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### CSSP Newsletter-No.42 (1974)

Congregation of the Holy Ghost Fathers

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Mohammedan. The number of Catholics is 6,000, practically all of whom are foreigners. The missionary personnel comprises ten priests, of whom seven are Spiritans, and about twelve Sisters. There are five missionary stations. The diocese of Nouakchott was erected on 18th December 1965, when the Prefecture Apostolic of Saint-Louis was divided. On 8th June 1968, it was separated from the ecclesiastical province of Dakar and attached directly to the Holy See.

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#### GENERALATE.

#### Portrait of our Founder.

Father Joseph MICHEL, author of a Life of Father Claude François POUILLART DES PLACES, has sent to the Generalate a reproduction of a very fine portrait of our Founder, which he discovered in the Art Gallery in Munich. The portrait was painted by Jean-Baptiste JOUVENET (1644-1717), the artist who decorated the Chapel of Versailles, and the Church of the Invalides in Paris. When he was working on the decoration of the Breton Parliament House at Rennes, Jouvenet did the portrait of Claude François, who at the time was 16 years old. The young student is portrayed in three-quarter figure, wearing black clerical dress and a blue *rabat*, and holding in his hand a volume of the works of Cicero which he had received as a prize in the Rhetoric class.

When Father Poullart des Places died, it was again Jouvenet - the painter for the Jesuits - who did the portrait which is on display at Rue Lhomond. It was probably at the same time that the student of Rennes was "dressed" in clerical costume, as has been proved by an X-ray examination of the picture done by the Munich Art Museum. This portrait served as model for a much less skilled artist, who painted the picture of Father Poullart des Places in the act of giving communion. This latter portrait is hung in the Council Room in the Generalate.

The portrait which is now in Munich was originally on display in the refectory of the College Louis-le-Grand, a Jesuit institution, along with that of Bourdaloue and many other famous past pupils. After the suppression of the Jesuits, the painting was bought for the Art Gallery of the Prince Palatine, which explains how it comes to be in Germany.

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#### FRANCE.

#### Meeting of D.I.A.M.

The Delegates for Missionary Information and Animation (DIAM) met at Mortain from the 6th to the 8th of November, to reflect on the theme: *DIAM, witness of the Mission: what Mission?* On the basis of the texts of the provincial chapter, recent books and articles, and especially the lived experience of the People of God today, they tried to define more clearly what is meant today by "Church" and by "Mission". They also attempted - as a logical consequence - to review their deepest attitudes, their priorities, and the methods used in their missionary activity.

The essential point of their conclusions can be resumed as follows. In order that missionary animation bear the stamp of authenticity and efficiency, it cannot be the affair of a single person, but it must be the constant preoccupation of a community, whose geographical situation is not unimportant. With this in mind, DIAM has made certain proposals to the Provincial Team, which they intend to be of assistance to them in carrying out the Chapter's desire that there should be an evaluation of the style and the siting of our communities. The next meeting will be held from April 22 to 24 at Chevilly.

(French Prov. Bulletin)

## AFRICA. Refugee Problem.

The United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, Prince SARUDDIN AGA KHAN, has recently presented his annual report to the General Assembly of the UNO, from which it emerges that the African continent presents the greatest problems in this matter, since the number of refugees has increased from 990,000 to 1,020,000 in 1972. The repatriation of 47,000 refugees to the Sudan was offset by the arrival there of 60,000 fleeing from Burundi; and of 12,000 to Senegal, Tanzania and Zambia from the neighbouring regions, i.e. Portuguese territories and Rhodesia. In addition 12,000 members of the Witnesses of Jehovah, who fled suddenly to Zambia from Malawi, are now being repatriated by agreement with the government of Zomba. This flood of refugees has occasioned the expenditure of an extra 5 million dollars, most of which has been used to settle the homeless on unoccupied land. The High Commissioner notes that the most difficult problem has been the evacuation and re-settling of Asiatics from Uganda. At the end of March 1973, 1,970 refugees out of a total of 34,000, had not yet been re-settled in a host country. (OS.ROM. 14-XII-73)

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## SENEGAL. Preparation for the Holy Year.

