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CSSP Newsletter-No.24 (1972)

Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers

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CSSP - NEWSLETTER - CSSP

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

Clivo di Cinna, 195 - 00136 Roma

January 1972

switch in → N° 24

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NEWS FROM ROME

Acts of the Holy See.

The Holy Father has acceded to the desire expressed by His Grace Most Rev. Dr. McQUAID, Archbishop of Dublin (Ireland) to be relieved of the government of the Archdiocese because of his age. Dr. McQUAID's successor is the Most Rev. Dermot RYAN, a secular priest of the Dublin Archdiocese. (Oss.Rom. 5-1-72.)

Dr McQUAID was born on 29th July, 1895 at Cootehill, in the diocese of Kilmore, and was ordained priest on 29th June, 1924. He was appointed Archbishop of Dublin on 6th November, 1940, and was consecrated Bishop on the following 27th December.

350th Anniversary of Propaganda Fide.

January 6, 1972, was the 350th anniversary of 'Propaganda Fide' now also known as the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples. As far back as the end of the 13th century, the Franciscan Ramon Lull had suggested such a Congregation, and in the second half of the 16th century there had been attempts to get something of the kind organized in the Roman Curia, but it was on January 6, 1622, that Pope Gregory XV founded the S. Congregation de Propaganda Fide and gave it its charter, with an initial membership of 13 Cardinals and 2 other prelates. Three years later Cardinal J.B. VIVES, a Spaniard, gave the Congregation his palazzo on the Piazza di Spagna, and this building, enlarged in the 1650's by BORROMINI, is still its headquarters. It also functioned as the seat of the Urban College for ecclesiastical students from mission lands until 1930, when the Urban College was moved to its present location on the Janiculum Hill, overlooking St. Peter's Square.

To mark the 350th anniversary, the Congregation is publishing a 3-volume history of its activities over the years. The first volume is already on sale, and deals with the history of the Con-

gregation from 1622 to 1700. The second and third volumes will be ready later this year and will cover, respectively, the periods 1700-1815 and 1815 to the present. The work is being published by Herder (Freiburg, Germany) and 40 authors, writing in 6 languages, are collaborating on it.

The archives of the Congregation, going back to the year of its foundation, contain a precious record of its activities and are also invaluable for historical and cultural information on mission lands, containing, as they do, numerous letters and reports from the early missionaries on conditions in the different territories. The new reading-room attached to the archives makes it easy for researchers to consult this material. In the library there are also important volumes, many of them printed by the Propaganda Polyglot Press.

The Congregation has under its charge a total of 840 ecclesiastical circumscriptions, containing about 57,000,000 Catholics. Working in these territories in 1969 were 36,665 priests, 15,599 Brothers and 83,244 Sisters.

Connected with the S. Congregation, and in the same building, are the offices of three of the Pontifical Missionary Works: the Work for the Propagation of the Faith, the Work of St. Peter Ap. for local clergy, and the Missionary Union of the Clergy. FIDES News Agency is attached to the Work for the Propagation of the Faith. The headquarters of the fourth Missionary Work (the Holy Childhood) is in Paris. Connected with the S. Congregation is the Pontifical Urban University, with its separate residences for philosophy and theology students, as well as St. Peter's College which is a residence for priests from mission countries. Last year the University had a teaching staff of 81, and was attended by 658 students from 54 different countries. Many of the 145 priests from mission territories at St. Peter's College also attend the Urban University. Fifteen seminaries in the missions are now affiliated to this University.

A Pastoral Commission formed in Propaganda Fide.

Apart from its group of regular Consultors and its Commission on Episcopal Synods and Conferences, and on the Constitutions and Norms of Religious Institutes and Seminaries, the S. Congregation for the Evangelization of Peoples is at present organizing a special group of Consultors to form a 'Pastoral Commission on Missionary Activity and Cooperation'. The Commission will be in accordance with the Vatican Council's Decree 'Ad Gentes', which recommended that Propaganda Fide "should have available a permanent group of expert consultors, of proven knowledge and experience. Their duty it will be, among other things, to gather pertinent information about local conditions in various regions, the outlook of various groups of men, and the means of evangelization to be used." (FIDES).

Death of Missiologist, Fr. PERBAL.

