regional structures beginning with the ones already existing.
- The need for a panafrikan Secretariat of a permanent nature was felt but the question requires some study.
- Close liaison with the Symposium of Episcopal Conferences of Africa and the Consilium of the Laity, in which the presence of an African is to be hoped for.
- Give to the preparatory committee which arranged the present meeting a mandate of about a year in which to assess the results, study the possible structures of coordination and thereafter submit to panafrikan-malagasy level concrete propositions of collaboration.

MWWWMWMMWMMWMMWMMWMMW NEWS FROM ROME MWWWMWMMWMMWMMWMMWMMWMMWMMWMMW
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The Pontifical Council "Cor Unum"

In a letter of July 17th to Cardinal Villot, Paul VI announced the creation of a new organism entitled "Pontificium Concilium COR UNUM de humana et christiana progressionem", to coordinate and harmonise all the forces and initiatives in the Church in favour of solidarity and charity among peoples.

".. Within the Church, there are already many organisations which devote themselves to such ends. They deserve the highest praise for their timely and provident endeavours to promote full development of living conditions and to relieve distress. Obviously it is fitting that these admirable undertakings should increasingly work in harmony with one another and thus, by organic collaboration, succeed more effectively in reaching the goals assigned to them in the fields of charity, aid and promoting the development of peoples.

It is also necessary that the activity of these organisations should be wisely and fittingly regulated by a mutual harmony of purpose, so that it should not be subject to change and improvisation nor lead to unnecessary waste of energy and resources."

To achieve this end, it is necessary to have an organisation at the highest level, i.e. under the authority of the Pope, who has confided the responsibility of it to his first collaborator, the Cardinal Secretary of State. Cardinal Villot is therefore the President of Cor Unum; the vice-president, Mgr. Torella; the secretary, Father De Riedmatten; the members: the representatives of the Episcopate, of the different Roman Congregations, of the catholic organisations for assistance and charity, the experts.. The headquarters of Cor Unum are to be in the rooms formerly occupied by the Congregation of Ceremonials, on the first floor of the Vatican palace.

The field of activity of the new Council is vast: urgent assistance in case of catastrophe, help for development and for the promotion of the full stature of man, help for all sorts of distress and poverty... Going on past experience and without prejudice to the character or responsibility of each organisation the Pope has had the idea of associating all the members of God's People in a common cause for them to work together in harmony of spirit and with greater efficiency in the interests of their brothers in need. The charitable organisations are not the only ones concerned but the whole Church, from the Sovereign Pontiff down to the simple faithful.

The members will be invited by the Holy Father for a first meeting in Rome in the Autumn. The Council will have, first of all, to draw up its plan of work and then in the light of the experience and suggestions of its members decide upon its statutes.

Foundation of "Pro Africa"

Cardinal Villot, Secretary of State addressed a letter in the name of the Holy Father to all the Ordinaries of Africa and Madagascar, in which he informed them of the creation, by the Holy See, of a Fund, "Pro Africa" destined to help and encourage all initiatives in favour of human and christian advancement especially when these are the expression of a common endeavour by the episcopate or group of the laity. The annual income of this Fund will be shared among the promoters of projects which are in conformity with the above mentioned objectives and are sponsored by the responsible episcopal authority. Requests for allocations addressed to the Cardinal President of the Council of Administration should be accompanied with a report justifying the request. In assessing this latter and deciding upon the eventual allocation the Secretariat of State will take into account the recommendations of the episcopal authority in question and that of the Committee, "Human Promotion of the Pontifical Commission "Justice and Peace".

"While hoping that other contributions either from Episcopal Conferences, religious institutions, or charitable organisations will come to swell this solidarity fund for the promotion of African peoples, the Holy See is not forgetful of the immense effort of long date undertaken by so many men and women of Africa and elsewhere, giving themselves and their possessions without stint for the human and spiritual uplift of this great continent. The Holy See by its initiative does no more than offer a concrete possibility of responding to the appeal launched in the encyclical "Populorum Progressio" to all who by their education, their situation and their capability are equipped for action. May they set a good example by contributing generously as several of our brothers in the Episcopacy have already done.."

International Catechetical Congress

The first International Catechetical Congress opened on September 21st in The Pontifical University of the Latran and gathered together 1300 participants. Cardinal Wright, prefect of the Congregation for the Clergy opened the proceedings with a discourse in which he traced a vast panorama of catechetical evolution and also mentioned deviations causing great anxiety in the ecclesial community.

