Duquesne University

Duquesne Scholarship Collection

CSSP Newsletter

CSSP Newsletter and Spiritan News

10-20-1972

CSSP Newsletter-No.30 (1972)

Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers

Follow this and additional works at: https://dsc.duq.edu/cssp-news

Repository Citation

Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers. (1972). CSSP Newsletter-No.30 (1972). Retrieved from https://dsc.duq.edu/cssp-news/30

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by the CSSP Newsletter and Spiritan News at Duquesne Scholarship Collection. It has been accepted for inclusion in CSSP Newsletter by an authorized administrator of Duquesne Scholarship Collection.

CSSP - NEWSLETTER - CSSP

Congregazione dello Spirito Santo

Clivo di Cinna, 195 - 00136 Roma

October 1972 CONTENTS	No. 30
257-30	pages
NEWS FROM ROME:	1 - 2
PROVINCES AND DISTRICTS: France, Belgium, USA	2 - 4
MISSION NEWS: Angola, Reunion, Mauritius, SECAM, Nigeria, Tanzania, Madagascar, South Africa, Cameroons	4 - 10 10 - 12
OUR DEAD:	12
TATELO TO ORGE TORGET	

NEWS FROM ROME

The Holy Father has accepted the resignation of Most Rev. Auguste DELISLE, C.S.Sp. as Bishop of Lokoja (Nigeria), dated 30th July 1972.

Mgr. DELISLE was Bishop of Lokoja since 1964, but had been in Africa since 1934, the year of his ordination. He taught at first in the Junior Seminary of Akono (Cameroons), then he worked as a missionary in the bush area. In 1955 he went to Nigeria where he was named Prefect Apostolic of Kabba. While there, inspired by a great spirit of faith and apostolic zeal, he governed the missionary activity of the Prefecture with marked success, building a seminary, schools, and establishing social assistance works. On July 6th 1964, the apostolic prefecture became a diocese. After only eight years as Bishop, Mgr. DELISLE has had the joy of being able to pass over the direction of the diocese to one of its own sons.

- Most Rev. Alexis MAKOZI, who has been transferred from the titular See of Fallaba to the resident See of Lokoja, where he succeeds Bishop DELISLE, has been Auxiliary Bishop of the Diocese for the past year and a half. He was born in Okene in 1932, was ordained priest on December 8th 1961 and was named auxiliary bishop on the 30th May, 1971. (FIDES)

Sacred Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples
Cardinal ROSSI in Latin America

Cardinal Agnelo ROSSI, Prefect of the Sacred Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples, has recently visited South America on a tour which took him to eight countries. He had three objectives: 1) to have first-hand knowledge of the missions among the aborigines, 2) to get a better knowledge of CELAM (Episcopal Conference of Latin America), 3) to promote missionary interest among South American catholics, especially by means of the O.P.M. (Pontifical Missionary Works). In Brazil, the Cardinal hopes for a strong O.P.M. organisation and the development of missionary co-operation both among the missions of the Amazonas and those of the entire world. This desire was greeted very favourably in the Sao Paulo archdiocese, where it was decided that each one would contribute annually to the missions 1% of his monthly salary.

Reorganisation of the Propaganda Colleges

The Sacred Congregation of Propaganda Fide has decided to reorganise its two colleges: the Urban College of Theology on
the Janiculum, and the College of Philosophy in Via Torre Rossa.
The latter will house not only the students who are there at
present, but in future will cater for all the students coming
from mission countries and who are not yet priests. The College
on the Janiculum will keep the students who are there already
until they have finished their studies, but will, in future, be
reserved for priest students. In each college, both Philosophy
and Theology will be taught. The Mission Ordinaries - as also
those of other countries - tend more and more to send only students
who have already been ordained to do their university studies in
Rome.