Fr. Albert PERBAL, OMI, a well-known missiologist, died in Rome at the age of 87 on December 27, 1971. He was born near Nancy (France) and was ordained priest at Liège (Belgium) in 1907. In 1919 he came to Rome as secretary to the Superior General of the Oblates, a function that brought him to most parts of the missionary world. Rome, however, remained his base of operations for the rest of his life. In 1924 he became superior of the Oblates' international scholasticate in Rome, and in 1910 Oblate secretary for the missions. From 1922 to 1954 he was professor of missiology at the Urban University of Propaganda Fide, and many of his students there later became bishops in their own lands.

He was also during that time a Consultor of the S. Congregation de Propaganda Fide. During his 52 years in Rome, Fr. PERBAL was a member of numerous committees and organizations dealing with the missions, and wrote several works on missiology. In the thirties he was also a regular guest professor at the Catholic Institute in Paris.

NEWS FROM THE PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS
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ROME.

Meeting of Superiors General

From the 15th to the 18th December, 1971 over 50 Superiors General met at Villa Cavalletti outside Rome. The meeting was held under the auspices of the Union of Superiors General (USG) which groups 220 Superiors General of Orders and Congregations of pontifical right who, in their turn, represent about 320,000 religious scattered all over the world. Some of the sessions were attended by: Most Rev. A. MAYER, OSB. Secretary of the S. Congr. of Religious; the President, the Vice-President and the General Secretary of the UISG (representing the Sisters); representatives of various national Conferences of Major Superiors; experts, translators, etc. Rev. Father G. LALANDE, CSC. was in charge of the organisation, and the Chairman was Father W. GOOSENS, CICM.

The purpose of the meeting was to study the two documents which were published after the October Synod, with a view to making use of them for the development and renewal of the religious institutes, so as to improve their efficiency, and their spirit of collaboration. The religious of the world are sincerely disposed to put into practice the teaching of the Synod, as well as that of the Pope's recent message for World Peace Day. They wish to bring to men the message of peace, to promote the spirit of fraternity, to found works which will be the expression of a candid desire for peace and justice.

In this context, a paper on the doctrinal aspects of the synodal document on the Ministerial Priesthood was presented by Father LECUYER, Superior General CSSp. who was a member of the committee which drew up the text.

The following message was sent by His Holiness the Pope to the assembled Superiors General: "The Holy Father, having been informed of your meeting and the subject of your discussions, sends you His greetings. His Holiness is very conscious of the good work done by the religious families especially during sad and troubled times in the history of the Church, to defend the integrity of the faith, to sustain and promote the fidelity of the christian people to the profession and practice of their religion, to help and sustain the clergy, by prayer, by example, by sharing their work, by teaching, by works for the education of the clergy, by spiritual direction. The Holy Father is firmly convinced that religious are anxious to continue to render this precious service to the Church, and He is sure that the Superiors General will do all in their power to realise this, conscious of their responsibilities and strengthened by the confidence and blessing of the Vicar of Christ."

For the renewal of Religious Life

The November issue of the Supplément de la Vie Spirituelle (Ed. du Cerf, Paris) is largely taken up with the two series of meetings which the USG held at Villa Cavalletti in 1970. These had respectively for theme: 'The Central Government in its dealing

- with the new type of religious' and 'New forms of participation-structures in religious institutes'. The principal interventions made in the course of these meetings are here reproduced on the responsibility of the authors concerned:
- an article of 8 pages which gives an account of the proceedings;
 - a conference by Fr. DE COUESNONGLE, OP. on 'A new type of religious';
 - a conference by Fr. CARRIER, SJ. on the attitudes of a Superior General towards this new type of religious;
 - a report on the inquiry made by the Superiors General on 'Participation-structures in religious institutes today';
 - a conference by Fr. BEYER, SJ. on 'Structures of government and the need for participation.

