

THE CHURCH HERE AND THERE

Three New Parishes Erected in Pampanga

Due to the vastness of established parochial territories and the rather rapid increase of Catholic population in Pampanga, Most Rev. Emilio Cimens, D.D., Bishop of San Fernando Diocese, Pampanga, deemed it opportune to erect three new parishes. The newly formed parishes are Immaculate Conception, San Agustin and Santo Niño. The first two were established on the 23rd of December 1965 while the last one was put up on October 24, 1968.

Immaculate Conception Parish, the See of which is located in the barrio of Balibago, formerly was part of Lourdes Parish, Angeles City. The barrios encompassed by the new parish are Balibago, Malabantias, Anunas and Sitio Subic.

San Agustin Parish has for its See the barrio of San Agustin. Comprising this new parish are the barrios of San Agustin, del Carmen, San Vicente, San Isidro Agtas and Alasas which were detached from San Fernando Parish. From the Parish of Calulut was detached the barrio of del Rosario and added to the territory making up the new parish.

Santo Niño Parish has its See in the barrio of Santo Niño. The barrios of Santo Niño, San Juan, Magliman and sitios Bulaclac Village and Pinagtapunan which were all detached from San Fernando, compose this new parish.

Asian Catholic Doctors' Congress support "Humanae Vitae"

One of the resolutions passed by the Fourth Asian Catholic Doctors' Congress, held at Sophia University, Tokyo, from October 10 to 15, was a pledge of filial loyalty to the Holy Father and of adherence to the magisterium of the Church, with particular reference to the recent encyclical "Humanae Vitae".

Catholic Doctors from seven Asian countries joined their Japanese colleagues for a four-day discussion of common medical problems and Christian ethics. Among the 170 doctors who attended the conference, the largest foreign delegation was the 15-man group from the Philippines, the other countries represented being Korea, India, Australia, Ceylon, Taiwan and Hong Kong.

The opening ceremonies were attended by the Minister for Health and Welfare, Mr. Sunao Sonoda; the President of the Japan Medical Association, Dr. Taro Takemi; the Pro-Nuncio to Japan, Most Rev. Bruno Wuestenberg; and the President of Sophia University, Father Francis Oizumi, S.J.

Among its other resolutions, the Congress appealed for the establishment of more Catholic Medical Schools in Asia, and urge Asian doctors to serve society in their native lands instead of settling in Western countries, as so many do. The Congress also recognized the serious need of a more enlightened and Christian-oriented teaching of sex education, and condemned the rampant exploitation of sex in advertisement and mass media.

Death of Cardinal Bea

His Eminence Cardinal Augustin Bea died early Saturday morning, November 16th, after a brief illness. Pope Paul VI had visited the Cardinal at "Villa Stuart" Clinic two days before.

Born in 1881 in Riedboringen, Germany, he was Superior of the Jesuit House in Aachen during the period of the First World War, in 1921 he was named Provincial Superior of the Southern German Province. During these years he became well acquainted with Archbishop Eugenio Pacelli, the Papal Nuncio in Munich.

He was made a Cardinal by Pope John XXIII at a Consistory on December 14, 1959 at the age of 78. Always a studious and active priest, it was in his latter years that his intense activity in the field of Ecumenism attracted world-wide attention. Cardinal Bea was currently President of the Secretariat for Union of Christians.

Indulgences Manual

The Holy See's *Enchiridion indulgentiarum* (Manual of Indulgence), whose publication was officially announced on June 28, went into effect on October 29.

The new Enchiridion drastically reduces the number of prayers and acts to which indulgences are attached.

An innovation is the removal of indulgences from various specific prayers, and the attachment of such indulgences to kinds of prayers in specific circumstances.

These are three in number:

The first "Concession"—as the Enchiridion calls it—of indulgences is attached to invocations made to God by a person carrying out his duties or encountering adversities.