DISTRICTS AND PROVINCES

FRANCE-

Districts-Province Meeting

A meeting of research and reflection took place at Chevilly from the 6th to the 27th May, attended by the French Provincial with his two Vicars, and most of the Principal Superiors from the countries where missionaries from this province are working. In these countries there are 710 French Spiritans (94% of the French Spiritans in the Missions) in 17 dioceses, to which must be added 128 Spiritans of other nationalities. In France there are 570 Spiritans, including a certain number of elderly confreres returned from the missions, some young confreres getting ready to go out, and those who serve the mission through missionary animation, formation, or other works necessary to the role of the Province.

This meeting was not a Chapter, as such. It was simply a time of discussion and reflection on the new aspects of the Missions, the various priorities and above all the work of the Holy Spirit, never ceasing to stimulate His church. Since there is a complete renewal of missionary purpose in the air, it was necessary to take note of this, to get on to the same wave-length, as it were, and ensure a stronger, more effective collaboration between all the members of the Province.

The first few days were devoted to reports followed by reflection on the changes which have come about in the Church, the world, the third-world and on the missionary situation both in France and in the mission countries. Tuesday, May 16th, was a day of recollection, with St. Paul for guide. The following days were taken up with a variety of subjects: collaboration among Spiritans, aspirations of the young students, experiments in up-dating of personnel, regional communities in the missions, differences in administration, the importance to be attached to charisms, the role of Principal Superiors, diminution of personnel, forms of Rrovince-District collaboration etc. ..

After these three weeks of dialogue, several important points emerged, as a call from the Holy Spirit, leading to reflection and change:

- the rapid decrease in personnel,
- the aspirations of the young students towards more authenticity in our community life, in our prayer and witness among the African people,
- the attraction exercised by certain experiments in progress,
- the universal need for up-dating,
- solidarity between Province and Districts whose interests are fundamentally identical,
- the progressive urbanisation of the population in the third-world.

Consequently, it is essential that we work towards creating responsible communities and so do ourselves out of a job."

(Spiritans in 1972, Sup. 159A, Bul.159)

BELGIUM

Spiritan Meeting

A meeting of Spiritans took place at Gentinnes, on August 17 and 18, to which 65 Belgian Spiritans had been invited: 20 accepted the invitation. Also present were Fr. G. BIEMANS, Provincial, Holland, and Fr. F. TIMMERMANS, Principal of Bangui. The aim of this meeting: a brotherly get-together, the study of reports, exchange of ideas, all of which should contribute to mutual enrichment. Having examined the situation in the Province, the following conclusion was reached:

"The immediate future is not very hopeful. However, we must not be either defeatist or discouraged. We should continue, in a spirit of real faith, to promote the universality of the Church & to make known the teaching of the Gospel. As far as the French-speaking part of the country is concerned, all our hopes lie in Gentinnes, but on condition that we try to extend its influence, that we pass on to the young students an example of real missionary vocation and of a community which tries to live the Good News in joy and fraternity."

Fr. TIMMERMANS read a report on "Needs, changes and priorities in missionary activity" which are constantly evolving. The priorities differ, in this new perspective, from those of former times. In order to adapt to these changes, the need for up-dating missionaries becomes obvious. There is no lack of difficulties: tension sometimes between bishops and missionaries, the heavy burden of material structures, the generation gap, social and political implications, the decrease in and the ageing of personnel.

There were also papers and discussions on: missionary activity on the national level(F. DEVILLE), diocesan(H. BOON), missionary training (de CLEENE), the missionary's contribution to development (K. VERCAUTEREN), fostering vocations(A. BERCHMANS), Spiritans in diocesan work (A. BODARD).

It was generally agreed that the meeting had been enriching and that similar meetings should be arranged regularly. (Prov.Bul)

UNITED STATES

Centennial Celebrations

Centennial Commerative Ceremonies have been taking place with great success in most of our communities and are still continuing. A number of very flattering public statements have been made on this occasion. That of President Nixon was widely acclaimed. A letter was received from Cardinal VILLOT, Secretary of State,

expressing congratulations and greetings from the Holy Father, Many State Governors have expressed their goodwill and gratitude towards the Congregation.

