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HE GOES TO JAFFNA

BY J. P. DE FONSEKA

As a variation of the now familiar sentence "He comes from Jaffna," I present the text "He goes to Jaffna," as the return of the compliment.

There may be some measure of cynicism and even satire in the first tag. There is nothing of it in the second tag (my own) for I come to Jaffna in the humble quest for a first hand knowledge of a great and ancient portion of the Island and I seek also the evidence of the Faith which unites North and South and in which there is really no North or South.

I write these lines in Jaffna, in the heart and core of it, in the nursery of of Jaffna's Catholic life, under the shadow of the Cathedral of St. Mary and the near vicinity of the house of My Lord of Jaffna now nearing an Episcopal Jubilee of his devoted pastorate of a loyal and faithful Christian people.

They tell me that the weather is quite exceptional in its clemency and coolness and this is not the normal and natural style for the elements of Jaffna. The smiling verdure of its wide fields and groves is also said to be quite exceptional and they are apprehensive lest I should carry away a wrong impression of the Jaffna of the rest of the long year, dried and waterless under the tropic sun and demanding all the energy and labour of its population to raise the crops and maintain the struggle for existence.

But I came not for the weather and the coolth of the Jaffna breezes in this exceptional season. The ancient and traditional custom of Jaffna which direct the inhabitants to fence themselves in and enclose themselves with their parapets of cadjan I had heard of. But now I have seen the style, I know there is much more to be understood in it than to be misunderstood.

I asked whether this is done "for propriety or for property." I meant by "property" the sense of proprietorship in which the small holder has reason to feel a just pride as a thing to have and to hold as his own parcel of earth which God made for the use and profit of His creature called Man.

I was answered that it was propriety, otherwise privacy, which was at the bottom of the idea of the Jaffna custom of enclosure. But as I see it I think more and more that the other philosophical reason is not to be excluded from the analysis. With the modern attack on private property from two sides and the vast campaign of ideologies which result in the expropriation

of the poor, there will be more and more sanity and economic philosophy revealed in the enclosures of Jaffna's tradition.

When the capitalist creed has reduced all the greater majority of man to landlessness by buying them out or robbing and the other creed takes away all property in the name of the State reducing the millions to a status of slavery, then it will be time to remember that in Jaffna there was a healthy instinct of private property, which is the guarantee of the freedom of man and that it was nursed and satisfied down the ages and that it is abundant proof that it is natural for man to own and to possess.

Mr. Chesterton was understood by the humourists to favour the idea of every man possessing his three acres and a cow. In Jaffna they not only have the three acres and the cow but enclose the three acres and the domestic animal and the family with a wall of cadjan. The cadjan is cheap and answers the purpose effectively and when the wall is old and is breached by time, why then, a new wall arises in the twinkling of an eye and the sense of private property is reaffirmed and the unity and inviolability of the family is conveyed in unmistakable terms.

I feel that this feeling of the solidarity of the family will last in Jaffna while it becomes lax and fluid in other parts where the Faith has been relaxed and become fluid too.

I take it that this sense of the family raised and sublimated in the Faith of Christ is Jaffna's most treasured possession and it has been established in those most fruitful creatures after St. Francis Xavier and handed down.

The old Portuguese churches have served their time and disappeared in the crisis of later persecutions. New churches have taken their places and new institutions of Christian brotherhood and sisterhood have replaced the old ones and thrive and do their good and edify.

But the old tradition of the family goes on.

The family serve the Lord; flock to His worship; adhere to the Lord's ministers and are attached to the Chief Pastor in his diocese.

And when they who share the Faith elsewhere come over the family give themselves over to a lavish exercise of hospitality.

He who comes to Jaffna then goes having seen the Faith and rejoicing exceedingly.

ST. BERNARD'S SONG TO OUR LORD'S NATIVITY

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is born in Bethlehem of Juda. What heart so stony as not to be softened at these words? What soul is not melted at this voice of her Beloved? What announcement could be sweeter? What intelligence more enrapturing? Was its like ever heard before? Or when did the world ever receive such tidings?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is born in Bethlehem of Juda. O short word, telling of the Eternal Word abbreviated for us! O word, full of heavenly delights! The heart is oppressed by its mellifluous sweetness, and longs to pour forth its redundant riches, but words refuse their service. So overpowering is the music of this short speech that it loses melody if one iota is changed.