The Bishops of Senegal decided some time ago that the period of preparation for the Holy Year would begin in all the dioceses on 25th November, Feast of Christ the King. Recently, Archbishop THIANDOU of Dakar held a meeting with the diocesan council, with a view to carrying out these preparations in his diocese. Among those who collaborated in this effort were delegates from parish councils, Catholic Action Movements, the Union of Sisters, and representatives of the various sectors of the apostolate. The programme worked out can be resumed as follows:

- maintain the interest of the basic communities in the objectives and activities of the Holy Year, by special assemblies, prayer sessions, Eucharistic celebrations, penitential celebrations, as well as by suitable publicity in the press.
- promote christian education at all levels by suitable popular means: Bible study groups; conferences, talks, catechism lessons, catechism in the schools...
- facilitate a better integration of catechumens by suitable catechesis and by the adaptation of religious ceremonies.
- encourage the laity to participate more in taking responsibility for the life of the Church community, by human and christian training of the highest quality, with the spiritual help of the chaplains.

It was also resolved that practical steps should be taken to bring about reconciliation within families and among families. Every effort should be made to consolidate conjugal and family ties, and to reestablish them where broken.

Finally, the assembly wished to give an *ecumenical dimension* to this desire for reconciliation, in particular by a programme of common catholic-protestant activities, and by preparation of the Church Unity Octave.

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## NIGERIA. Pan-African Meeting on Social Communications.

A pan-African Meeting on Social Communications was held from November 28 to December 2 in Ibadan, Nigeria. It was the culmination on a continental scale, of five regional meetings that had been held over the past year in Dakar, Accra, Hammanskraal, Yaoundé and Kitwe. This meeting presented an opportunity for reflexion, for the exchange of ideas and information; it also helped to promote further dialogue and collaboration with other religions.

Taking part in the proceedings were 18 bishops, 34 priests, 2 sisters and several lay people, as well as members of the Pontifical Commission, and delegates from the international Catholic Organisations for the press, radio-TV and cinema.

At the opening session, Mgr DESKUR, President of the Pontifical Commission, read a message sent by the Cardinal Secretary of State in the name of the Holy Father to Cardinal ZOUNGRANA, President of the Episcopal Conferences of Africa and Madagascar (who was to have presided at the meeting, but was unable to), and another message from Cardinal Rossi, Prefect of SCEP. On each of the first three days there was a feature address: Bishop EKANDEM of Ikot-Ekpene, President of the Episcopal Conference of Nigeria spoke on *The Voice of Africa*; Bishop SASTRE of Dahomey spoke on *The Universal Scope of Mass Media*; and Mr Alhadji BARATUNDE, a muslim, Managing Director of the Nigerian "Daily Times" took as his title: *The Voice of a Witness*.

Reports were given on the five preceding regional meetings and on their conclusions. There was also a report by a delegate from Egypt on the North African point of view. Another important talk was given by Professor George ZEEGERS of the "Voice of Africa" Foundation, on the aims of the organisation and the funds at its disposal. The conclusions of the meeting have not yet been published in their final form, but we shall come back to this topic in one of our future issues.