The Superior General arrived in Boston from Canada on September 1st. He visited our works in the Eastern Province, assisted at several commemorative ceremonies and met the Provincial Council on September 18th. He also went to Puerto Rico. In the Western Province he took part in the first Regional centennial celebration which took place at Opelousas, on September 21st. On the 29th, at Washington, he attended a formal reception, together with the two Provincials, Fr. CONNORS and Fr. HARCAR, which was attended by the Apostolic Delegate, the ambassadors from our mission countries, members of Congress representing the states where we work, and several confreres.

MEXICO - Fathers HARCAR and REARDON from the Western Province, and Fathers CLYNES and CROWLEY from the Eastern Province, attended celebrations for the second centenary of the mission at Talanjas, where the building of the church was completed in 1772. All the confreres present assisted the Bishop at the Thanksgiving Masses which were concelebrated with the local clergy on July 25th and 26th. As part of our territory is being taken over by the government for a dam and that will result in a large displacement of the population, the Bishop has asked us to take charge of another region adjacent to the one where we are at present.

CONGO

Episcopal ordination - Mgr. SINGHA

On Sunday, 6th August, Mgr. Georges SINGHA was ordained Bishop. He is the new bishop of Fort-Rousset, succeeding Mgr. Benoit CASSONGO, who in turn had succeeded Mgr. Emile VERHILLE C.S.Sp. The prelate officiating was Mgr. Mario TAGLIAFERRI, Apostolic Delegate for the Popular Congo Republic, assisted by Most Rev. Emile BIAYENDA, archbishop of Brazzaville and Most Rev. Joachim NDAYEN, archbishop of Bangui. Also present were Most Rev. Fernand ANGUILE, archbishop of Libreville (Gabon), Most.Rev. DE LA MOUREYRE C.S.Sp. bishop of Mouila (Gabon) and Fr. PANNIER C.S.Sp. Vicar General of Pointe-Noire. The government was represented by Mr. Alphonse GANGOUE, Minister of Agriculture.

The diocese of Fort-Rousset, separated from Erazzaville on December 21st 1950, is the largest in the Popular Congo Republic, but at the same time it is the least populated, which makes the ministry difficult for the bishop and priests concerned. It has approximately 250,000 inhabitants, of whom there are more than 25,000 Pygmies and an area of 235,000 sq. kilometres. The catholic population numbers about 90,000, for whom the ministry is assured by the presence of about 40 priests, 30 sisters and 7 brothers. There are 19 parishes. (SEMAINE)

SSSSSSSSSSS

ANGOLA

Golden Jubilee of Fr. ESTERMANN

On the 28th of October this year, Father Charles Estermann celebrates the Golden Jubilee of his ordination. The greater part of his 50 years of priesthood were spent in Angola, where he arrived two years after his ordination and where he has lived up to now, becoming "the most noted ethnologist who has worked in Angola." (Manuel Viegas-Guerreiro).

His extraordinary qualities as a missionary and as a scholar were given full scope in the vast and typical region of South-West Angola: typical in its countryside and in its inhabitants, it has today attracted world attention by a large project in

connection with the river Cunene.

Four years after his arrival, Fr. ESTERMANN founded a new mission, OMUPANDA, among the Cuanhamas, but he had to leave it after another four years to assume responsibility for directing the missionary activity in the whole of the South-West, as Principal Superior of Cunenc and Vicar General of the ecclesiastical District of Huila. The different changes in diocesan boundaries involved a change of titles for him (Superior Princ. of Nuova Lisboa, Vicar General of the diocese of Sa de Bandeira) but no diminution of his work or responsibilities.

This did not prevent him, however, from continuing at the same time with his laborious scientific activity, which made him an eminent authority on everything concerning South West Angola. He has written over 100 books, of which the most important are his three volumes - "Ethnography of South West Angola! He has collaborated as a corresponding member with several scientific organisations, such as the Instituto de Investigação Cientifica of Lisbon and the Académic des Sciences d'Outre-Mer of Paris.

The greatest achievement in Father ESTERMANN'S 50 years of priesthood has certainly been the balance he has maintained between both his missionary work and his scientific activities, harmonising one with the other, to the detriment of neither.