GERMANY. Extraordinary Provincial Chapter

An Extraordinary Provincial Chapter, which had been decided on at the Provincial Chapter of 1970-1971, was held at Knechtsteden from the 27th to the 31st December 1971. The General Council was represented there by Fr. STÖCKER. In accordance with the mandate it had received from the provincial chapter, the provincial administration had, with the aid of an expert, made detailed analyses of the situation of the Province in regard to personnel and finance. Concrete projects, based on these reports, had been worked out with a view to re-assessing and re-organising the existing works of the Province, at the same time opening up new fields of apostolate for the members. The ultimate object of the work of the Spiritans in the German Province is to be, as the Chapter once more affirmed, the 'mission for the mission' i.e. to spread information about the situation in the Third World, to encourage people in Germany itself to dedicate themselves to the service of the under-privileged, and to help in providing the structures necessary for these people to operate efficiently.

On the first two days, the analyses and short-term projects (up till 1973) were presented, and on the third day were discussed. Then on the fourth day, the long-term projects and future trends were presented and discussed. Finally, the last day was reserved for the decisions to be made about the projects presented by the Provincial Administration. All the proposed projects were accepted by a large majority.

FRANCE. What is happening at "Spiritus" ?

The following extract is taken from a recent circular sent out by the editorial team of Spiritus: Fathers AGENEAU and PRYEN, and their collaborators:

".. Some of you occasionally ask what we are doing at Spiritus. We publish a review which is meant for missionaries. Our purpose is research and the development of the missionary spirit; development also and renewal of the spiritual life of those who have accepted to live in exile in order to proclaim the salvation and liberation of man to the Third World which is now evolving rapidly. To do this we contact large numbers of people by correspondence and by means of surveys; others we meet during their holidays in France or in the course of our visits, to Africa for example. The review Spiritus is published under the auspices of 9 missionary societies: it is a positive example of collaboration. This year, we are happy to report further progress. We published 4 issues of 112 pages each, with the following titles: The Trials of Transition - The Mission today? - Questions about community - The Eruption of God. We reach about 12,000 readers, and we are anxious to contact more and more those lay people who, whether in

France or the Third World, wish to give a dimension of universality to their lives by their contact with Christ, and the preaching of his message.

There is another aspect of our life and work: our participation in the groups for research and action regarding the Third World. These are groups of from 25 to 40 people (mostly young adults) who meet regularly for about four week-ends a year. These week-ends are devoted to information, to reflexion and to forming one's conscience on a particular subject e;g. the petroleum affair, the monetary crisis, migrants, etc. We think this is one of the best ways to up-date ourselves, and to develop a new outlook with a view to the proper action..."

AUTEUIL.

New Year Honours

In the New Year list of those awarded the 'Légion d'Honneur', we note the name of Fr. Emmanuel JEZO, with the rank of Knight. Fr. JEZO is Director of the orphanage of Saint-Michel-en-Priziac, one of the houses of the Work of Auteuil. Congratulations!

GHANA.

Spiritual Beginnings in Ghana.

The eight members of the first CSSp. Ghana mission have arrived safely and settled in. All were well pleased with first impressions. Immediately after arrival, they began a language course. Among the Ashanti the commonest language is known as twi. It is not an easy language! Most of the confreres have been placed in parishes in or around the town of Kumasi, but many of these parishes are very extensive. Fr. Savino AGNOLI, an Irish Father of Italian origin, has been offered a post as lecturer in Music at the Specialised Teaching College, and also at the University of Cape Coast. Fr. J. WHITE is to be curate of the Cathedral parish. Other Irish confreres are to join the group before Easter. (Postal address: c/o Bishop's House, P.O.Box 99, Kumasi, Ghana.)

NIGERIA.

Rectification.

In our edition of November 1971, we published the following statement: "The Ibos are reluctant to return to Kwara State and the Benue Plateau, and it is a fact that they are not welcome there." Fr. Desmond BYRNE writes to us from Oturkpo that the information given to Fr. STÖCKER on this point is inexact, at least for the Benue Plateau State. "The Ibos are back all over the State as cooks, traders, masons, carpenters, teachers, administrators, engineers etc. There are 20 Ibos in Senior posts in the Ministry of Works in Jos at the moment, apart from those who are in different senior posts all over the State. The Senior Education Officer here in Oturkpo is an Ibo. There are five graduate Ibos on the staff of St. Gabriel's Secondary School, Makurdi, and about the same number in Mt. St. Michael's, Aliade. The Postmaster here in Oturkpo is an Ibo. Mr. Ukpabi Asika, the Administrator of the East Central State, has just concluded a very successful visit to this State. The Ibos are welcome, and they are here.. working in all the Northern States. Recently, the North Eastern State Governor publicly thanked the East Central State for being the only one that heeded his appeal for teachers and technicians.."

