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"Nisi Dominus custodierit civitatem frustra vigilat qui custodit eam."

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The Oblate Centenary in Ceylon

A BRIEF REVIEW OF THE PAST CENTURY

[BY D. J. B. KURUPPU]

1. UNDER MGR. SEMERIA

On St. Joseph's Day, 1864, Mgr. Semeria inaugurated in his own Chapel the *Brotherhood of St. Joseph*, the first community of Ceylonese religious, the first indigenous religious congregation in Ceylon. The Brotherhood struck deep roots and gradually extended the sphere of its usefulness. Today Brothers of St. Joseph are at work not only in the Diocese of Jaffna but in the Diocese of Trincomalee as well.

In 1865, only three years after the arrival of the Holy Family Nuns, Mgr. Semeria blessed the first novice house for religious, in Ceylon. The new entrants received the name of Sisters of St. Peter. Since then they have been admitted to membership in the Holy Family Congregation and are themselves known today as Sisters of the Holy Family.

ORPHANAGES

The Brotherhood of St. Joseph may be said to have been the offspring of the *Orphanage of St. Joseph*; for it was on the persistent application of two young men teaching in the orphanage that the Brotherhood was inaugurated. This orphanage, for boys, was founded in a small way in 1859. In 1863 it moved to its present home, Colombogam. Mgr. Semeria had ensured its success by entrusting its foundation and direction to Fr. Bonjean.

Fr. Bonjean also watched over the infancy of the girls' orphanage, the offspring of the motherly heart of Mrs. Flanagan. Started in 1860, it was taken over by the Sisters in 1862, and became known as the *Holy Family Orphanage*, Jaffna. Mrs. Flanagan's departure for Trincomalee was followed by the opening of another girls' orphanage (as well as girls' school) in that town.

THE NEW ERA

Two documents issued in 1860—Mgr. Semeria's pastoral on Catholic education, and the brochure "A Few Words on Catholic Education" by Father Bonjean (as he then was), published a letter early, to which the pastoral refers—may be said to have inaugurated the new era in the history of Catholic education in Ceylon.

On the one hand, the Catholics of the day had no idea of the value or the use of a Catholic education. The love of Catholic parents for their offspring "scarcely went further than the instinctive affection of animals for their young": they had little concern for their mental development or their moral conduct. And such parents naturally made no bones about sending their children to non-Catholic schools.

On the other hand, there were no Catholic schools, and the opening of Catholic schools were obstructed by two serious impediments: lack of Catholic teachers and lack of funds.

To deal with the situation Mgr. Semeria, first, began that great task which was to be carried on persistently by his successors in Jaffna and by all the other Bishops of Ceylon—the task of inculcating on Catholic parents the duty of sending their children to Catholic schools. Secondly, he took immediate steps to secure a steady supply of good Catholic teachers. The two Jaffna

schools which he improved were expected to provide material out of which good teachers might be turned out. The Oblate Brothers and the Holy Family Nuns already installed were to be but the precursors of others who would open schools in all the important centres of the vicariate. The Colombogam Orphanage and the Novitiate of the Sisters of St. Peter were to be fruitful nurseries of teachers for manning, respectively, the boys' and girls' vernacular schools which were to be opened in every parish, nay, wherever a church was built.

There remained the question of funds. To solve this problem it was necessary to induce Government to change its policy towards Catholics—to bring about a radical reform in the system of education then in force. Not until Government was prepared to recognise in full the civic rights of Catholics, in spite of their numerical inferiority, not until Catholics were assured of their just share of the education vote for the education of their children in their own schools, would the Catholics be relieved of the educational disabilities from which they were suffering: not until then would they have the funds—the funds to which they were entitled—to open and conduct the Catholic schools that were to them not a luxury but an absolute necessity.

The securing of these essential rights of Catholics were the work of Mgr. Semeria's able lieutenant and future successor, Father Bonjean. Mgr. Semeria did not live long enough to reap the fruits of the successful struggle. But ere he closed his eyes he had the consolation of seeing that victory was in sight and of the feeling assured that the programme he had initiated would be carried through to completion by him upon whom as he perhaps knew his mantle would fall.