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is born in Bethlehem of Juda. O Nativity of spotless sanctity! O birth honourable for the world, birth pleasing and welcome to men, because of the magnificence of the benefit it bestows; birth incomprehensible to the angels, by reason of the depth and sacredness of the mystery! In all its circumstances it is wonderful because of its singular excellence and novelty. Its precedent has not been known, nor has its like ever followed. O birth alone without sorrow, alone without shame, free from corruption, not unlocking, but consecrating the temple of the Virgin's womb! O Nativity above nature, yet for the sake of nature! Surpassing it by the excellence of the miracle, repairing it by the virtue of the mystery! Who shall declare this generation? The Angel announces it. Almighty power overshadows it. The Spirit of the Most High comes upon it. The Virgin believes. By faith she conceives. The Virgin brings forth. The Virgin remains a Virgin. Who is not filled with astonishment? The Son of the Most High is born. The Son begotten of God before all ages, is Incarnate! The Word is become an Infant! Who can sufficiently admire?

Jesus Christ, the Son of God, is born in Bethlehem of Juda. Awake, you who lie in the dust—awake and give praise. Behold, the Lord cometh with salvation. He comes with salvation. He comes with unction. He comes with glory. Jesus cannot come without salvation; Christ cannot come without unction, nor the Son of God without glory. For He Himself is salvation. He is unction, He is glory as it is written, "A Wise son is the glory of his father."

Peace Conference at Bethlehem

The end of the war, which we had

pretation, which will permit the Church at least the elements of freedom which have enabled it to function openly and to flourish under the regime of Avila Camacho.

It is understood that the relations of President Aleman with the officials of the Church are cordial; and his past record is free from those acts of fanaticism that disfigured the political era of Calles and Cardenas.

President Aleman, denying that he is a Communist, has declared that he will not tolerate extremism of any class.

awaited with such an agony of longing, somehow, has not brought with it the happiness, peace of mind, and relief from tension that we had so ardently expected. Something is still missing. We cannot even speak of the return of peace, because peace has not yet returned to the world. We speak only of the "military victory of our armies" or the "cessation of hostilities."

We are uneasy as we look out over the world at the terrible destruction, social upheaval, and human suffering that meets our view—all bitter fruits of the most terrible war in the history of the world and so look into the future—we are even a bit frightened at what we see. The leaders of the world are already disagreeing over parliamentary rules and details, and implying veiled threats of another and more terrible war if the disagreement is not solved in their individual favour.

So it is that, this Christmas Eve, when we look out into the same clear, star-lit sky that once overlooked a crude stable in Bethlehem where a young Virgin Mother murmured softly to her New-Born Babe, we may not be able to remove these disquieting thoughts and fears from our hearts. And as we again hear the familiar, beautiful words, "Come, all ye faithful, joyful and triumphant..." we may bitterly ponder over the realization that we are probably "triumphant", but far, far from "joyful."

Somewhere in the Gospel it is recorded that our Lord once gently rebuked His disciples, "Why do ye fear, O ye of little faith?" How applicable these calming, reassuring words are today in a world that is saddened, downcast, and fearful of the future! There is no burden so heavy, no problem so difficult, no fear so gnawing, that cannot be forever banished from our lives if we will but approach our Heavenly Father as children truly repentant for our individual sins which the first seeds of war, and with faith, love and humility ask Him to forgive us and help us.

It is not in mighty armies, or in new and more "successful" atomic bombs, that the hope of mankind to preserve peace and to solve its troubles lies, but at the Manger of Bethlehem. It is only there that fear and hatred and sin and injustice can be dissolved in the bright sunshine of the love of God for us. And if our hearts are cleansed and calm, we will be able to hear the silent, but thundering message of peace and love which the Little Babe whispers to us.

The statesmen of the world, at the Peace Conference at Versailles after the last war, enunciated Fourteen Points which were to ensure everlasting peace in the world. The Fourteen Points did not bring peace.

The Little King of Bethlehem—Omnipotent God Himself in the guise of an innocent, helpless Infant—has a much simpler plan for peace on earth, and we have His Divine assurance that it is the only Plan will work successfully. It has only Ten Points—ten simple Commandments. Without these Ten Points as a foundation for any Peace Plan that the United Nations may agree upon, even their most sincere efforts to ensure lasting peace will meet with dismal failure.—*The Morning Star*, Bombay.

STATE MUST GIVE PEOPLE RIGHT TO WORSHIP FREELY

Mexico's new President, Miguel Aleman, has declared his intention to protect the right of individuals to freedom of worship.