CONGO.

News of the District

Firstly, some statistics concerning the District:

In general: - Area: 134,000 sq.mls. - Population: 1,000,000 (8 to the sq. mile). Four large racial groups: Kongo (65 %), Tegue, Bou-

bangui, Gabonais. - School ratio: 98 %: 250,000 children attend school.

Economy: In 1968 the gross product per capita was estimated at 250 U.S.A. dollars.

Religious situation: 1 archdiocese (Brazzaville) and 2 dioceses (Pointe-Noire et Fort-Rousset). 2 Congolese Bishops and 1 European (Mgr J.B.FAURET, CSSp. Pointe-Noire.

Estimate: 60 % christian (40 % catholic - 20 % protestant.)

<u>Population</u>	Brazzaville	320,000 inhab.	-	180,000 catholics
<u>of</u>	Fort-Rousset	230,000	-	70,000
<u>dioceses</u>	Pointe-Noire	450,000	-	150,000

Personnel: 160 priests of whom 110 CSSp.

Brazzaville: 40 CSSp. (3 Bros), 16 seculars, - 19 Fidei Donum & other Religious, 135 Sisters, - 680 catechists.

Fort-Rousset: 22 CSSp. (4 Bros) - 9 seculars, - 2 Fidei Donum & other, - 24 Sisters, - 150 catechists.

Pointe-Noire: 44 CSSp. (7 Bros) - 5 seculars, - 7 Fidei Donum & other, - 50 Sisters, - 550 catechists.

In preparation for the October Synod, a survey was made among the priests of the three dioceses. The following were the replies to the question: Do you think that the announcement of the Gospel as it is being done, is sufficient to promote and sustain the faith of the congolese today?

2 replied: Yes.

35 replied: No, for the following reasons:

15: the announcement of the Gospel has not penetrated the life of the majority of the faithful. Often, it has done no more than bring in certain religious practices without penetration in depth.

16: the announcement of the Gospel does not arm the faithful against the insidious propaganda of Marxism.

10: the announcement of the Gospel does not respond to certain religious aspirations: this is the reason for the relatively large success of different sects and other religious movements.

8: religious instruction has been too abstract.

5: too often in the past, the announcement of the Gospel simply meant memorising formulae.

5: the announcement is insufficient because of the lack of Congolese priests.

4: catechetics is often based on a rather naive interpretation of the Bible, which is unacceptable to the scientific outlook of many young people.

2: the Brazzaville catechism is completely unsatisfactory.

8: the priests, by their way of life, are out of touch with the questions which preoccupy the faithful.

Suggestions:

13 insist on the setting up of real communities of christian life.

8 ask that more initiative be given to the laity, so that their

- faith may be better integrated into their lives.
- 8 think that the Church of the Congo should clearly show itself in favour of socialisme, so that the laity may know that in working to build up their country, they are acting as christians.
- 8 ask that biblical courses be instituted for secondary school students and the laity in general.
- 6 ask that every effort be made, with the help of all, to elaborate an over-all pastoral plan, in order to counteract atheistic propaganda and the loss of a religious attitude.
- 5 ask for a deepening of the faith in the context of Congolese culture.

Many of these remarks and suggestions are applicable elsewhere as well as for the Congo...

ANGOLA. Fr. C. Estermann, professor of Ethnology

On the invitation of the Director of the Arts Department of the University College of Luanda situated at Sa de Bandeira, Fr. Charles ESTERMANN, CSSp., the well-known veteran ethnologist, is giving a course in Ethnology which will form part of the programme for the baccalaureat in Geography. - Fr. ESTERMANN's first lecture dealt with the coming of the Boers to the plateau of Huila. These brought with them Zulu and Hottentot servants, who when their masters withdrew to South-West Africa, remained in the region of Huila, thus establishing there a small ethnic and linguistic minority called the "ovi-womu".

ETHIOPIA New CSSp. Missions.