PUTTING INTO SHAPE

Mgr. Semeria's work may be summed up in one word. He found things in a chaotic condition; he put things into shape. He laid the foundations of the well-ordered, well-organised flourishing diocese that we see today. Only in one respect did he leave his scheme incomplete: the opening of a Seminary. But even that he would have realised had he lived a little longer. As it happened the first of Jaffna's sons to be ordained out of Jaffna's Seminary came from the Colombogam Brotherhood which Mgr. Semeria founded. For the rest his successors had but to continue, develop and stabilise what he had begun.

The missionary personnel had to be kept ever increasing. Fr. Semeria had come with three other Oblates: 2 Fathers and 1 Brother. Between 1848 and 1868 six Oblates went to their reward—5 Fathers and 1 Brother. Nevertheless when Mgr. Semeria died in 1868 he left behind him 3 Brothers engaged in teaching, one other Brother and 23 Oblate missionaries carrying on the priestly ministry.

Missions had to be divided and subdivided. This, too, Mgr. Semeria started to do. Within the ten years of his administration he erected four new missions.

(To be Continued)

"MOTHER OF SORROWS, PRAY FOR US"

Mary, the Queen of Heaven and Earth, the vessel of singular devotion and mirror of justice, Daughter of the Father, "who art in Heaven," Mother of Our Lord and Saviour Jesus Christ, Spouse of God, the Holy Ghost, immaculately conceived and immaculately preserved from even the least vestige of sin, forsaking for a while the comfort and solace of her sylvan abode, comes down to our homes—yes, to our very doorsteps—bringing to our heedless ears the message of her Divine Son, the message of Peace, Prayer and Penance, as He had taught the roving crowds of Galilee, nearly two thousand years ago. Let us all together, from forests and farmyard, from towns and villages, take up our spades, clear the brambles and make straight the way of Our Queen and Mother. She comes like a beggar unto us, asking for the alms of Prayer and Penance, exhorting us to fulfil her maternal longings—the desire to see her children follow the same straight path which she, Our Mother, followed steadfastly, unerringly in years gone by. Are we, like the Publican, going to stand afar off, while Our Mother walks our roads? Are we just going to be mere

but only say the word and my soul shall be healed."

Mary's present mission is one of sorrow. During a greater part of her life on this earth, she had been stricken with bitter anguish and biting sorrow. Two thousand years ago, she brought forth her first born Son, wrapped Him in swaddling clothes and laid Him in a manger, because there was no room for them in the inn. She must have experienced a stinging pain at her own helplessness then—no comfortable hospital-bed, but a moth-ridden manger; no cosy blankets, but only the refreshing warm breath of the mute animals round about; no glowing electric lights but only the feeble light of a distant star. Today, it is an even more pathetic story. Unlike the Jews, we, who are His chosen children, have driven Him away from our hearts. Where Jesus should reign, Satan holds sway. Therefore, comes she to us through dusty roads and dense jungles, through sweltering heat and blistering air, to beg of us for Her Divine Son, a place of righteous honour, calm repose in our hearts; to plead with us to let Jesus take full and unconditional possession of our hearts and therein



Our Lady of Madhu leaves Her Sylvan Shrine in Search of her Strayed Sheep.

dumb witnesses to this, the most sacred Mission of Our Lady? Can we not hear her winning call to us, her beloved children? ... Then why linger? why vacillate? why falter? Come, let us welcome her, with all honour and glory, as befits the Mother of God.