This right was returned to the people of Mexico by President Aleman's predecessor, President Camacho, after the country had suffered for 20 years violent religious persecution under the regimes of Presidents Calles and Cardenas.

"Man has a right to his beliefs, and others, including the State, must respect those beliefs," said President Aleman to the Mexican daily newspaper *Excelsior*. "There must be respect for all, no

matter what religion they profess, so long as their forms of worship conform with the norms prescribed by the Constitution."

Fr. James A. Magner, of the Catholic University of America, comments in a statement to the N.C.W.C. news service:

"This statement may be considered ambiguous, inasmuch as Catholics cannot regard the Constitution of Mexico as guaranteeing the basic rights of religious freedom and education.

"Nevertheless, it indicates a spirit of broad tolerance and of a humane inter-

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THE MANAGER,

St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

Church Calendar

DECEMBER 1946

FRI.	...27 S. John.
SAT.	...28 H. Innocents.
SUN.	...29 S. Thomas.
MON.	...30 S. Maximus.
TUES.	...31 S. Sylvester.
JANUARY 1947	
WED.	...1 CIRCUMCISION (Obligation)
THURS.	...2 S. Macarius.
FRI.	...3 S. Genevieve.

The Catholic Guardian

DECEMBER 27TH 1946

THE YEAR 1946

The present post-war year which has witnessed many a terrific happening is coming to an end. At its dawn people with a sigh of relief greeted one another with the time-honoured wish of a happy new year. Has the dying year justified their hopes? To the few who do not allow their happiness to be marred by externals the passing year may have been happy but to the many it must have brought bitter disappointment. True it is that the great victory was celebrated by a spectacular military parade in London but the fruits of that victory have become like the dead sea apples which are said to crumble into dust at the touch. In the war-stricken countries what the inhabitants have endured is frightful. Hundreds of thousands have died of starvation. Thousands have been murdered after mock trials. Millions have been deported from their homes in appalling misery. Sorrow and despair are widespread. These unfortunate peoples have been eager for peace but the makers of peace have been in no mood to hasten it. They have met in conference, indeed, the so-called United Nations, not to make peace but to impose their peace terms. They must be fully aware of their unfitness to bring about true peace, for, peace is the work of justice. And at San Francisco, the Great Powers have renounced justice as something impossible in politics and have taken instead expediency as their guiding principle. No wonder their wranglings drag on with such scant result. Soviet Russia which was disregarded at the Peace Conference after the first world war has now become the towering figure which must be placated, thanks to the late Mr. Roosevelt and to Mr. Churchill. Molotov who has been instructed by Stalin to sabotage all efforts to make a solid peace and promote a friendly understand, barring serious risk of war, has been hampering all progress and imperilling peace. This is the greatest tragedy of the year. How it will end no one can say. Brief reference must be made also to two other storm centres—Palestine and India. In both countries the Bri-

tish government are faced with two irreconcilable parties—the Jews and Arabs in Palestine and the Hindus and Muslims in India. In both countries terrible havoc has been wrought by communal conflicts. It is surprising to learn that when the Labour Party was out of power it had pledged itself not merely to a Jewish Home in Palestine but to a Jewish State and recommended that the Arabs be encouraged to sell their lands to the Jews and clear out. Now the Jews want the government to fulfil their pledge. The Labour Government are confronted with problems which appear beyond their wits to solve. Everywhere including our own country there have been labour unrest and strikes. Communism has begun to be defiant. That is the coming danger against which effective measures must be taken. We have been setting down here a list of woes but the year has brought good things too for which we must be thankful. However dark things may appear, we must not forget God's plan in relation to the world He has created and confuse that fundamental plan with accidental conditions within it. And that is why hope ever springs in the human heart. In that hope we may wish all our readers a **HAPPY NEW YEAR.**

Ceylon Catholic Students' Federation Vacation Camp at Jaffna

Thirty-eight Catholic students from the Law, Medical, University, Training, St. Joseph's, St. Peter's, St. Benedict's, St. Sebastian's and St. Patrick's Colleges under the directorship of Very Revd. Fr. Peter A. Pillai, O.M.I., Rector, St. Joseph's College attended the vacation camp of the C. C. S. F. held at St. Patrick's College Jaffna from the 21st to 23rd inst. Revd. Frs. Justin Perera, Ignatius Perera, Alex. Ranasinghe and Mr. J. P. de Fonseka also attended the camp.