However, it can be said already that the participants came to realise the increasing necessity of using the press, radio cinema and TV to promote the moral and religious development of the African peoples. Such a policy calls for consideration of the role these media can play, and of the need to safeguard the fundamental values of the family and social life of all peoples. The delegates from the International Catholic Organisations of the Press(UCIP), of Radio-TV(UNDA) and the Cinema(OCIC) who were present at Ibadan, published a communiqué, on the occasion of the 25th anniversary of the Declaration of the Rights of Man, in which they declare how satisfied they were to have been able to reflect with the religious leaders of Africa on the application of these rights with the help of the Social Communications Media. They also called on public opinion and the political authorities to advert to the danger that the Mass-media might be used to enslave man for sectarian, political or commercial reasons; and they declared that such a use is contrary to the primary purpose of these media, which is to facilitate communication and the progress of individuals and communities. (FIDES 12-XII-73)

#### At the Bigard Regional Seminary.

The Philosophy Faculty of the Bigard Memorial Seminary will be transferred to Ikot-Ekpene in the South Eastern State. This was disclosed by Archbishop ARINZE of Onitsha at the opening ceremony for the Academic Year 1973-1974. The reason is that there is no longer enough room in the Enugu Seminary to house the number of seminarians seeking admittance. The Bigard Seminary has 448 seminarians drawn from all the nine dioceses of the three Eastern States, from the dioceses of Buea and Bamenda in the Cameroons, from the dioceses of Freetown-Bo and Kenema in Sierra Leone. It is the largest Senior Seminary in Africa. But, as Archbishop ARINZE noted, the greatness of any seminary does not lie in the number of buildings therein, but in the spiritual fibre of its products; it is better to have seminarians and face the accomodation problem, than to build empty monuments with no students to occupy them.

## Religious Profession

The first 16 Sisters of the Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love, founded by Most Rev. G. OKOYE, CSSp. Bishop of Enugu, made their profession on November 4th at Enugu Cathedral. The founder himself presided at the ceremony, attended by 6 Bishops from the three States of Eastern Nigeria, and 20 priests from different parts of the country. The sermon was preached by Most Rev. F. ARINZE, Archbishop of Onitsha, who declared that he also shared in the joy of Bishop OKOYE, of the Superior General of the new Congregation (Mother Mary Ch. ANYANWU, OSB), of the newly-professed, of their family and of all those who had contributed morally and financially to making this profession a reality. The Congregation of the Daughters of Divine Love has its Mother House at Isienu Nsukka. It was founded on the feast of Our Lady of Mount Carmel, 16th September 1969, at the time the civil war was still raging.

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### CAMEROONS.

#### General View of the District.

*(The following are extracts from a report sent by the Principal Superior to the Superior General, in preparation for the General Chapter 1974.)*

Personnel: The number of Spiritans is practically the same as in 1970, that is, 165 from 8 Provinces (France, Holland, Switzerland, Germany, Canada, Belgium, Poland and England). The great majority of the priests are engaged in "ordinary" ministry (122) and we have only 20 doing other work (Procure, teaching, chaplaincies). There are 23 Brothers whose fraternal collaboration is most highly appreciated.

While it is true that the number of missionaries has not yet diminished, that the average age is much the same, that the political climate does not hinder but rather favours our work, it is also obvious that we have arrived at a very critical point in our evolution. At the meeting of Principal Superiors from Central Africa held at Bertoua in January 1973, we tried to describe the future in figures. Although counting on minimum replacements, we concluded that in 10 years the number of Spiritans will have diminished by 40 %. Is this a disaster or a blessing? It is hard to say; but what is certain is that every departure, death or illness will give rise to a difficult situation at least in the short run. This is already the case; there are four or five missions with only one Father where there should be two.

Our bishops have been warned that replacement personnel is not likely to be available from the Congregation, but they cannot bring themselves to it. Our position is, therefore, that we are at their service within the framework of the diocesan set-up, doing our best so that with the help of what has already been done, the future may be as easy as possible. The clergy of the Cameroons is increasing in numbers, but very slowly, while pastoral needs are all the time increasing. Our eventual departure because of old age or sickness may well be the providential occasion for putting into practice the solutions we are already preparing.