REUNION Jubilee of Ma

Jubilee of Mgr. DE LANGAVANT

Mgr. DE LANGAVANT C.S.Sp., former Bishop of La Réunion and who is still in active service in the diocese, celebrated his 50th anniversary of ordination on September 23rd. On that day, he concelebrated a Thanksgiving Mass with his successor, Mgr. GUIBERT. The following day, he concelebrated Mass with Fr. RIGOLET, Principal Superior of the District. On Monday, 25th, the priests of the Diocese held a celebration at Saint-Denis. (CROIX SUD)

սսսսսսսսսսսսսսսսսսսսսսս

MAURITIUS Ceremony in honour of Father LAVAL

On Sunday, 2nd July, a solemn Thanksgiving Mass was celebrated at Sainte-Croix to celebrate the decree proclaiming the heroic virtues of Father LAVAL. On Thursday, 22nd June, at a ceremony in the presence of the Sovereign Pontiff, the decree was promulgated confirming that "the Servant of God, Jacques Désire LAVAL, Apostle of the Island of Mauritius, practised christian virtues to a heroic degree during his life." The solemn Mass was concelebrated by Mgr. NAGAPEN, Administrator of the Diocese, Fr. DITNER, Superior of the Spiritans in Mauritius, and Fr. Gerard BOWE C.S.Sp. Parish Priest of Sainte-Croix and Vice-postulator of the cause of Fr. LAVAL. Fr. BOWE gave the official sermon for the occasion. He outlined how, throughout his life, and particularly his missionary life in Mauritius, Fr. LAVAL practised the virtues of faith, hope and love of God and men, patience, penitence and devotion etc. to an eminent degree. These are the heroic virtues which the Church recognises and officially proclaims. It is an important

step in the progress of the cause of Fr. LAVAL. We should pray God to grant us, through the intercession of the great apostle of Mauritius, the miracles necessary to enable him to be officially venerated as Blessed, and then as Saint. (VIE CATHOLIQUE)

-:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=:=

UGANDA 3rd Symposium of Bishops from Africa and Madagascar

The 3rd Symposium of the Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (SECAM) was held at the Gaba Pastoral Institute, Kampala, Uganda, from August 13 to 18. It had originally been scheduled for Bujumbura, Burundi, but this was not possible on account of the sad events which took place recently there. There was just one single theme discussed: the role of the laity in the growth of the Church and the integral development of Africa," a follow-up to the Pan-African Laity Seminar held in Accra, Ghana, last year. 36 members represented the African hierarchy, and there were 22 observers and 8 experts.

The Symposium opened with a concelebrated Mass, on Sunday, 13th August. Among those in attendance were: General AMIN, President of the Uganda Republic, Mgr. NSUBUGA, Archbishop of Kampala, Mgr. GANTIN, Secretary-adj. of Propaganda Fide, and Cardinal ZOUNGRANA, President of the Symposium. Mgr. Gantin read a message sent by Cardinal VILLOT on behalf of the Pope: "...The approach adopted by the African hierarchy is an exemplary one: first to listen to the lay people who are working at all levels in the Church, to share their reflection, to gather up their perplexities, their quostionings, their desires; and then to initiate deeper study, draw up guide lines, establish priorities - while associating qualified laymen and women with your own pastoral reflection and planning...".

In the afternoon, the assembly held two work sessions devoted to internal problems.

Monday morning was devoted to two sessions on General Orientations followed by discussions. Then the participants divided up into four groups: 2 English-speaking and 2 French-speaking. Two of the groups proposed that SECAM should seriously consider the possibility of setting up one or more centres of higher studies that would explore the problem of the relationship between Christianity and African culture. The findings would be then passed on to SECAM and would become a basis for pastoral activity. It would be necessary to note, however, that African culture is far from being uniform. It has many facets, due to geographical, educational and social differences.