On Saturday 21st at 11 a.m. Revd. Fr. Peter A. Pillai O.M.I., delivered an instructive and well studied lecture on Buddhism and Revd. Fr. S. GnanaPrakasam, O.M.I., gave another at 3-30 p.m. on Hinduism. These lectures were followed by useful discussions. In the evening at 5-30 p.m. the Jaffna Catholic Diocesan Union entertained the Federation at a Social at which His Lordship the Bishop presided. Many ladies and gentlemen from the town were present. Mr. V. Joseph, President of the Union while welcoming the Federation to Jaffna said in a humorous speech that camps of that type would be a solution not only to religious questions but even to social questions. He said that it was very kind of Mr. A. Scory Thambiyaiyah to have stood the social on behalf of the Diocesan Union. Chev. S. Arulanantham said that Jaffna was an ancient seat of Catholic religion and that Jaffna Catholics were happy to see such energetic young men under Fr. Peter Pillai devoting their time to intensify their study of their sacred religion.

His Lordship said that he was glad to have them that day in his diocese and he said that the Federation would go a great way to clear up the misconceptions if any between the North and the South.

Mr. G. F. Sethukavalar, the President of the Federation said that from the moment of their arrival in Jaffna, they had been struck by the hospitality of the Jaffna Catholics. Revd. Fr. Peter Pillai, O.M.I., and Mr. J. P. de Fonseka also thanked the Diocesan Union for their spirit of Catholic generosity.

On Sunday 22nd inst., at 9-00 a.m. Very Revd. Fr. G. A. Gurusamy, O.M.I., delivered a plain talk on Marriage laws

which was followed by an interesting discussion. There was later an excursion to Kayts where the students were the guests of Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Philip. They were given a very sumptuous lunch with all the cordiality of Mrs. R. H. Philip. Mr. & Mrs. F. A. Sandrasegura helped a great deal to see to the arrangements for the lunch. Messrs. G. F. Sethukavalar, J. P. de Fonseka and Revd. Fr. Peter Pillai expressed their appreciation of the hospitality of the people of Kayts and particularly of Mr. & Mrs. R. H. Philip. Mrs. R. H. Philip thanked the federation for honouring her that day by their presence. Later in the evening at 7 p.m. there was a lecture by Revd. Fr. Justin Perera, Mis. Ap., on the Liturgical Question who spoke of how Catholics could make the Mass *their own*. They were given a dinner by Revd. Fr. T. M. F. Long, O.M.I., Rector, St. Patrick's College at which His Lordship the Bishop presided.

At 9 p.m. there was a concert in the College Hall kindly arranged by Mr. C. W. D. Alwines. Dr. St. John Puvirajasinghe with his wife at the piano kept the hall roaring with laughter. Some of the items were far above the ordinary standard.

On Monday 23rd inst. the federation went by bus to the Tholagatty Monastery where Revd. Fr. B. A. Tholagatty, O.M.I., the Director, gave a talk on the Congregation of the Rosarians. He also stressed the utter need for such youth movements. Later the students left for Keerimalai where they had a bath at the spring. They were entertained to lunch by Revd. Mother Superior, Holy Family Convent, Ilavalai. Messrs. G. F. Sethukavalar and J. P. de Fonseka thanked the nuns for their lavish breakfast on that day.

Then they returned to Jaffna where after benediction at the College Chapel they left for the station. They have gone but the impression they have made on Catholic Jaffna can never be obliterated. Three ringing cheers to the Ceylon Catholic Students' Federation! Hurrah! Hurrah!! Hurrah!!!

[A word of praise and thanks to Rev. Fr. C. S. Selvaratnam, O.M.I., Bursar, St. Patrick's College who had made wonderful arrangements to see to every kind of convenience of the visitors, will not, I hope, be out of place here.]

JAFFNA C.W.M.

CHILDREN'S PLATFORM.

About the beginning of this year when I gave in these columns the programme of the Jaffna Catholic Writers' Movement, I mentioned among its means a "Children's Platform" which would give publicity to literary attempts of children. But to enable the children to make literary attempts Junior Cells are required.