It is hoped that, in the course of 1972, two new missions will be founded in Ethiopia, one by the Irish confreres, the other by a team drawn from the American and Dutch Provinces. The two areas in question are situated in the South of Ethiopia, where Father HILLMAN, of the District of Kilimanjaro, carried out a survey in 1969, and where Frs. Noel DELANEY and Thomas FARRELLY, of Kenya, later made a further study of the situation. The Irish will go to Gemu Gofa, and the other team to Gambela.

Gemu Gofa is in the Vicariate Apostolic of Gimma, one of the 8 catholic jurisdictions of the country. It comprises 4 Governates: Wollege, Kaffa, Illubabor and Gemu Gofa, as well as the province of Jibat Metch in the Governate of Shea. The vicariate has a population of 4,206,000 inhabitants, of whom 5,600 are catholics. There are 18 missions administered by 25 Vincentian priests of the Province of Holland, aided by 5 Ethiopian priests and 20 Sisters. This personnel is occupied almost exclusively in Coptic-Christian areas, and so, their activity is mostly devoted to development work, since it is not feasible to work for conversions.

Fr. John GANNON, provincial councillor for the missions, was delegated by the Provincial Council to visit Ethiopia for the purpose of making the necessary arrangements with the various authorities concerning the arrival of the Irish contingent. He pointed out that the Irish Province had no intention of accepting an ecclesiastical jurisdiction, nor of undertaking ministry in the Coptic areas, but intended to go to the pagans of the region of Gemu Gofa, where up till now there have been no catholic missionaries.

Fr. GANNON was very favourably received by the civil authorities, and had no difficulty in getting visas for the Irish con-

freres as missionaries, which is quite unusual. In the administrative centre of Arba Minch, Fr. GANNON, who was accompanied by Fr. Tony BYRNE and the procurator of the Vicariate, had a meeting with the Governor and all the heads of Departments, who put before him the needs of Gemu Gofa in the fields of education, agriculture, public health and community development. The Governor promised a plot of land for a mission at Arba Minch; in return, Fr. GANNON has promised to fill some of the vacancies in the education programme and Fr. BYRNE will recommend projects in health, agriculture and community development to funding agencies in Europe.

The climate is hard, ranging in places from blistering heat to near zero at night. Travel is by mule mostly and the going is tedious; there are no roads. The country is very mountainous and thickly forested. The boundary river Omo is solid with crocodiles. The official language is Amharic, but every tribe has its own language for which there are no books and which can be learned only by living with the people.

Gambela, where the Americans and the Dutch intend to work, is situated in the Governate of Illubabor, which likewise has never seen catholic missionaries. The first steps towards the establishment of this mission will be taken soon by Fr. Edward KELLY, of the District of Kilimanjaro. He will be accompanied by Fathers Everhardus NASS and William JACKSON, both also of Kilimanjaro. Frs. KELLY and JACKSON come from the Eastern American Province, and Fr. NASS from the Dutch Province.

The new venture in Ethiopia will not lack difficulties, especially financial ones. Everything has yet to be done, and the local population will be unable to contribute. Still, it is a missionary's dream where there are 750,000 pagans. "How are they to believe in Him, until they listen to him? And how can they listen, without a preacher to listen to?" (Rom.10:14). The answer is up to the Spiritans..

MADAGASCAR.

The Village as School.

"The region of Madagascar where we work is the sub-prefecture of Port-Bergé in the East of Majunga. It has an area of about 2,700 sq. miles with a population of only 67,000, most of whom are pagans.

Up till last year, there were only 2 priests to minister to this vast territory; now, there are 3 of us. With a view to catering at the same time for both the evangelisation and the human development, we adopted the following plan. We built a small village consisting of 10 houses in addition to that of the instructor, and another for the Father and Brother, 2 classrooms, a sewing-room, a chapel and the out-buildings of a little farm. We select 10 poor families from the bush and bring them to live in this village for two years, while we give them a religious and technical training. Each morning, everybody goes to class, men, women and children. About 80 % of the people are illiterate. They are taught to read, write, etc. Religious instruction is given by the Father. The afternoon is reserved for the technical apprenticeship. A CSSp. Brother teaches men agriculture, stock-breeding, carpentry.. The women are trained in sewing and cookery, where they have very much to learn. A lady lay-missionary, who works without salary at the hospital of Port-Bergé, comes on Wednesday afternoons to teach the women elementary hygiene and child-care.