Ministry: By "ordinary" ministry, we do not mean changeless. For the past three years, serious efforts have been made in the matter of on-going training of priests and religious. Various courses, organised or encouraged by the bishops have fostered renewal at the grass-roots, in the concrete conditions of the apostolate rather than by idealistic theories. The French Province has lent us Fr. AUBERT for four years: his role will be to "animate" the pastoral planning,

in close collaboration with the Archbishop. This is a great encouragement for the renewal of catechetics and for the training of catechists and laypeople in preparation for the responsibilities they will have to assume in the Church of tomorrow.

The presence of some Spiritans in North Cameroons, working with the Oblates, is an important example of missionary collaboration, which may eventually influence the secular clergy. Another initiative which is likely to have far-reaching effects is the opening, last September, of the Vocation Centre at Essos, which has been entrusted to a Spiritan who is himself a native of the country. There are pressing needs; but at least, we have forged a tool for the work. The future cannot reproach us with not having made a start.

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#### EAST AFRICA. Call for Reconciliation by AMECEA Bishops.

The AMECEA Bishops, at the closing session of their General Assembly on Nov. 21st at Nairobi, published a *Message on Reconciliation between man and man*. They began by emphasising "*the need and importance of reconciliation between all people in these countries, and throughout our African continent.*" After enumerating examples of injustice existing in some of the AMECEA countries, the bishops "*request all in authority to correct these.. and to promote conditions that reconcile all citizens to one another and to those in authority..*" They supported the statements of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace of September 1973, which "*requested that the Holy See make every effort.. to bring about reconciliation between the Portuguese government and the liberation movements in these territories, on the basis of the recognition of their independence..*" The Bishops also declared their solidarity with all those in Africa struggling for the right to self-determination. They also suggested that discussion on the federation of Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda "*be given new impetus and that an invitation to Malawi and Zambia to join.. should remain open.*" Finally the AMECEA Bishops approved the document Guidelines for the Catholic Church in Eastern Africa in the 1980's of which the more important points are: a) Holy Scripture must be the norm and guide. b) The christian community at all levels should be involved in the selection, training and maintenance of Church personnel. c) Priests, religious, experts and convinced married Christians should work in teams wherever possible to assist in the formation of christian families. (AMECEA Inf. 22-XII-73)

#### At the Gabe Pastoral Institute.

Archbishop BELLOTTI, pro-Nuncio Apostolic in Uganda presented the diplomas and certificates in Catechetical and Pastoral Studies to 30 students of the East Africa Pastoral Institute, who had finished a nine months' course. The students are all Africans, from 11 different countries; there were 13 priests, 11 Sisters, 3 Brothers and 3 laypeople. This brings to 286 the number of diplomas conferred since 1968. The Institute was founded in 1967 by the AMECEA Bishops, to make possible practical research projects, and to make the riches of christianity more readily available to the African peoples. Today, many past pupils of the Institute occupy key-posts in their dioceses, which proves the valuable contribution of the Institute to the Church in East Africa, and indeed over the whole continent.

Among the staff members is Fr. Brian HEARNE, CSSp. a confrere of the Irish Province attached to the District of Kenya.

### Overcrowded Seminaries.

With many seminaries being closed down in older Christian Communities of Europe and America, the Church in Eastern Africa goes into its planning session with the need to open up new seminaries. All senior seminaries are filled. A large seminary was just recently completed in Kampala, Uganda, but unless new facilities are added by January, some seminarians will have to be turned away. Reasons why vocations in Eastern Africa are so uniquely plentiful are hard to find. In most areas, jobs are available to most applicants with a degree of education. Celibacy runs counter to the traditional African view of manhood; yet some seminaries have to draw up a waiting list. Other than the fact that the Spirit blows where He wills, the reason frequently heard for wanting to become a priest is that the candidates have been impressed by the lives of certain priests they have met in their life experience. (AMECEA Doc.5-XII-73)

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### SOUTH AFRICA. Against Apartheid.