A Junior Cell is a group of about six or more school-going young Catholic writers guided by an adult head. A class of religious knowledge with its teacher, or a hostel with its warden, or a confraternity with its director can form a Junior Cell. Once in a way the class or the hostel or the confraternity can be turned into a Cell meeting. The head of the Cell can ask the children to write a paragraph (or small essay) on a given Catholic subject. The paragraphs may be read, discussed, and criticised in the Cell meeting. Any paragraph which, in the opinion of the head, is worth publishing can be sent to the Children's Platform Editor who for the present is myself. If the children's essays are long and suitable enough for independent publication, they may be sent direct to the Editor of the "Catholic Guardian" Jaffna or to the Editor of the "Gleaner", Boys' Town, Dehiwala. If the essays are in Tamil, they may be sent to the Editor of the Tamil "Guardian", Jaffna, or to the Editor of the "Jaffna C.W.M. Organ", Nallur, Jaffna.

The names of the Junior Cells and the addresses, standards and ages of the members must be registered at the Central Bureau, Archbishop's House, Colombo. But, since it is the wish of our Ordinary that I should organise and conduct the C.W.M. throughout the Jaffna Diocese, it is better that these informations are sent through me. The Central Bureau is planning to arrange for scholarships in Journalism to mem-

bers of Junior Cells who show signs of aptitude.

The English Colleges and Convents of our diocese were either visited or written to by me about the beginning of this year. When I visited them they were all struggling with the notorious Free-Tuition-With-Insufficient-Maintenance-Grant scheme which by an amazing mental restriction was called the "Free Education" scheme. Nevertheless at St. Patrick's and the Ilavalai Convent I was given the opportunity to address teachers and students on the C.W.M. In the month of June I got the zealous Editor of the "Gleaner" to send copies of his paper to our Colleges and Convents. Some time after I was immensely pleased to see in the "Gleaner" a fine article by a member of the Immaculate Conception Cell of Ilavalai Convent.

The following composition of Master David Rajadurai of St. Anthony's College Kayts, enables me to inaugurate the Children's Platform.

A GOOD TEST

Once there was a very rich Communist who wanted to spread his religion among the poor Catholic workmen of a town. So the man called all of them to him and said to them: "I will give you each a hundred rupees if you leave off the Catholic religion and become Communists. You may take your time and give your reply." After a long time the Catholic men came before the man and said to him: "Sir, if a man wants to take our horse and give his own horse with some money also to us, that means our horse is more valuable. You also want to give us some money if we leave off the Catholic religion. Therefore our religion is better. We won't leave the better religion."

For all matters connected with the Jaffna C.W.M. please write to:

REV. FR. B. WM. JESUTHASAN, O.M.I.,
Director of the Jaffna C.W.M.,
St. Sebastian's Church, Kayts,

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THE MANAGER,

St. Joseph's Catholic Press, Jaffna.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Our Bishop's Feast.—Going to press on the patronal feast of His Lordship the Bishop the "Catholic Guardian" is glad to offer to His Lordship its cordial wishes for a Happy Feast and many happy returns of the day.

Ourselves.—St. Joseph's Catholic Press will be closed for New year from Monday 30th Dec. 1946 to Saturday the 4th January 1947. Hence there will be no issue of the "Catholic Guardian" on Friday the 3rd January, 1947.

The Legion of Mary.—The Congress of the Legion of Mary for India, Burma and Ceylon takes place on the 28th, 29th and 30th of this month in Madras and the Revd. Fathers Chas. S. Matthews, O.M.I. and A. Rajanayagam, O.M.I., Mr. B. Benedict, retired jailer, the President of the Jaffna branch of the Legion and Mr. S. S. Isthaiki have gone as representatives to attend the Congress.

An Acknowledgment.—We received with thanks a copy of the Antonian, the organ of St. Antony's College, Kayts. It is illustrated; among the pictures we noticed a fine design of the College when the building programme will be completed. Also two articles one in English on the needs of Kayts and the other on Communism in Tamil. The publication includes essays by the students and school news.

Public Lecture.—Under the auspices of the Particular Council of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Society, Jaffna, Mr. Victor Tambinaya-

gam J.P., U.M., will deliver a lecture in Tamil on "Catholic Action and the Vincentians" in St. Charles' School Hall on Saturday 28th inst., at 5-00 p. m. Very Revd Fr. P.M. Francis, O.M.I., will preside. All are welcome.

Feast of St. Aloysius.—All the Honorary and Active Members are kindly requested to join in the celebration of the feast. Programme of the Annual Gathering:

Triduum: From the 27th inst., to the 29th inst., at 6-15 p. m.
30th inst: At 6-30 a. m. High Mass in the Cathedral.
" At 3-30 p. m. Holy Hour.
" At 5 p. m. Benediction of the Blessed Sacrament and then a social in the Confraternity Hall.