The following are some present day needs underlined by the Cardinal: a) a catechesis aimed at forming an adult faith, not only in individuals but also in the various groupings of Christians; b) a catechesis that has in view the integration of faith and life: the Word of God announcing the catechesis should be recognisable as a reply to the questions put by men of this day and age; c) a catechesis that is inserted into the pastoral activity of the Church since all catechetical activity isolated from the ecclesial context is doomed to failure; d) an ecumenical catechesis that would promote a wider comprehension of humanity and effective dialogue, without reducing all to the lowest common denominator for the sake of peace, and so disregarding the claims of truth.

The participants were received by the Holy Father in audience on September 25th. He told them that "the ministry of the Word is the very centre of the daily apostolic activity of the Church and so catechetical instruction has an influence on the whole of life..." Catechesis may not be isolated from the life of prayer nor from the christian commitment & the problems that a believer, desirous of increasing his understanding of the faith is likely to meet, nor from the great questions of modern man.. It is therefore an ever recurring duty for the catechesis to give ear to those problems that come from the heart of man, in order to find a radical solution in the gift of love which creates and saves, as revealed by events and by the words of God to his people...

On the occasion of this Congress the General Directory of Catechetics was presented. This has been published by the Congregation for the Clergy at the request of Vatican II and by order of Paul VI, in collaboration with the Episcopal Conferences. "This directory" said Cardinal Wright "is meant to be inserted into the contemporary catechetical movement gradually and prudently. We do not ignore the problems that are still to be resolved nor those resolved in an unsatisfactory way.. It is precisely for that reason that this congress was called in order to study the problem of the content and the sources of catechetics... The Directory indicates a way.. This way is seriously discussed in the light of the most recent hypotheses and the most daring experiments. But we must reach a common solution."

It is proposed to come back to this subject in a future edition of "CSSP. Documentation".

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- Father Paul Barthelme of the Province of France, died 13-7-71 at Wolxheim, aged 72, after 49 years of profession.
- Father Emile Van Oostvelt of the Province of Belgium, died 25-7-71 at Antwerp, aged 46, after 25 years of profession.
- Father Jean-Marc Kitiyi, of the District of Bangui, died 25-7-71 at Boali, aged 35 after 13 years of profession.

- Father Albert Lanoe, of the District of Yaoundé, died 7-8-71 at Nkilzok, at the age of 51, after 24 years of profession.
- Father Francis Joseph Hubsch, of the District of Kilimanjaro, died at Moshi, 21-8-71, at the age of 86 after 62 years of profession.
- Father James Bentley of the Province of England, died 25-8-71 at the age of 62 after 41 years of profession.
- Father Victorien Bieber, of the General Administration, died at Friburg 30-8-71 aged 56 after 36 years of profession.
- Father Leonard Le Jalle of the Province of France, died at Langonnet 11-9-71 aged 68 after 47 years of profession.
- Father Joseph Kletzel of the Province of USA-East, died at Pittsburgh 11-9-71 aged 60 after 40 years of profession.
- Father Antoine Soucy, of the Province of Canada, died at St. Pierre-et-Miquelon, 15-9-71 aged 56 after 36 years of profession.
- Father John Thompson, of the Province of Ireland, died at Kimmage, 19-9-71 at the age of 66 after 43 years of profession.
- Father Michael Frawley, of the Province of Ireland, died at Blantyre (Malawi), 1-10-71, aged 57 after 37 years of profession.
- Father Hermanus Van Barneveld, of the Province of Holland, died at Leiden, 9-10-71 at the age of 51 after 29 years of profession.

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A THOUGHT FOR REFLEXION

"I believe it is extremely important to recognise that a certain era of the church's missionary history which began in the early nineteenth century is now coming to its close. It has been closely linked with the colonialist expansion of Europe and the West. Its achievements have been vast. It has greatly, and significantly, altered the geography of christian witness. But it is now almost over. Firstly, because the independent countries of Asia, Africa and even South America are becoming increasingly reluctant to admit professional missionaries. Secondly, because missionary vocations have enormously declined in most countries of Europe and North America. The effect of this decline is already apparent in mission lands and in the next few years it will be even more striking. Thirdly, it would seem that the outstanding intrinsic need, theological and psychological, in all these places is now to stand on their own feet, to become true local churches, self-reliant christian communities. The achievement of this can be enormously impeded by the continued reception of large-scale foreign help, either in personnel or in money.

The world mission of the church goes ever on, but it takes different structural forms in different ages. The pattern of the last hundred years, the pattern for which all the modern missionary societies were initially founded, is nearly over; nearly but not quite. Our theme then is - What should the last generation be doing in the few years that remain? How can we ensure that the work of earlier generations of missionaries is not lost amid the tumultuous changes of our era? How can we witness to Christ, the universal Saviour, through the life of the church in the last third of the twentieth century? How can we prepare the way for a new age of mission?