One hundred black Pastors of the *Nederduitse Gereformeerde Kerk in Afrika*, meeting at Johannesburg, proclaimed their total rejection of the apartheid policy because it is "non-christian". This is the first time that pastors of the NCKA have publicly denounced apartheid which their mother church, the *N.G. Kerk*, supports on biblical grounds. Along the same lines, the black pastors have set up a committee to study a method of training which will give all blacks something that is truly in conformity with the Gospel. This committee has been established without either consultation with, or permission from, the mother church, although this was always done in similar cases in the past.

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### MADAGASCAR. A Catholic Bishop in the CNPD.

The Most Rev. Albert TSIAHOANA, Archbishop of Diego-Suarez has accepted the invitation to be a member of the National Popular Council for Development (CNPD). He explains his reasons as follows:

- The CNPD is non-political. Therefore, from the point of view of the government there are no political implications, nor is any commitment on my part to any political party.
- The CNPD is only a consultative body. Its members can make only suggestions or recommendations, and so their declarations have nothing to do with party politics.
- The CNPD is a structure to foster dialogue within the country. I am all in favour of dialogue without preconditions.
- The Pastoral Letter of the Bishops on *The Church and Development in Madagascar* has declared the christian attitude to Development; development characterised by integrity and solidarity; development of all man and of all men. This will be my chief preoccupation.
- It is true that participation in the CNPD belongs rather to the mission of the laity. I feel sure that Catholic laypeople will become members and play their part in this organisation.
- I have accepted because it was pointed out to me that I have contacts with the poor, and that I know them well. My constant visits to all the regions of my immense diocese have enabled me to meet the poor and the marginalised, who know me well, and whom I know.



- Quite simply, I shall declare what are their problems and their aspirations; with them and for them, I shall propose solutions worthy of the human person. On technical points, I shall go to competent people for advice; and at all times, I shall recall the meaning and the human finality of the work of development.

- My episcopal motto is *To evangelise the poor*. I consider that my presence in the CNPD is a way to realise this motto, since development is the way to true evangelisation.

- I shall not involve the Church in my declarations. The options which I shall be led to make are to be assigned to my own personal responsibility. (LUMIERE, 2-XII-73).

Plenary Assembly of the Bishops' Conference.

From November 27 to December 5, the Bishops of the 20 Dioceses of Madagascar met in plenary Assembly.

Speaking before the meeting, Archbishop RAMANANTOANINA of Fianarantsoa said: *"For the first time in our meetings, we are adopting a procedure that has been requested by some of our people and that we may continue in the future. For the first three or four days we shall be listening to the delegates of the People of God, represented by two lay people, two religious and two priests from each Diocese, who will express their point of view on the matters of the agenda. On the following days the Bishops will then discuss the points among themselves and take decisions."*

*"The agenda is a full and important one, in which the main points to be discussed are the next year's National Synod, which is already being prepared in all the Dioceses, and the World Synod of Bishops in Rome.*

*"Then there are two other important points: the major seminaries, and the role of Christians in the life of the country. The question of major seminaries is a crucial one for our Church here. The seminary structures and system were changed at the request of the Bishops two years ago, to give the seminarians a training that is suited to the real pastoral needs of our country. But the practical achievement of this is difficult.*

*"The question of the role of Christians in the life of the country will be the subject of a joint letter from the Bishops at the end of this meeting. This is called for as a result of the deep changes that have taken place in the country during the past two years. The people are waiting for directives that are clear and in conformity with the Gospel and with the needs of the nation. It is a delicate question and one that necessarily entails the discussion of politics, but we must continue the work begun with our letter on Development, which had a certain influence during the events of May 1972, and the analysis of these events which we published at the end of our meeting last year.*

*Another item on the agenda is the observance of the Holy Year." (FIDES 5-12-73)*

MAURITIUS. The Education Problem.