The afternoon was taken up with a paper by Bishop SIPENDI, Bishop of Moshi(Kenya), on the training of the laity. Having studied the paper, the groups called for new means of training and favoured study groups, seminars and continuing formation rather than institutional and theoretical training. They stressed the important role played by mass media and the traditional African means of communication such as songs, stories, proverbs and tribal ceremonics. The need for improved training of priests to make them more aware of the essential role of the laity was also stressed.

On Tucsday, 15th August, proclaimed a holiday by President AMIN, 72 concelebrants offered Mass at MAMUGONGO at the shrine of the Uganda Martyrs, in the presence of 50,000 people.

Wednesday was devoted to a work session and discussions on relations between the different members within the Church, given by Mr. R. RUCHARD, a Senegalese layman, and Madame KUNAMBI, Tanzanian member of Parliament. Thursday was completely taken up with

papers on consideration of Pan-African laity structures and relations with other Christian Churches, Moslems and Animists. Finally, on Friday, 18th August, the last day of the Symposium, the voting on the final resolutions took place, of which we quote below the main points:

The Symposium approves, in principle, the proposals presented by the Provisional Pan-African Committee regarding the setting up of Laity Structures at the Pan-African level. Moreover, it endorses the work of the committee and requests it to appoint a General Secretary, have a permanent secretariat, and thus work towards the creation of an All-Africa Laity Council. The Symposium counts on the collaboration of SECAM and that of the Provisional Committee in order to realise this project.

To promote dialogue, the Symposium expressed the wish that National Councils of the Laity, Pastoral Councils and Parochial Councils should be set up as soon as possible, where they do not already exist...and that the laity be called to participate on a consultative basis in the work of the Presbyteral Councils and the Episcopal Conferences. The Symposium recommends the participation of the laity in material and financial matters, e.g. in

drawing up and supervising the budget.

With regard to promoting development in Africa which would be truly African, the Symposium favours research in the fields of African anthropology, sociology, traditional religions, rites and ceremonics of African societics.

Still with regard to the promoting of African values, the Symposium recommends the use of mass media in the field of education, a permanent education for adults and children,

With regard to the formation of the laity, which the Symposium regards as a matter of priority, the following points are stressed: Spiritual life, preparation for civil and political life, professional and technical training, rural development, literacy campaigns and mass education. The Symposium wishes that the training also include the promotion of the ecumenical spirit and knowledge of Islam, especially where Christians and Moslems live together.

On the subject of injustices in the world, the delegates unanimously declared that the Church in Africa must attentively follow the tragic events taking place there, defend the individual and condemn violation of basic human rights. On the other hand, the majority of the members felt that it is difficult for an assembly such as SECAM to be informed enough on the details and background of a specific situation to be authorised to make a judgement and to issue an official public statement. The Symposium agreed to set up a committee for African External Affairs which would study individual cases of injustice and oppression in Africa.

New Permanent Committee: Cardinal ZOUNGRANA (Ouagadougou, Upper Volta) was re-elected for three years as President of SECAM. Mgr. John AMISSAH (Cape Coast, Ghana) was re-elected First Vice-President and Mgr. Jean ZOA (Yaoundé, Cameroons) Second Vice-President. Bishop Leon LESAMBO (Inongo, Zaire) and Maurice OTUNGA (Nairobi) were elected as new members of the Permanent Committee.

NIGERIA

District of Makurdi

The diocesan paper, The Northern Cross, has appeared again, following four years in 'limbo'. Mr. R. JOLLY, a lay voluntary worker, has accepted the post of editor and the first number promises well. A Nigerian is being trained at present, who will eventually take over as editor.

The liturgical commission for the North has been approved by the Bishop. Fr. WYNNE C.S.Sp. is the representative for the diocese. A questionnaire was distributed to all the priests with a view to composing a Local Ritual. The Commission circulated a document on the "traditional religious ministry in Nigeria". The author compares the present catholic ministry with certain types of traditional cults where a hierarchy seems to exist and which the Church could copy.

Fr. Denis CARTWRIGHT C.S.Sp. has translated into Tiv the sacramental rites, some prayers and the Sunday readings. He is also giving a language initiation course to new-comers, Fathers and Sisters and, from time to time, to veteran missionaries who can spare the time.