After two years these families return to their villages, bringing with them the following articles which are supplied free since the people could never acquire them themselves: a plough, a harrow, a sewing-machine, carpenter's tools.

The first group finished on January 15th 1971. The families returned home and are doing well. They had come to the village-school because they wished to become christians and set up pilot-families; for this, they had been preparing themselves for over a year. The parents received the sacrament of marriage, and then with their older children made their first communion. Afterwards all took part in a family meal. It was a day of great happiness for the whole village, - and not least for the heart of the poor missionary himself! (Fr. Léon PETER CSSp. in "Christ to the World" 1971, n° 6, p.517.)

MAURITIUS The Spiritans withdraw from Rodrigues.

On the 3,000 mile sea-route between Mauritius and the western coast of Australia, the only land visible is the island of Rodrigues. Though separated from its sister-islands Mauritius and La Réunion, it is the smallest of the group which makes up the archipelago of the Mascareignes. It has an area of 40 square miles and is densely populated, having 26,000 inhabitants, of whom 97 % are catholic, the other 3 % being composed of anglicans, muslims or those belonging to no denomination. The whole island is covered with churches, calvaries, shrines, and in 1954 a large statue of Our Lady, Queen of Rodrigues, was erected facing the sea, above Port-Mathurin the capital. The island is mountainous and is one of the few places which is not accessible by aeroplane.

The first spiritan missionaries established themselves in Rodrigues in 1850. Its first pastor was Fr. François THEVAUX, one of those who returned from the unfortunate venture in Australia. Since then, many of our confreres have served the people of this island, often remaining for long periods. Now, the Spiritans hand over to the Mauritius clergy.

In a radio message to Rodrigues on January 1st, Mgr MARGEOT announced the departure of the Spiritans, and paid tribute to their apostolate on the island. "The Holy Ghost Fathers, he said, have been in Rodrigues since the mission began; they are its founders, and it is to their work and their tireless devotedness that we owe, under God, the profound faith and the vigorous piety which characterises you." After a word of special praise for Fr. Ronald GANDY who has worked for 30 years there, the Bishop continued: "To him (Fr. GANDY), and to all the members of the Holy Ghost Congregation, to Fr. DITNER (District Superior) and to the Superior General, I wish to express the profound gratitude of the diocese of Port-Louis and of Rodrigues.."

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V A R I A .
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GERMANY.

A new missionary movement

PRIM (Priests help priests) is a new missionary movement among the secular priests in Germany which was founded on the initiative of a country parish priest of the diocese of Aix-la-Chapelle. The basic idea is that the secular priests of Germany should not be content merely to acknowledge in theory that the African and Asian secular priests are their confreres. They should put this fraternity into practice by giving regularly part of their salary or other income for the support of their African and Asian colleagues not as an alms, but as a sign of their shared responsibilities. Nor should this partnership be a one-sided affair. The movement PRIM will also study new theological ideas; new initiatives in the pastoral, liturgical and social fields, emanating from the

young African and Asian Churches, with a view to enriching the German priests themselves. So far, the prospects for this movement are very positive and very promising. (Nachrichten aus Provinz und Mission, 5/1971.)

SENEGAL. Towards a rural Press

The provision of a Press service for the country districts of French-speaking Africa was the theme for a study mission which began its work at Dakar on January 10th and will end on February 15th 1972.

This meeting - the second of its kind - is organised by UNESCO in collaboration with the Study Center for Information Sciences and Techniques (CESTI), and the University of Dakar, as well as those responsible for the literacy campaign and the development of rural areas. Particular attention will be given to the interests of the peasant people, specialised techniques for those who have just learned to read, the advantages of a small magazine with illustrations, the possibility of transcribing and using African languages, as well as to the possibility of organising collaboration with the cooperatives, the schools, the village councils, religious groups and other organisations.

CONGO. Ordination of the first Congolese Benedictine

On 7th July 1971, Brother Denys KOKOLO, a Bembian from the district, was ordained to the priesthood by Most Rev. J.B. FAURET, CSSp. Bishop of Pointe-Noire. He is the first religious of the monastery Ste. Marie de la Bouenza to become a priest. Among those present at the ceremony were: Dom R. WEAKLAND, Abbot-Primate of the Confederated Benedictines, the monks of the Bouenza, a large delegation of the priests and religious of the diocese, and a numerous congregation of christians who were overjoyed by the ceremony. The Government was represented by the Commissaire of the Bouenza District, and the chiefs from the districts of Mouyondzi and Madingou. There were over 300 guests at the meal which followed the ceremony, provided by the monks and the Sisters.