On Friday 28th Sept. 1973, the Union of the Directors of Catholic Secondary Schools (UDESC) submitted a Memorandum to the Commission set up to make recommendations concerning the financial help to be given to privately-run secondary schools. The UDESC asks that it be enabled to cover the expenses involved in maintaining these establishments. This means that they need an annual surplus to develop these schools, in order that they may correspond to the ever growing needs of the youth in search of education, and at the same time keep pace with

the modern evolution in educational methods. The Memorandum shows how the investment in land and buildings was made possible by the sacrifices of the religious-professors who handed over their salaries to the institute. The staffs of these colleges are not satisfied with their salary-scales nor with their conditions of work, but the Directors find it financially impossible to make any improvements.

Of the 13 catholic colleges, 3 receive no aid at all from the Government; in the case of 3 others, there is a grant of 60 % towards the salaries of only 5 teachers; in the case of 7 others, there is a grant for salaries, but the number of teachers entitled to this grant has been "frozen" since 1967. The government grants to the catholic colleges have diminished from 1956 to 1973, although these grants represent only 2,8 % of the total expenses of the Ministry for Education. Therefore, the deficit in these institutions gets bigger every year, and will continue to do so, unless the colleges either increase their fees - which are already considered too high by the public, - or else accept a lowering of the standard of education. Consequently, the Directors of these establishments have presented a certain number of practical propositions, with the intention of remedying the situation.

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#### U.S.A. WEST.

#### New Mission in Mexico.

Three Irish Spiritans attached to the Western American Province have set out for the Diocese of Ciudad Valles, thus bringing to 8 the number of our confreres working in Mexico. They will take up residence in Coxcatlan, where Mass was celebrated for the first time in 1522 by the chaplains of CORTEZ. The beautiful church that still dominates the town was built in 1530, and as early as 1570 the town had its own pastor. Since then, however, priestly care has been spasmodic and very irregular. As in the other missions in Mexico, almost everyone has been baptised but very few have received any systematic religious instruction. Still, the Faith is deep in these wonderful people, who are so happy to have the *Padres* with them. Though they have little indeed of wordly goods, they delight to keep the Fathers supplied with corn, bananas, oranges, mangoes, and even an occasional live chicken. The Fathers will concentrate on religious instruction, but they will also have to do something about the Church which is sadly in need of repair. This will take time and lots of help, since the Sunday collection rarely exceeds \$3.00. (PARACLETE Dec. 1973).

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#### WEST INDIES. Ecumenical Conference of Churches inaugurated.

Ecumenism in the West Indies took an important step forward with the inauguration, on November 13, of a Caribbean Conference of Churches, with the participation of the different Christian denominations. Among the 14 founding members are the Catholics, Anglicans, Methodists, Presbyterians, Lutherans, Baptists and the Salvation Army. The list remains open...

The inaugural ceremony was held in St. Luke's Anglican Cathedral, Kingston, Jamaica. Delegates from the founding Churches made their *affirmation of acceptance* in the presence of the Most Rev. Samuel CARTER, Catholic Archbishop of Kingston, who said the inaugural prayer and performed the act of inauguration. The inaugural statement was read by the General Secretary of the new Conference, the Rev. Roy NEEHALL, a Trinidadian Presbyterian minister who has previously served as a Senator in Trinidad and as a member of *SODEFAX* in Geneva.

The sermon was preached by the Rev. Dr Philip POTTER, Dominicanborn Methodist minister and now General Secretary of the World Council of Churches. Taking as his theme *The Right Hand of God*, Dr POTTER recalled the history of the Caribbean Church from early post-slavery days to the present. *Where was God's right hand, he asked, when Churches have been in competition with each other, full of fear, mistrust and animosity against each other, when they have done good for people but with so much severity and self-righteousness, when they have by and large been so careful not to upset the status quo and have played safe, happy only when they had positions of power and prestige among the people?.. We as Churches are now under judgment both by events and by the fact that is has been the secular writers and politicians who have been the prophets of our time."* Dr. POTTER called on all groups represented to go forward together in the new venture of faith that is the Caribbean Conference of Churches, *"singing the new song of the right hand of God which is revealed in liberation, trust and caring love."* (FIDES 1-XII-73)

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#### NEWS FROM ROME.