Personal.—Popular Town resident Mr. J. S. Rajaretnam retired Postmaster, is leaving with his family for Malayan Union to settle down in the midst of his children and relations in Kuala Lumpur. As honorary treasurer, he was taking a great interest over Jaffna Library Society Ltd.

S.V.P.—The Particular Council of the Conferences of St. Vincent de Paul Jaffna begs to thank all benefactors who have by their prayers and contribution helped the Conferences to alleviate the sufferings of the poor during this year. A Very Bright New Year to All.

V. C. Elections Postponed.—In view of the General Election to Parliament which will take place next year, the periodical elections to Village Committees which fall due about the middle of next year are to be postponed. The life of these local bodies, therefore, is to be extended till 1948.

All the Accused Discharged.—Holding that the case had not been proved, Mr. Krishnadasan, the Anuradhapura Magistrate, made order on Saturday last discharging all the accused in the case arising out of the recent train disaster near Anuradhapura.

The accused were five Rliwaay workmen, H. Samson, V. M. Rodrigo, M. Wijeratne, D. M. Kinigama and V. Davith Singho. They were charged with having acted in conspiracy and caused derailment of the Jaffna up passenger mail train on October 18, and thereby killed four passengers, and seriously injured 13 others, and also with causing minor injuries to 32 other train travellers.

Should Quit at 60.—All employees in the Local Government Service who have attained 60 years of age are to be retired forthwith and the rule of "retirement at sixty" will hereafter be strictly enforced. This policy has been laid down by the Local Government Service in conformity with the Central Government practice, but the commission proposes to enforce it with absolute strictness unlike the Central Government. No superannuation under the Local Government Service will be tolerated.

10,000,000 Join 'France for God' Drive.—Members of a missionary movement, started at Lourdes in 1943 and pledged to bring the whole of France back to God, have travelled 60,000 miles, visited 12,000 parishes and enlisted 10,000,000 people in a campaign of prayer and penance.

A group of members walked from France to Rome and were received by the Holy Father.

His Holiness, praising the "abundant and magnificent" fruits of their movement, gave the members the watchword "Persevere" in their pilgrimage along the "royal road of the Cross."

"Your spirit of fervour, demonstrated in night watches or in barefoot processions over burning hot or frozen ground, is not the most difficult part," the Holy Father told them. "Such things are but passing episodes."

"Your hardest task consists rather in constant fidelity to the duties—even disagreeable ones—of a Christian, to pious practices and to little sacrifices in daily life, in a spirit of humility, reparation and love."

His Holiness impressed on the pilgrims the importance of reshaping their lives to that of Christ as they follow the road of briars and thorns.

UNESCO opens in Paris.—Delegates representing 24 nations attended Pontifical High Mass on Sunday 1st December in Notre Dame Cathedral,

Paris, for the conference of Unesco—United National Educational Scientific and Cultural Organisation.

Cardinal Suhard, Archbishop of Paris, presided at the throne, and the Mass was celebrated by an Indian Bishop, Mgr. Pothacamurthy of Bangalore.

There was a congregation of 3,000. An address in English was given by an American priest delegate, Mgr. Hochwalt, of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the U.S. Hierarchy's administrative organisation.

Cardinal Suhard gave a reception for the delegates. The Papal Nuncio, Archbishop Roncalli, was present, together with numerous writers, patients and scientists. Again all the 24 nations which have sent delegates to the conference were represented.

Way of Providence.—Through the barter of a few cigarettes, a young ex-student from the Rabbinical school in Jerusalem found his way into the Church and is at present a student for the priesthood in the Benedictine Order. He was a soldier in a Palestine unit sent to Europe during the war, and was a prisoner in Germany for four years. Then came a time when he had a few cigarettes to barter, and the only thing he was offered for them was a copy of the New Testament. Reluctantly he made the exchange, and then from that day began to read the book. After several months he became convinced of the truth of Christianity, and sought out a Catholic chaplain for admission into the Church.

Italian Paper Condemned.—The Congregation of the Holy Office, in its session of 20th November, ordered as follows: "Since the weekly called *Don Bastilo*, published in Rome, has dared, ever since its first appearance, to mock divine worship, to hold up to public scorn the ecclesiastical hierarchy, to attack the clergy and cover them with vulgar calumny, the selling or reading of this paper is a grave sin. Furthermore, the directors, editors, collaborators and publishers are threatened with excommunication *ipso facto* especially reserved to the Holy See without any further declaration if they do not desist from the work they have begun."