Alas, times have changed to-day! Two thousand years ago, Our Lord Himself left His Heavenly Home to visit His terrestrial Mother, Mary, but, today, how wonderful it is that Our Blessed Mother comes to visit Her children—we, who are of God, by God and for God. How very wonderful! Let us then cast off our present lethargic mantle and put on the armour of prayer; let us stir ourselves from our present lazy languor and take up the shield of penance; let us gird ourselves with the gauntlet of the Holy Rosary and go forward, with peaceful hearts and perennial happiness, to welcome Our Mother to our homes. Let us prostrate ourselves meekly, humbly before her, sighing to her from the deepest recesses of our hearts: "Mother, I am not worthy that thou shouldst enter under my roof,

reign for ever as no earthly King had ever reigned before in his palatial mansions! Are we so cruel as to refuse our own mother's request? Are we so callous as to cast out the little Babe from our threshold, into the dingy dungeons of a pagan's hut? If we, His children and her children, do not offer a ready resting place for Them, then who else will, I ask? Come, let us today clean up the cob-webs and mush-rooms that have sprung up so abundantly in every nook and corner of our hearts, and prepare therein a place truly worthy of Our Divine Lady and Her Son.

Two thousand years ago, Mary had lost her little Son in the Temple. With what excruciating sorrow and heavy heart did she, of the House of David, scurry back to the Temple, in search of her lost Child! How heavy the tread of her Divine feet! How bitter her sighs of self-accusation! Today we once again hear those heavy footfalls in the many roads and by walks of our country, as Our Lady goes from hut to hamlet, in search of her lost children! Hearken

(Continued on Page 4)

NOTICE

May Festival at Madhu

The May Festival at Madhu will take place on the 9th of May, preceded by 4 novenas beginning on the 5th of May.

Administrator of Madhu Church.

FOR SALE

Austin Saloon 15.9 H.P. late X Series—in excellent condition—reasonable offers. Can be seen at "Ratnagiri", Araly North—Vaddukodai.

Church Calendar

APRIL 1948

FRI. ...30 S. Cath. of Sien.

MAY 1948

SAT. ...1 SS. Philip and Jacob.

SUN. ...2 S. E.—S. Athanasius.

MON. ...3 Finding of the Cross.

TUES. ...4 S. Monica.

WED. ...5 S. Pius V.

THUR. ...6 ASCENSION. (Obligation)

FRI. ...7 S. Stanislas B.

The Catholic Guardian

APRIL 30TH 1948

THE PILGRIM VIRGIN
AT JAFFNA

The historic pilgrimage is almost finished and appropriately the concluding ceremony is to be in Jaffna.

We have witnessed moving scenes and taken part in a movement that would seem in the designs of God to be the shape that devotion to Our Lady is to take in this century. From our experience here it is an effective shape though whatever the shape the underlying devotion is the same throughout.

Jaffna will welcome Our Lady of Madhu for several reasons. Madhu and Our Lady are the greatest glory of the diocese; devotion to Our Lady has always been in special honour in the North, as the very names of our churches testify: Our Lady of Refuge, Our Lady of Miracles, St. Mary's Cathedral. Her name has been linked up with the town by virtue of several solemn and historical consecration going back for centuries.

We like to feel that our very devotion to her Son is qualified and conditioned by the devotion we bear towards the Mother. It is not merely in Newman's phrase that those who have been faithful to the Mother have remained most faithful to the Son. As we see it, it is much more. Jaffna's devotion to the Blessed Sacrament which is seen at its best on Corpus Christi and less spectacularly in the attendance at the daily Mass and in visits to the Blessed Sacrament derives from a warmth of devotion that is the inseparable concomitant of devotion to Our Blessed Lady.

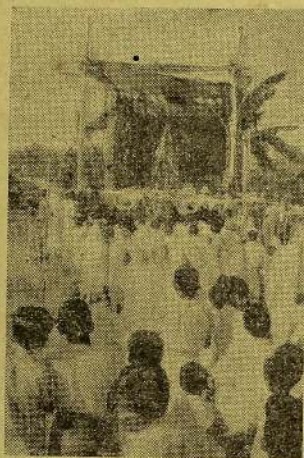
That she may be with us still will be the one prayer and thought of all privileged to share in this pilgrimage. The present is no time for any false security, the dangers are present and menacing. No blue-prints will save our society unless and until it is based on the recognition of God's supremacy. Nobody better than His Mother can inculcate the grasp of the reality that underlies the Kingship of Christ.