The Enchiridion says that "a partial indulgence is granted to a Christian who, in fulfilling his duties or supporting life's adversities, lifts his soul to God with humble trust and recites, even if only mentally, a pious invocation."

Invocations under such circumstances are referred to in the Enchiridion as acts of piety.

Similar concessions are granted for acts grouped under general headings of charity and penance.

Msgr. Giovanni Sessolo, regent of the Apostolic Penitentiary, the Vatican office that handles indulgences, observed in June in presenting the new norms to the press, that the first type of concession "gives value to ordinary life."

The second—under the heading of charity, has a "social character," he said.

He described the third—under the heading of acts of penance—as having an 'educative character'.

The Enchiridion contains about 210 pages, of which about one-third are devoted to concessions, one-third to instructions and commentary, and the rest to the apostolic constitution *Indulgentiarum Doctrina* of January 1, 1967.

A decree of the Apostolic Penitentiary, which declared the new Enchiridion in force, recalls that the apostolic constitution had declared: "The Enchiridion *Indulgentiarum* will be reviewed in such a way that only the most important prayers and works of piety, of charity and of penance, will have indulgences attached."

L'Osservatore Replies to Critics

Raimondo Manzini, editor of *L'Osservatore Romano*, the Vatican City daily, replied to charges by the association of German Catholic journalists that the Vatican paper had presented one-sided reports of the reactions to Pope Paul VI's encyclical on birth control *Humanae Vitae*.

In a letter to the chairman of the German association, Manzini said that his paper had reported the "innumerable texts" of positive, or favourable, reactions to the encyclical because the secular press and a "certain Catholic press" had printed only negative reactions.

He added that *L'Osservatore Romano* had published and would continue to publish a series of articles "in which any criticism of the encyclical is discussed, naturally to oppose it." In this manner, he said, negative reactions are made known.

The editor concluded his letter by saying: "It is very difficult for *L'Osservatore Romano* to publish negative statements without comment, particularly since they often lack the formal respect due to the Holy Father."

Padre Pio's Pledge of Obedience to Encyclical

The Vatican has released a letter written by the late Padre Pio to Pope Paul VI, pledging love and loyalty to the Pope and "unconditional obedience" to his encyclical on birth control, *Humanae Vitae*.

Padre Pio wrote to the Pope that he was writing the letter to "unite myself spiritually with my brothers . . . in an act of faith, love and obedience to the dignity of Him whom you represent on earth."

He also pledged that his order would "renew its own vitality" in following the directives of the Second Vatican Council and to be ready to assist the Pope in the face of great difficulties.

"I know that your heart suffers a great deal in these days over the fate of the Church, world peace, the many needs of the people and above all because of the lack of obedience of some — even Catholics — to the high teachings which you give us . . .

"I thank you . . . for your clear and decisive words, particularly in the last encyclical *Humanae Vitae* and reaffirm my faith, my unconditional obedience to your directives," he concluded.

"The Laity Today"

The (Vatican) Council on the Laity has begun publication of a bulletin as an "official and regular instrument to keep people in touch with the life and activities of the council".

In his introductory statement in the first issue of *The Laity Today*, Cardinal Roy of Quebec, president of the council, said that "the manifold undertakings of the laity in the post-conciliar Church, the questions raised by the ever greater place they must take in the Church's mission, with all that this implies from the point of view of structures, these are all subjects which are focusing attention more and more, and it is important to know, in their regard, what the magisterium has to say and what is actually happening in the world."

The Cardinal recalled that such contact had been maintained for eight years by *Lay Apostolate*, the bulletin of the Permanent Committee for international Congresses of the Lay Apostolate.

Included in the scope of *The Laity Today* as cited by Cardinal Roy are: the words of the Pope on questions of immediate concern to the laity; information about the decisions or activities of the laity council; international Catholic life and the major events of interest to lay people in various countries; bibliographical material, and material from studies or inquiries concerning the laity "and their varied commitments in the Church and the world."