Mission Progress.—The Prefecture Apostolic of Gao, in French Sudan, has announced a great record of progress over the war years. There are only six priests and eighty nuns in the area, but they have established five large schools for catechists and adult converts, and have a total of 10,000 catechumens under instruction at present. The Catholic population of this mission, which was officially established only in 1942, approaches the hundred thousand mark.

Exchange of Population.—When asked to suggest a solution for the restoration of communal harmony in India, Mr. Jinnah, addressing a Press Conference at Karachi on November 25 said: "In view of the horrible slaughter in the various parts of India, I am of the opinion that the authorities, both central and provincial, should take up immediately the question of exchange of population to avoid brutal recurrence of that which had taken place where small minorities have been butchered by the overwhelming majorities."

U. S. A.—The U.S. Government has demanded Britain to bear at least half of the 1,000,000,000 dollar bill confronting the two nations in their occupation of Germany during the next three years.

For Missionaries.—For the past two years the National Center of the Society of the Propagation of the Faith in Lyons has collaborated with the Catholic Faculty of Science in opening a research laboratory for the study of various diseases, especially leprosy.

This missionary laboratory will be fully in touch with the latest developments of science through the experience and studies made in physiology by Prof. Don Marduel, substitute professor of Natural Science.

A large group of missionary Sisters have already followed the courses with excellent results. The whole project promises to fill a long-felt need for such missionary training and there is every reason to hope for its continued success. —(Fides)

Young Christian Workers.—The Young Christian Workers' movement was tackling the problem of youth manfully and its guidance was showing

results, said the Lord Mayor of Melbourne, Australia, at a meeting of prominent citizens recently held to launch an appeal for £15,000 to enable the Y.C.W. to extend its activities. Australia would benefit if youth movements were widely encouraged, said Cr. Connelly, and he would do all in his power to help the movement. The Y.C.W. was established in Australia five years ago, and has a membership of 10,000. It trains leaders to guide and lead youth; but suitable hostels, clubs, centres, and camping sites for annual and week-end holidays in the hills and by the sea are needed.

OBITUARY

The funeral of Chevalier Philip Moses, Justice of the Peace and President Moopu of the Cathedral, Jaffna, took place on the 17th inst., at 5-30 p. m. His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna the Right Revd. Dr. J. A. Guyomar, O.M.I., assisted by the Very Revd. Fr. P. Monnier O. M. I., Vicar of Missions and several other priests conducted the funeral service at the Cathedral and at the Cemetery. The Revd. Fr. S. Gnana-Prakasam, O. M. I., delivered a funeral oration in the Cathedral. It was a most fitting tribute to one of the greatest Catholics of his generation.

The following acted as pall-bearers: Chevalier S. Arulanantham, Messrs. A. R. Subramaniam, R. J. Paul, P. Mortimer, J. A. J. Tisseverasinghe and F. A. Sandrasegara.

He leaves behind to bemoan his loss Mr. and Mrs. James Christian (son-in-law and daughter), Mr. and Mrs. Vital A. Moses (son and daughter-in-law) Gate Mudaliyar and Mrs. P. J. Rajah (brother and sister-in-law) and a host of grand children.

CORRESPONDENCE

London Matriculation—June, 1947

Sir,—The Rules and Regulations of the Matriculation Examination of June, 1947 say that only Candidates who are over 18 years of age and who do not attend any school are entitled to sit for this Examination. I write to suggest that it be open to School Candidates also.

If the Colleges preparing students for the S. S. C. & H. S. C. Exams. be permitted to send students for this Examination also, many students who are in the S. S. C. & H. S. C. classes may have the opportunity of sitting for this Exam. in June. This does not seem to affect the Education Department in any way. When the candidates are willing to offer the same subjects taught for the H. S. C. Exam. and to pay the Application Fees, the College authorities are not given any trouble.

It will be a great blessing to the prospective candidates if the matter be given due consideration and the necessary amendments be made in the said Rules before the Colleges re-open in January 1947.