Mary and her
Miraculous Medal

On May 28th 1933, the Church raised to its altars the humble Sister of Charity, Catherine Labouré. He who chooses the weak things of the world to execute great deeds of His wisdom, made choice of her, and of the medal which His Blessed Mother revealed to her, to awaken throughout the Church belief in the Immaculate Conception of Mary—thus to prepare the way for the solemn definition of that great truth, and through that truth to make vivid to the minds of the faithful the glory of the supernatural life that His Son brought to our fallen and sinful race.

THE FIRST APPARITION

On the night of the 18th July, 1830, Sister Catherine was awakened from sleep by a voice calling her by her name. It was that of a child, about 5 years old, dressed in white, who invited her to go to the Chapel where the Blessed Virgin was waiting for her. She arose, hurried herself into her clothes and rushed with that child into the sanctuary of the chapel where at about

The Faithful pay their Homage
to the Pilgrim Virgin at
Kat-kadantha-kulam

midnight the Blessed Mother of God appeared to her. The latter gave her many an exhortation and made certain prophetic utterances which were verified to the letter forty years later when the streets of Paris ran red with blood in the rising of the Commune, and Archbishop Georges Darboy with many of his priests was shot by the leaders of the Revolt in their hatred of the Catholic Faith.

SECOND APPARITION

On the 27th November of the same year Our Lady appeared to the Sister for a second time. It happened again in the chapel. To quote the words the Saint herself, An oval frame surrounded the Blessed Virgin on which was written in gold letters: "O Mary conceived without sin, pray for us who have recourse to thee." Then a voice said to me: "Get a Medal struck after this model; those who wear it when it is blessed will receive great graces especially if they wear it round their necks. Graces will abound for those who have confidence." At the same instant the oval frame seemed to turn round. Then I saw on the back of it the letter M, surmounted by a cross with a crossbar beneath it, and under the letter the Holy Hearts of Jesus and of his Mother; the first surrounded by a crown of thorns and the second pierced by a sword.

THIRD APPARITION

Within a few weeks, again at the evening meditation, she had another vision exactly similar to the one of November 27th. Once more she received the order to get a medal struck. Father Aladee, her confessor, who originally treated these occurrences with indifference and even forbade her to believe in them, after an interval of two years, being satisfied of the reality of the apparitions, obtained the approval of the Archbishop of Paris and had the first medal struck.

SPREAD OF THE DEVOTION

Events quickly proved the true heavenly source of Catherine's mission.

The newly struck medals were received with enthusiasm by the faithful, first in France and then throughout the whole Catholic world. The medals everywhere worked wonders. Devotion to Mary Immaculate grew in fervour and intensity; marvellous cures of soul as well as of body went with the devotion. Our Lady richly kept her promise that through the medal streams of grace would refresh the world. The faithful everywhere acclaimed it as the Miraculous Medal. Of these countless miracles of grace, the Church in the office of the Feast of the Miraculous Medal, mentions the conversion of Alphonsus Ratisbonne. He was a Jew in name, as he did not believe in God. A convert friend of his, having tried all other means in vain, offered him a Miraculous Medal and begged him to wear it merely as a favour to himself. A few days later by chance he entered the Church of St. Andrew. There appeared to him standing on the altar, tall, radiant, full of majesty and sweetness, the Blessed Virgin, such as she is on this medal. Like St. Paul, he was on the instant converted to the Faith. She seemed to say, "It is well." At his Baptism he took the name of Mary. Later he was ordained priest, and devoting his life to the conversion of the Jews, he became the founder of the Society of Priests and of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion, whose members carry on his work in many parts of the earth. He died in 1884 after a life of singular holiness and zeal.

May we avail ourselves of the power and influence of this miraculous medal, so that we may lead lives of holiness and piety under the mantle of Our Lady of Madhu and the Miraculous Medal.