On December 12th, there was a festivity at the mission of Mouyondzi to celebrate the 40 years spent by Brother Veronus MOLLEMANS in the Congo. He has spent all his life in the stations of the District, and to him is due practically all the material progress that has been made.

ANGOLA. The First Mass in Portuguese Congo

The newspaper O Apostolado, on the occasion of its 36th anniversary, published a special illustrated number containing 78 pages, on 20th November, 1971. It prints the full text of Pope PAUL VI's Instruction on Social Communications. There is much useful information about the different dioceses of Angola and recent developments in the Church in this country, besides numerous interesting articles, one of which particularly caught our attention. This is a study by Fr. Antonio BRASIO entitled "The First Mass in Angola." On April 5th, 1971, a special ceremony took place at the mission of Pinda, including a concelebrated mass by the Archbishop of Luanda and the Bishop of Carmona-S. Salvador, to commemorate the Mass that was said at the mouth of the Zaire by the religious who formed part of the exploratory team sent out in 1490 by King John II of Portugal. Fr. BRASIO, who is a specialist in the history of the old Portuguese missions, considers that the first Mass said in these parts was probably earlier. He puts the date as the feast of St. George on April 25th, 1482, during the first voyage of the 'discoverer' Diogo Cam.

The "First Mass" which was commemorated last April was that celebrated solemnly on Easter Sunday, April 3rd, 1491, on the occasion of the baptism of the King of Sonho. Actually, this king was not the first Congolese to be baptised, since the ambassadors who accompanied Diego Cam back to Portugal from his second voyage had also received this sacrament - but in Portugal. It remains true that the "Manisonho" was the first to be received into the Church in Angola itself. This was an event which surely deserved to be recalled.

EAST AFRICA. AFER Editorial Office moves to Gaba.

The Bishops of Eastern Africa have decided to move the editorial office of AFER (the African Ecclesiastical Review) from Masaka, Uganda, to the Gaba Pastoral Institute near Kampala. The new address for the editor is: Rev. Fr. J. GEERDES, WF. P.O. Box 6150, Kampala, Uganda.

AFER is a theological review appearing four times a year (about 100 pages each issue). It is of interest to all those working for the Church in Africa, with its articles on such subjects as the Africanisation of theology and liturgy. The fact that the Editor's office will now be at the Gaba Pastoral Institute, should prove beneficial both to the magazine and to the Institute, which is one of the most developed Pastoral Institutes in Africa. (FIDES).

CHRISTIANS AND MUSLIMS

The following passage, well-intentioned but not equally applicable to all the countries of Africa, is taken from the review Jeune Afrique (N° 573, 1-I-1972), which has a sizeable proportion of Muslims in its editorial board.

The hostility between muslims and christians is now an anachronism; since both sides have decided to get to know each other better. The desire of the Catholic Church to be open to the outside world is doubtless at the origin of this new attitude. In spite of the confrontations throughout the course of history, of which the most noteworthy are the Crusades and the struggle of the colonised peoples for their liberation, it now appears that dialogue has been established and is already achieving a certain success.

The political situation in the Middle East since the Six Days' War has contributed largely to consolidating the understanding between the two communities. Both christians and muslims are concerned about the future of the Holy City Jerusalem, and would wish it to have the status of an International City. (1) Recently the Vatican has launched a press campaign against the "Jewisation" of the city, and has had talks on this subject with Mr. MASMOUDI, Tunisian Minister for External Affairs.

(1) - Concerning Jerusalem, Pope PAUL VI, replying to the greetings of the Sacred College on the 23rd of December last, declared: "It is not our intention today to add anything to what we have already said in the past. We insist on the need for a special statute, guaranteed at the international level, which takes account of the very special and pluralist character of the Holy City, as well as of the rights of the different communities which have established themselves there, looking on it as their spiritual home and the meeting place of all..." (Editor's note.)