##### Contribution of Europe to Development in Third World

On 14 December, the Holy Father received participants in a meeting of young Europeans farmers organized by the FAO and the EEC. PAUL VI, after having made his listeners aware of *"all the aspects of an international and humanizing agricultural policy"*, declared: *.. It remains for us to encourage those among you who are about to embody this European solidarity by taking up work in the rural areas of the Third World, and all those who follow this example. You are convinced that certain shortcomings of the first cooperation decade, partly inevitable, are a serious call to do far more and far better. Would it be normal, among other things, to develop in the first place an industry meeting secondary needs, while neglecting to exploit to the maximum the agricultural resources capable of satisfying the priority needs of underfed populations? We would like above all to persuade you that it is the spirit of the cooperation that must be changed. The populations you will reach have a deep need to be respected in their originality, to be awakened and trained with patience and abnegation, to be loved. Is it not this fundamental attitude, moreover, that you must adopt with regard to the European country people who are not yet open to the ideas and methods that you hold dear? In a word, your mission, in the Third World as in Europe, will succeed if it is animated by the passion to serve."*(OS.ROM. 3-I-74)

##### New Ambassador from Zaïre.

On Monday, 7th January, His Exc. LOMRUME MUJUAN KALYMAZI, the new ambassador of Zaïre to the holy See, presented his credentials to the Holy Father. The following is an extract from his speech on this occasion.

*"Diplomatic relations between the Holy See and my country go back to the times before independence, more precisely, to 1929, when the first Apostolic Delegate arrived in Kinshasa. This event signified an increase in the positive contribution of the Catholic Church not only to the evangelisation of our people, but also to the spiritual development and the evolution of our national community. Indeed, the work of the catholic missionaries has been, and still is, beneficial in all the vital sectors of the life of our contry, and the catholic faith is profoundly rooted in the souls of our catholic countrymen.*

"The life-story of a country, no less than that of a man, is marked by inevitable crises which arise from socio-political or other circumstances. Notwithstanding the innumerable difficulties inherent in all human activities, Zaïre and the Holy See have reason to be satisfied that no fundamental problem exists to tarnish the long-standing good relations between my country and the Holy See. Some stubborn conservatives and other trouble-makers have tried to disrupt these excellent relations by exaggerating a certain difference of opinion between the Church and the State in Zaïre, following on our policy of "authenticity", which simply means that we have come to appreciate the values of our own culture. On this solemn occasion, I am happy to be able to assure your Holiness that the Republic of Zaïre, which has proclaimed itself a lay-state, has a population of whom three-quarters are christian, and that it keeps itself aloof from religious questions which, it considers, belong rather to the domain of each one's conscience, the freedom of which is guaranteed by our Constitution. I am pleased to be able to affirm that the Citizen MOBUTU SESE SEKO, Head of State, is personally and profoundly a convinced christian, loyal son of the Roman Catholic Church, and that he continues, as in the past, to maintain very good relations with His Eminence Citizen the Cardinal Archbishop of Kinshasa, as well as with the other Bishops of Zaïre. The people of Zaïre, for their part, are proud and happy to feel that they are fraternally linked to the Holy See. My task here will consist essentially in continually developing our relations in every domain..."

In his reply, the Holy Father said in particular: "... Our thoughts turn especially to our dear Catholic sons and daughters of your country, whose zeal and dynamism we so much admire. As good citizens, they are eager to work loyally in the work of national development in all sectors. Encouraged by their Bishops, to whom we pay tribute here, they are conscious of the witness they can give; witness of a Faith that is not imposed as a foreign culture, since it comes as a gift from God which reaches the depth of their being; witness of a community of believers united to the Universal Church, community which, far from denying the human and civic culture of its members, is proud to promote it by every means. In liberty and in dialogue with the leaders of the State, it will be possible to make progress along these lines..."(OS.ROM.8-I-74)

The new Ambassador, who is a past pupil of St. Joseph's Institute in Kinshasa, was born in 1922, and since independence has held different important posts as representative of his country both with foreign governments and with international organisations.