"Ah, dear little medal, what stories hang round thee,

What blessings and triumphs of grace hast thou wrought!

To the poor and afflicted, the rich and the sinner—

Relief, consolation and joy thou hast brought!

Italy Rejects
CommunismClear Majority
for Gasperi

Final official results for the Italian Senate elections gave the Christian Democrats 10,740,131 votes (47.9 per cent) and the Popular Front 7,955,229 votes (31 per cent).

Official figures this morning for 36,929 sections out of the 41,647 for the Chamber gave the Christian Democrats 10,878,783 votes (48.5 per cent) and the Popular Front 7,060,119 (31.06 per cent).

Earlier voting figures for the Senate, as announced by the Ministry of the Interior, in 40,407 out of the country's 41,647 voting districts were:

Christian Democrats, 9,246,443 (47.2 per cent).

Popular Front: 5,882,253 (30.5 per cent).

Socialist Unity: 1,341,511 (7 per cent).

National Bloc: 1,295,490 (6.6 per cent).

Republicans 500,132 (2.6 per cent).

Monarchists 415,458 (2.2 per cent).

Italian Social Movement Fascist: 242,363 (1.3 per cent).

Voting represented 97.5 per cent of all districts.

Final Senate results for Turin, announced by the Ministry of the Interior to-night, gave the Christian Democrats a lead of over 20,000 votes in this usually Communist stronghold.

The figures given were: Christian Democrats 178,246; Popular Front 156,319; National Bloc 23,096.

The greatest upset in this voting was in the Turin Fiat Factory section, where the Christian Democrats turned a defeat at the 1946 elections into a 1,000 vote lead.

In 1946, the Christian Democrats polled 112,148 against a combined Communist and Socialist vote of 225,025.

Final unofficial results for the Senate election throughout Sicily gave 12 seats to the Christian Democrats, 5 to the Popular Front, 2 to the Monarchists and 1 each to the Republicans, Socialists and Liberals.

Rome, Milan, Turin, Florence and Naples have all given the Christian Democrats a big lead.

A first estimate of the voting for the Chamber of Deputies from 4,478 out of 41,525 polling centres gave the Christian Democrats 2,121,608 votes.

The Popular Front followed with 926,207, Socialist Unity with 269,393, the Republicans 73,294, the National Bloc 65,916, the Italian Social Movement 62,588 and the Monarchists 54,247.

PREMIER GASPERI'S COMMENT

Shortly before these figures were announced Signor De Gasperi declared: "I was quite sure we should get the requisite majority, but I never dreamed, as my opponents did, of obtaining an absolute majority."

It was not clear whether he meant to forecast that his party would now get a clear majority over all rival groupings, in both the Senate and the Lower House, but he added that Press predictions had been "far too pessimistic" about their chances.

The voting showed the "political maturity" of the Italian people, he said. They had "a firm desire not to be Bolsheviked."

Giuseppe Saragat, Leader of the Moderate Socialists, told Reuters on the 21st. "The real loser in this electoral battle has been the dictatorship that the chiefs of the Popular Front have vainly tried to mask."

"The Italian people, who have already had one unhappy experience of dictatorship, have not been fooled."

Scenes of jubilation over the Christian Democrats' victory were reported from all over the country. Investors did not wait for the final results and both Rome and Milan stock markets experienced heavy buying.

Prices shot up under the influence of the defeat of the Popular Front and in the knowledge that for the next five years at least, private enterprise would remain unhampered in business.

Signor Carlos Pajetta, Secretary of the Communist party in Lombardy, told Reuters Milan correspondent that he was satisfied with the results but added that the "whole forces of the Right were mobilised by the Church."

"The Christian Democrats were thus able to increase their vote but the Parliamentary position will not be greatly changed," he declared.

The Tamil Literature
SocietyA NEW ERA FOR CATHOLIC BOOKS
IN TAMIL

What promises to inaugurate a new era for Catholic literature in Tamil is the new inter-diocesan society organised on a joint stock basis under the distinguished patronage of the Archbishops and Bishops of the Tamil-speaking districts of South India and Ceylon.