TANZANIA

In the service of Development

Fr. Anthony EYRNE C.S.Sp. arrived in Moshi on June 18th to help with and co-ordinate the development plans for the diocese. He was in touch with the civic and religious authorities; he visited parishes and various works, studying on the spot the various projects under way and discussing those envisaged for the future, with both ecclesiastical personnel, members of the parish council and other representatives. On the 1st August, he held a seminar in the Community Hall at Moshi, and there he read a report on his findings for verification and completion. On the 6th, he left for the diocese of Tanga.

The National Committee of Catechetics, together with the Directors of the catechetical centres of Tanzania, organised a seminar which was held at Morogoro from the 25th to the 27th September, to prepare on a national scale for the International Congress of Catechetics which has been planned for 1973 by the Episcopal Councils of Kenya, Malawi, Tanzania, Uganda and Zambia. (AMECEA)

nnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnnn

MADAGASCAR

Towards a National Synod

On the occasion of the ordination of Mgr. RAKOTONDRAVAHATRA as Bishop of Ihosy, on July 2nd last, the 10 bishops present decided to hold an extraordinary meeting in view of the particular circumstances at present affecting Madagascar. Each diocese would be represented, not only by its Bishop, but by a priest elected by his confreres, an order man, a Sister and representatives of the Senior Seminary. This meeting was opened on the 26th July at Tananarive and there were 80 people taking part.

The most urgent problem was that of the re-organisation of the Senior Seminary. Professors and pupils had submitted proposals regarding the future of the establishment. A decision was made that the Seminary, which was in the care of the Jesuit Fathers, would in future be under the direction of the diocesan clergy. Other problems dealt with at the meeting were: teaching and catholic schools in the present context, the place and role of the laity in the Church today, problems of priests and Sisters...

It was perhaps due to the very fact that no-one had time to seriously prepare for this meeting that, paradoxically, it was a success! - everyone strongly feeling the need to listen to the others, and the bishops were the first to give the example - they listened. As complete liberty was extended to everyone present, ideas, criticisms etc. were not lacking. The main result was that, faced with the vastness of the subjects discussed, all

realised the necessity of calling a national synod, which would be prepared for by diocesan synods. Thus, the Catholic Church in Madagascar has firmly opted for renewal, a renewal which is felt by many to be indispens ble for a long time now, and which the changes affecting the Great Island make all the more urgent. (LUMIERE)

SOUTH AFRICA

Difficulties in the Apostolate

The Agency KIPA has sent a circular letter written by the General Secretary of the Episcopal Council of the Republic of South Africa to all the bishops and religious superiors of the country. The text speaks of the astonishing discrimination which affects both lay and religious catholics, enacted by both administrative and government authorities!

"The General Secretary," writes KIPA, "declares that in recent months there have been many revealing facts regarding pressures exercised on the activities of the Catholic Church. Thus, the immigration department makes nover-ending difficulties for religious wishing to obtain a visa for a stay of indefinite length, in order to diminish the Catholic Peril - het Roomse Gevaar, as it is called. The application of these rules depend on the persons concerned, the place to where they are going and their professional qualifications. Apart from teachers and nurses, the Sisters have little chance of obtaining a visa. Priests have to wait for four years before being able to make an application for residence and their chances depend almost entirely on the place. In certain regions of NATAL and in the North and North-East of TRANSVAAL where catholics are suspect, each application is subjected to a thorough examination. Every effort is made to prove that the applicant has comunistic tendencies.

"The same problem is to be found with regard to work. There are cases where vacancies have been refused to catholic nurses (not necessarily Sisters) in State hospitals. In North-Transvaal, the health services have refused to engage a Sister born in South Africa and the post was given to a non-catholic immigrant. There is an even more grave accusation which the letter mentions namely the recent stand taken by the Reform Church Synod against catholic hospitals and other institutions. Has ecumenism been left behind in South Africa?