The 20th World Seminar of Bible Translators

On October 19, the directors of the 20th World Seminary of Bible translators, which was held from September 20 to October 25 at the Nganda Centre, Kinshasa, organized an academic session, followed by a reception.

Numerous Protestant and Catholic personalities of the capital attended, as well as all those participating in the seminar. Among others were: the Rev. A. Marthinson, of the Biblical Society of the Congo; the Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Bruno Torpigliani; Archbishop Joseph-Albert Malula of Kinshasa; Mgr. Moke, the Vicar General; and the provincial superiors of the Jesuits and the Scheut Fathers.

In his welcoming address, the Rev. A. Marthinson spoke of the numerous Congolese languages which were represented at the seminar by some 80 participants, about 30 of whom were Catholics. He brought out the important work realized by the Bible translators, who, in the entire world, number some 3,000 people working at its translation into more than 200 languages, under the auspices of the Universal Bible Alliance.

Dr. E. A. Nida, secretary to the translation department of the American Bible Society, expressed his gratitude for all that had been done in the Congo in the field of Bible translation. He mentioned that, throughout the world, the Sacred Scriptures have been translated, in whole or in part, into 1,325 languages, the entire Bible into 242 languages, and the New Testament into 307 languages. The task, however, has not yet been completed, as there remain about a thousand other languages.

Dominicans Announce Changes at Close of Chapter

Greater Decentralization and Democratization

Decentralization and democratization are the major changes made by the general chapter of the Dominican order during its two-month meeting at the Aquinas Institute of Philosophy in River Forest, Illinois.

The chapter — the first held by the order since Vatican Council II — drew over 100 delegates from more than 40 provinces throughout the world.

Among the major changes is an entirely rewritten constitution, which was be promulgated in November. The new document provides changes in the structure and the apostolate of the 10,000-member order.

Other changes include:

—Decentralization of legislative authority with regional provinces and local communities empowered to adapt and implement the norms of the order in ways most sensitive to local needs and circumstances.

—Democratization of the governmental structure of the order by abolishing all voting privileges formerly attached to certain academic titles, lowering the age of qualification to vote for election of superiors to eight years after entrance into the Dominicans and allowing Brothers to vote for the first time.

The chapter also placed primary power for governing Dominican communities in the hands of local chapters composed of all priests and Brothers of a house or region, under the presidency of an elected superior or prior. All major policy decisions will be made in these chapters.

All regional provinces in the order will now be required to establish priorities in determining the Dominican apostolates in their areas, with the general Dominican objectives of Gospel witness through the intellectual life of teaching and research, writing and preaching.

The chapter also decentralized seminary and religious formation studies to allow for regional variation and experimentation. Regional provinces have also received authorization to permit smaller communities for priests and Brothers to live and work in university and ghetto communities.

The chapter sponsored a petition of the Congregation of Rites in the name of the 10,000 Dominicans to authorize the Dominican master general to allow controlled liturgical experiments in the choral divine office and the daily Dominican prayer without necessary recourse to the Congregation.

The chapter authorized establishment of a central public relations and press office for the order and issued a statement on academic freedom.

The statement said: "Our brethren enjoy that legitimate freedom to dispute and to publish which, in authentic fidelity towards the Church, really leads to a fuller understanding and a better explanation of the mysteries of salvation.

"Superiors should prevent abuses in this regard", the statement said, "but at the same time, they should not hesitate to strengthen and help those brethren who are considering new questions, to wisely and prudently set out contemporary problems in the light of the Gospel."

The statement concluded: "No one should dare to raise suspicions or make accusations, or spread them about anyone, but in a spirit of mutual confidence, should difficulties arise, let everyone share them in an open dialogue among brothers and superiors, so that the difficult work of doctrinal renewal can proceed in all charity and truth."

The statement was issued as a response to members of the order who had expressed concern about Father Edward Schillebeeckx, O.P., whose works are under investigation by the Doctrinal Congregation in Rome.

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