A preliminary meeting of the Governing Body of the above society, which has had great support from the Hierarchy, the clergy and laity, was held in the office of the Vice-Chancellor of the Annamalai University. Very Rev. Frs. G. Mark C. S. Maria Arokiam, A. Muthumalai, S.J., X. S. Thaninayagam and Mr. M. Ruthnaswamy were present. The Governing Body decided to co-opt Advocate A. Dorairaj of Madras, the Vicar General of Jaffna, and two more members from Ceylon to the Governing Body. They elected the Rt. Rev. Dr. G. F. T. Roche as Chairman of the Governing Body and Rev. Fr. Thaninayagam as Secretary.

Till suitable offices were available in Madras, it was resolved to open a temporary office in Tuticorin, and commence the publication and distribution of books from May 1st of this year. An appeal is to be issued to all Catholic Institutions of Tamil Nad to make the above society its book agents. A second hand bookshop is also to be opened by the above society. The secretary will consider Mss. and welcomes suggestions and enquiries.

The inter-diocesan nature of the above institution cannot be over-emphasised. If it is located in Tuticorin for the present it is because of the want of suitable accommodation in Madras. It is hoped that the society will move

to Madras as early as possible. All correspondence is to be addressed: Secretary, Tamil Literature Society (T.L.S.), Bishop's House, Tuticorin.

Town Council Condoles

Town Council Office,
Kayts, 27 April, 1948.

My Lord,

I have the honour to forward the following resolution which was moved by me at the last meeting of the Town Council of Kayts and passed unanimously all members standing in silence for two minutes:—

"This Council desires to place on record with profound grief the most sad and untimely death of Rev. Fr. A. S. Joseph, O.M.I., Rector, St. Antony's College, Kayts, and wishes to convey to His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna, the new Rector, Staff and Students of St. Antony's College, its deep sympathies."

I am, My Lord,
Your Most Obedient Servant,
S. M. RIDGEWAY,

Chairman, Town Council, Kayts.
To His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna.

LOCAL & GENERAL

Mother of God in the Northern

Metropolis.—The statue of Our Lady of Madhu made its informal entry into Jaffna from its insular tour on Sunday 25. Traversing the newly constructed Pannai Causeway the statue was taken to Navanturai. From there Our Lady visited the outlying villages and townships such as Anaikottai, Manipay, Kopay, Urumpiray, Nallur etc. and was formally received into the town by His Lordship the Bishop of Jaffna on Monday 26th. In the town Our Lady went round Pandian Thalu, Passeyur, Colombogam, St. John's Church, Chandikuly, St. Martin's Seminary, the Convent of the Immaculate Conception and the Holy Family Convent.

Today she is at Our Lady of Refuge which had the longest route for the procession. Children, women and men four deep formed an orderly march of penitents nearly a mile in length and the statue was followed by as long a train. What would on other occasions have been and unmanageable mass of humanity was held captive and spell bound by the silver tones of the microphone leading the Hail Mary and the people saying their response in consonant accord. The number of non-Catholic visiting the shrine of Our Lady of Refuge where Our Lady of Madhu holds her penitential court is unique indeed. The spacious compound of Our Lady of Refuge presents an appearance of a miniature Madhu.

The Visitor of the Oblates.

Very Rev. Father John Boekenfoehr, O.M.I., one of the Assistants of the Superior-General of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate is residing at the Bishop's House, Jaffna. The Very Rev. Father is on a canonical visit to the religious houses in the Diocese and he will stay with us for two months.

Incidentally his visit coincides with the 100th anniversary of the Oblate labours in Ceylon.

Sub-Post Office Opened at

Mallakam.—A sub-post office at Mallakam was opened by Mr. T. Balachandran, D.R.O., Valigamam North, on April 16.

Mr. R. N. Sivaprakasam said that the sub-post office for the village was the result of sustained agitation.