V. THIRUNAVUKARASU.
"Vivekananda Bawanam"
Jaffna, 24-12-46.

Do You Know Series X of CATHOLIC DOCTRINE

1. When is the Feast of the Most Holy Rosary?
2. What Feast is celebrated on May 21st?
3. What is the special devotion during the month of February?
4. Who attempted to build the Tower of Babel?
5. What Sacrament is known as the Sacrament of Christ?
6. What do you know of the Liturgy?
7. What does C. C. S. F. stand for?
8. What is the nationality of the present Superior General of the Jesuits?
9. Who is the Originator of the Eucharistic Congresses?
10. What is a dalmatic?

(For Answers See Page 4)

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The priest, Fr. Jose Clemente Silva of the Salesians of St. John Bosco, is in Rome, where he will establish his headquarters.

He will be assisted by a staff including a secretary-general, a diplomat and an accountant.

Meanwhile the Argentine Government is negotiating in New York to purchase ships to take the emigrants to South America.

It is probable that Fr. Silva will co-operate constantly with the Papal services for refugees and with Bishop Kaller of Ermland, whom the Holy Father some months ago appointed to take charge of refugees from the East in Western Germany.

Bishop Kaller said in a recent audience of the Holy Father that he hoped to place some of the refugees in other countries.

Fr. Silva—the priest to whom millions of all-but desperate Displaced Persons will now look to with renewed hope—has been for many years rector of the Sacred Heart College at La Palata and of the Oratory of St. Francis de Sales in Buenos Aires, both Salesian institutions.

One of the greatest authorities on education in Argentina, he was offered, but declined, the post of Minister of Education. He has, however, been acting as one of the Ministry's chief advisers.

Fr. Silva was one of the principal organisers of the International Eucharistic Congress in Buenos Aires in 1934, at which the present Holy Father presided as Papal Legate.

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2. Our Lady, Mediatrix of all Graces.
3. Devotion to Our Lady of Lourdes.
4. The sons of Noe.
5. Confirmation.
6. It is the established Ritual of the Church.
7. Ceylon Catholic Students' Federation.
8. Belgian.
9. Mary Martha Tamisier.
10. Outer vestment used by a deacon at a solemn Mass.

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M. SRIKHANTA,
for G. A., N. P.

The Kachcheri,
Jaffna, 16th December, 1946.

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Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the Estate of the late Rebecca Saverimuttu widow of Saverimuttu of Jaffna Town.

Deceased.

Testamentary } No. 637

Jurisdiction } Francis Nicholas Clarence Saverimuttu of Jaffna Town.

Petitioner.

Vs.

Bastiampillai Benjamin of Chapel Street Jaffna.

Respondent.

This matter coming on for determination before R. R. Selvadurai Esq., District Judge, Jaffna, on the 27th day of November 1946 in the presence of Mr. W. B. Canagaratna, Proctor on the part of the petitioner and the affidavit and petition of the petitioner having been read.

It is ordered that the Letters of Administration of the Estate of the deceased be granted to the petitioner abovenamed as son and sole heir of the deceased abovenamed unless the Respondent abovenamed or any other person or persons interested in the subject matter shall appear before this Court on or before the 10th day of January 1947 and show sufficient cause to the satisfaction of this Court to the contrary.

This 27th day of November 1946.

Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge.

Order Nisi

IN THE DISTRICT COURT OF JAFFNA

In the matter of the intestate estate of Princess Kirupaimalar wife of Asirwatham Selvanayagam of Chundikuli.

Deceased.

Testamentary } No. 607

Jurisdiction } Asirwatham Selvanayagam of Chundikuli.

Petitioner.

Vs.

1. Prince Selvanayagam a minor appearing by his Guardian ad litem.

2. Joseph Ananthanayagam of Chundikuli.

Respondents.

This matter coming on for disposal before R. R. Selvadurai Esq., District Judge of Jaffna on the 21st of Sep. 1946 in the presence of Mr. S. R. Ariyanayagam, Proctor for petitioner and his petition and affidavit dated 17th Sept. 1946 having been read it is hereby ordered that the 2nd named Respondent be and he is hereby appointed G-a-d. over the minor the said 1st Respt. unless the said Respondents or any person or persons interested in the estate shall on the 30th day of October 1946 show cause to the contrary.

It is further ordered that the petitioner as husband of the deceased be declared entitled and he is hereby declared entitled to letters of administration to the estate of the

deceased unless the Respondents or any persons interested shall show cause on the 30th of Oct. 1946 to the contrary.

The 21st day of Sept. 1946.

Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge.

Extended for 8-1-47.

Sgd. R. R. SELVADURAI,
District Judge

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