The newspaper Southern Cross, also, remarks that attacks against people who are opposed to the government's stand on apartheid seem to be deliberately ignored by the police and the courts.

CAMEROONS

National Council of Laity

and the case of th

At their annual conference held at Youndé from 11th to 14th April, 1972, the bishops of the Cameroons decided to create a National Council of the Laity. Consequently, Mgr. Jean ZOA, President of the Commission for the Apostolate of the Laity, held a meeting of priests and religious and responsible laity regarding the construction of the Council. To this assembly he presented a project which had already been seen by the bishops. The project was approved and the assembly decided to erect a provisional office until the National Council is complete. This office is responsible for contacting the Council of the Laity in Rome, to inform those interested on what is happening and on the results of this first meeting.

Ordination of Permanent Diaconates

Recently three new deacons were ordained in the presence of Mgr. Thomas MONGO, Bishop of DOUALA, by Mgr. Simon TONYE, his Coadjutor. In fact, the Bishop of Douala and his Coadjutor seem decided to appoint more and more deacons and they intend to place one in each parish. There is at present a total of ten permanent deacons in the diocese. The parish priests in these parishes seem to be very satisfied with their services. The main difficulty arises from the fact that deacons have a profession also, but they are beginning to find their own place, as it were, between the parish priest and his parishioners.

WEST AFRICA

Regional Bishops Association

Just as the English-speaking countries of East Africa have their own regional Bishops' Association - AMECEA - so English-speaking West Africa has now got together on a regional basis, with four countries - Ghana, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Gambia - forming a regional Bishops' Association, with a total of 14 ecclesiastical circumscriptions. Nigeria, which has 26 conscriptions, is not, at least for the present, a member of the organisation. The President of the Association is Mgr. Francis CARROLL, Vicar Apostolic of Monrovia and pro-nuncio to Liberia. Fr. P. BURKE of Liberia is secretary and Fr. P. VAN DE LAAR of Kumasi (Ghana) is assistant secretary. (FIDES)

00000000000000

Meeting of Secretariat for Non-Christians

The secretariat for non-christians organised a study meeting which was held from 29th to 31st August, on the "impact of civilisation and modern culture on religious life in Africa," especially in the urban zones and the university milieu. The Secretariat had asked that each of the African Episcopal Conferences appoint someone to maintain liaison with Rome and prepare a report on the religious implication of present-day changes in African society.

The discussions and the general conclusion dealt with the discovery of the traditional religions, the phenomenon that religious attitudes, apparently contradictory, can be found in one and the same person, the efforts being made to promote African values, Church-State relations in the African countries, christianity in relation to socio-political problems, the role of the laity in the dialogue with unbelievers, the importance of the urban apostolate, and the need for an overall pastoral plan.

The Secretariat will publish shortly the reports presented at Abidjan, with recommendations made to the Episcopal Conferences and to the Congregation for the Evangelisation of Peoples. Though unbelievers may be relatively few in Africa, there is a certain atheism creeping in, based on material prosperity.

REUNION

Unemployment among Youth

The most worrying aspect of unemployment in Reunion is that it affects especially the young people. A recent report showed that 35% of those applying for jobs were under 25 years of age and that 47% of the under 20s were either partially or totally unemployed or were not looking for work. A large number of them leave

school knowing just how to read and write, and at most look for manual work. These young people who have gone through school without getting very much benefit from it, have become aware of the existence of aspirations, rights, needs, pleasures etc. which others, more fortunate than they, find the means to satisfy. They have a very strong sense of injustice regarding the fact that they are condemned to be the spectators in an evolution which offers more and more luxuries but which they would never be able to acquire, as their work would never make it financially possible. In spite of emigration, birth control, better schooling etc. there will be a growing number of youth without work in the coming years. On the most favourable hypothesis, Reunion will have 480,000 inhabitants by 1975, 521,000 by 1980 and 564,000 by 1985. There will be more than 100,000 jobs to create! If the situation continues as it is progressing now, it is probable that the young will no longer remain simply passive. Having nothing to lose, they will be ready for any adventure. (Croix-SUD)

BRAZIL

Pope's Message to the Brazilians

On the occasion of the 150th Anniversary of Brazil's independence, a message was sent by the Holy Father, from which we quote the following passage:

"The event which is commemorated today is not something that just happened once for all and is now finished with. It is a continual growing, an on-going process which is worked out from one day to the next. In this vital growth all concerned have their part to play, among them the children of the Church, since it is part of our fidelity to God that we should contribute to the indispensable progress of men in the grace and knowledge of Jesus Christ.

