

THE CHURCH HERE AND THERE

THE NEW ARCHDIOCESE OF DAVAO

The Holy Father has elevated the diocese of Davao to an Archdiocese and at the same time promoted His Excellency, Bishop Clovis Thibault, pme as First Archbishop of the new Archdiocese, according to the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines. Furthermore, His Holiness has also nominated His Excellency, Bishop Antonio Mabutas of the diocese of Laoag as Archbishop Coadjutor of the Archdiocese of Davao.

Msgr. Mabutas, 49 years old, a native of Agoo, La Union, was consecrated and installed first Bishop of the diocese of Laoag in July 1961, while Msgr. Thibault, 60 years old, of the Foreign Mission Society of Quebec, Canada, entrusted with the spiritual care of the province of Davao, was elected first Bishop of Davao in 1966.

Coadjutor Archbishop-designate Mabutas will be Coadjutor Archbishop to Archbishop Thibault with right of succession.

P. I. GETS SET FOR MASS ORDINATION

When Pope Paul VI visits the Philippines in November, hundreds of clerics from all over Asia will have the rarest privilege of being ordained by the Supreme Pontiff.

The mass ordination will take place at the Rizal Park where approximately 200 to 300 candidates for the priesthood are expected to take the final step to the altar. This projected mass ordination was decided during the recent Bishops Conference held in Baguio City.

On August 7, the personal secretary of the Pope, Rt. Rev. Msgr. Pasquale Macchi conferred with Fr. Jesus Diaz, OP, rector magnificus of Sto. Tomas University, concerning the visit of Paul VI to the venerable institution. Among other things, the Pontiff will also preside over the PAN-ASIAN bishops, conference to be conducted at the Medicine auditorium.

The secretary was accompanied by Most Rev. Paul Marcinkus who had undertaken all the preparations for the Pope's journeys to different places, and Fr. Villenzo Farand, councilor of Apostolic Nunciature.

BISHOPS' PASTORAL CARE NECESSITATES AUTHORITY

The pastoral care of souls by bishops and priests "implies the exercise of authority," Pope Paul VI told a general audience on July 8.

Christ said that the flock should hear "the voice of the Good Shepherd. Authority, in Christ's thought, is not for the advantage of those who exercise it but for the advantage of those to whom it is directed; not from them but for them," the Pope said.

The Second Vatican Council, he said, did not limit itself to the pastoral care centered in the bishops and priests; it also stressed the concept of the priesthood of the laity. In doing so, the council "wished to create an atmosphere of collective and mutual pastoral concern. It wished to draw closer the operative bonds of charity that unite us all in Christ. It wished to restore to the Church in its modern structure the enthusiasm, the solidarity and the concern of the primitive Christian community."

LITURGICAL RESEARCH CENTRES

The Bishops' Committee on the Liturgy of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), Washington, has asked three centres to develop programmes of liturgical research. The centres are at the University of Notre Dame, St. John's abbey, Collegeville, Minn. and the new Woodstock College Centre for Religion and Worship in New York City.

While liturgical celebrations in specialized groups, such as small gatherings, schools, and institutions, are important, the primary goal is better understanding of parish liturgy, the committee holds. Study and research are principally needed for liturgical developments in the ordinary parish congregation with mixed interests and of average size.

CHRISTIAN RURAL COMMUNE FOUNDED IN SPAIN

A Christian rural commune has been started 45 miles from Madrid by 34 people, including married couples, single men and women, and a priest.

The commune was set up "to coincide exactly with historical narratives of the early Church," according to a spokesman for the group. Most members of the commune — or kibbutz, as it has also been called in imitation of Israeli communes — are young intellectuals who have always lived in cities. When they were asked if they were going to pronounce religious vows, their

answer was a unanimous and resounding "No." The spokesmen said the only vow they are committed to is personal dedication to three principles: the common good of the community, the Christian social doctrine, and helping the poverty-stricken farm-workers of the area.

Some members consider the commune "a style of life for the Church of the future," and are urging the rapid establishment of other similar communities.

POVERTY, FUEL FOR PUBLIC DEMONSTRATIONS

Archbishop Antonio Plaza of La Plata has told the new regime of Gen. Roberto Marcelo Levingston that Argentine's political problems stem from the poverty of so many of its people.

He has presented to the government a list of reforms that he believes to be necessary if the nation is to be "truly prosperous, dignified, independent and just." He has asked the government to "open channels of true participation to remove the abyss between the governing and the governed." Labour unions, he says, must "regain their freedom" and labour must be "effectively represented" in socio-economic planning. "There is anguish in the homes of our workers, whose salaries are not sufficient to feed their families adequately." Education suffers in the face of poor living conditions because of a lack of opportunity. Industry is threatened by politics and "foreign and national monopolies." Consumers are "helpless as the cost of living rises." "Violence springs from tensions created by injustice and poor living conditions, even though it may be supported by groups foreign to the national interest." Yet "subversive violence is as morally unjustifiable as repressive violence from the top."

The archbishop has there called upon the government to follow the teachings of the Church in an attempt to rid the country of poverty and economic imperialism. This, he says, would be "a solid foundation for eternal peace."