### Collaboration between the Catholic Church and the W.C.C.

The good relations and the co-operation which already exist between the Catholic Church and the Commission for Mission and Evangelisation (CME) of the World Council of Churches (W.C.C.) have made further progress through the preparatory study of the theme *Salvation Today*, and by the Congress which was held at Bangkok on the same subject, in which 11 consultants from the Catholic Church took part. (Cf. *CSSp. Documentation*, n° 8, April 1973).

The Secretariat for Christian Unity foresees a meeting in Rome in the course of the present year, in order to pursue the study of some aspects of the problems discussed in Bangkok. This meeting will be attended by some observer-consultants who were at Bangkok, as well as by theologians, missiologists and representants both of the different departments of the Curia and of the WCC.

+++++ OUR DEAD +++++

Fr. Heinrich HEINZ , of the Province of Germany, died in Knechtsteden, 27-XI-73, aged 81, after 58 years of profession.(63)

Fr. Johannes POLMAN, of the Province of Holland, died in The Hague, 29-XI-1973, aged 60, after 47 years of profession.(64)

Fr. Gerard WHELAN, of the District of Kenya, died in London, 12-XII-1973, aged 69, after 48 years of profession.(65)

Fr. Karl HUBER, of the German Province, died in Unterboldingen, 28-XII-73, aged 63, after 39 years of profession.(66)

Fr. Philippe DAVID, of the District of Congo, died in Brazzaville, 2-I-74, aged 53, after 34 years of profession.(1)

+++++ R. I. P. +++++

(contd) At the Assembly of the CME (9-13 Jan.1973) a change in the constitutions was adopted which opens up to interested groups the possibility of maintaining consultative relations with the CME, without being officially affiliated to it. This means that Catholic missionary groups could now establish such relations. The Secretariat for Christian Unity is studying this possibility, to see if they should recommend it to the attention of the competent authorities and to missionary institutes.

SWITZERLAND. Centenary of the Saint Paul Sisters.

" The Saint Paul Institute is a group of people who have come together with the common purpose of bringing strength to the Press, by the offering and consecration of themselves." Thus was the purpose defined by Canon SCHORDERET, founder of the newspaper *La Liberté* of Fribourg. From Switzerland, the Institute spread to France, establishing its first printing press in 1879 at Bar-le-Duc, where the first edition of the *History of a Soul* by St. Teresa of the Child Jesus, was printed. A second printing works was set up in 1928 at Issy-les-Moulineaux, near Paris. This foundation, under the direction of Mother MUSSILIER and her administrator, M. Pierre CRIBIER, very soon became interested in the missions, specialising in the printing of the literary classics for African schools, and religious books in the African languages. Later on, this work extended to the mission countries themselves, with printing-houses, book-shops, libraries or reading rooms in Cameroons, Senegal, Madagascar, Congo, Martinique, Burundi and Vietnam. Moreover, Issy-les-Moulineaux was the first headquarters of the *Oeuvre des Presses Missionnaires* of the Propagation of the Faith, and the bulletin of this organisation is still printed here. In addition, The Sisters of St. Paul publish a number of other missionary periodicals in French, v.g. *Pirogue*, an African magazine written by and for Africans. Today, 800 Sisters and lay-people, highly qualified in their profession, participate in this work of the Church by printing, publishing, book-selling, and the provision of libraries and reading rooms, thus carrying out the plan of their founder.

On the occasion of this centenary, Spiritan missionaries will consider it a duty to pray for the Saint-Paul Institute, which has been, and still is, such a precious aid to them in their apostolate.