"Brazil has received the gift of faith and has become the cradle of a new people of God. But faith, which illuminates everything with a new light and makes known God's Will regarding the integral vocation of man, is a commitment, both for individuals and for groups alike: a commitment to everything ordained by God, bringing with it a real sense of responsibility, inspired by charity and the will to co-operate towards the common good, seeking always and in everything, the justice of the Kingdom of God.

"This should be reflected in individual behaviour and in social life, in the sanctity of the family and in united effort towards promoting collective order and progress to overcome want and to realise more and more a fraternal equality among all members of the community, thanks to a general participation in all the rights and responsibilities of its citizens."

(OS.ROM.)

On the occasion of the 25th Mission Week held in BURGOS from the 7th to the 11th August 1972, Mgr. B. GANTIN paid a moving tribute to Mgr. TCHIDIMBO, adding: "We can imagine only too well what suffering he must be undergoing at the present time, in darkness and in silence."

The Secretary-adj. of Propaganda Fide continued: "Will churches in the West have sufficient detachment to be able to accept the particular characteristic slant which the Young Churches put on theology and liturgy?

"This is a question which is worrying the Church in Africa.

The list of confreres who have died since the publication of our last issue (June 1972, No. 29) appears in the General Bulletin No. 764, July-August 1972. To this list, we add the following:

- Brother Jakobus HUTHMACHER, of the District of Bethlehem, died in Bethlehem on August 25th 1972, at the age of 87. He had been professed for 65 years.
- Brother Sylvestre CRIBIER, of the Province of France, died at Chevilly on September 30th 1972, at the age of 66. He had been professed for 41 years.

continued from p.ll

"One of the points on which co-operation between the local churches and the missionaries becomes difficult seems to be this. The most subtle form of imperialism is when the foreigners desire to plan and execute the pastoral practice of the local church instead of leaving all this to the legitimate responsibility of the Africans themselves.

"The Africans are hoping for helpers who will remain at their posts, who will teach the people to love and not to uselessly oppose the responsible African clergy, who will be prepared to adapt the theological trends of their country of origin and who will humbly devote themselves to seeking a theological approach, a catechism, and a liturgy appropriate to Africa.

"Today, the religious institutions are renewing themselves by a return to their sources - the Spirit of their Founders and the Gospel. This should help to open them up also to the new attitudes they should adopt today in relation to the coming-of-age of the local churches. This is the most important way in which their communion with the local church can be realised."

Mission in the context of Religions & Secularisation
The following passage is reproduced from an address given by
the missionary-anthropologist W. REYBURN at the Driebergen Conference (Aug 19-23):-

"Missionaries have taken pains to establish the fact that they are not attempting to impart their national backgrounds be these British, American, Belgian etc. However, is it really relevant any longer? If all Westerners live largely under the presuppositions of the technological society and the world market economy, what difference does it make if the brand is British, French, German, Japanese, Russian, Chinese or American? Is it at all realistic that missionaries from the West could convince Hindus in India that they are in India to bring a spiritual way of life? Not according to many Hindus. Does the personal devotional life of the average Christian churchman or missionary impress people in the East? It is most doubtful. Do most Christians concerned with the communication of God's love in Christ whether in the West or the East share their faith with non-Christian friends at the request of the latter? I doubt it very much. Do foreign missionaries in Africa, or Latin America live in such a style of life that nationals in those continents could gain from them only spiritual advantages? I don't see much evidence for this. The advantages are nearly always opportunities to join the technological society or to win some used products of the market economy."...

(SEDOS Bulletin No. 25)