Mr. C. Thiagarajah, in charge of the sub-post office.

The permanent Secretary to the Ministry of Post and Telecommunication has informed Mr. E. P. Rasiah, of Vannarponne, that measures have been taken to open a sub-post office near the Hindu Ladies' College at Vannarponne East.

Registered and Insured Inland Parcels.—A Post Office communiqué issued on April 22 states that commencing from May 1, 1948, inland parcels intended for transmission by registered or insured post, will be accepted at the local counter, Parcels Office, Duke Street Fort.

The existing practice, (i.e.) acceptance at the Registration counter, G.P.O.

Colombo, will cease with effect from the same date.

Sat in Prime Minister's Chair.

—Mr. Joseph P. C. Anandappa of Alwis Place, Kotahena, a wireless operator of Radio SEAC Ja-ela, who was charged in the Joint Magistrate's Court Fort, in connection with an incident which occurred in the office of Mr. D. S. Senanayake, Prime Minister, on March 12 last, was ordered by Mr. N. L. Jansz, the Acting Magistrate, to enter into a bond in a sum of Rs. 350 with his father as surety.

Avissawella's New M.P.—The election of Mrs. Kusuma Sri Gunawardene as a Member of the House of Representatives for Avissawella is announced in a Gazette extraordinary issued last week.

Change of Royal Style and Title.—The King will shortly issue a Proclamation announcing changes in the Royal title due to the transfer of power to India and Pakistan.

The chief point will be the omission of the words "Emperor of India" from the Royal style and title.

Churchill Hails Result.—Addressing a Conservative women's meeting, Mr. Winston Churchill on April 22 called on the European peoples to unite to preserve their freedom.

He said, "Italy now regains her place in the ranks of the principal powers of Europe instead of being like so many unhappy countries made to live in the cage with the bear."

Mr. Churchill said: "There will never be settled peace in Europe while Asiatic Imperialists and Communist domination rule over the whole of the Central and the Eastern Europe."

He hailed the Communist defeat in Italy as a "historic event." Mr. Churchill lamented Czechoslovakia's situation and blamed it on "Quislings." Mr. Churchill said: "I hear people say of Soviet aggression 'thus far and no further.' We must not delude ourselves. The peace of the world depends upon the power and strength of U.S."

An advocate of a United States of Europe for long, Mr. Churchill told the 5,000 women Conservatives: "When I last spoke in this hall a year ago, it was in the cause of a United States of Europe. To-day, men of all parties rejoice at the progress which has been made. Many ancient powerful States rallied to it. Our own Government adopted the policy. The U.S. lent the all-powerful aid. We had the Marshall Plan of aid to Europe and especially the aid to Britain."

Mr. Eamon de Valera.—The Subhas Society of London has sent a message to Mr. Eamon de Valera, ex-Premier of Eire, requesting him to visit India on his way back from his Australian trip.

Mr. de Valera left Eire for Australia by air on April 22.

Mr. J. Haque, Secretary of the Subhas Society, told Reuter he has also communicated with a number of Congress leaders, requesting them to invite the Irish ex-Premier to visit India.

Mr. Haque stated, "Indian nationalists would be glad to receive Mr. de Valera, whom they consider one of the great leaders of the Liberation movement."

Other leading nationalists have also written to de Valera requesting him to visit India on his way back from Australia.

A subsequent message informs that Mr. de Valera is not likely to visit India.

Alliance to Fight Communism.—The Siamese Premier, Marshal Pibul Songgram, on April 21 endorsed the Chinese National Assembly's view that Communism constituted a menace to Asiatic nations.

Communism, he said, was completely alien to Asiatic conceptions of Government, it was particularly repugnant to Siam, which cherished monarchy by tradition.

Commenting on the Chinese National Assembly's proposal for a South-East Asia Anti-Communist military alliance, he said, that Siam was prepared to join any regional pact, sponsored by the nations of South-East Asia, provided it was under the auspices of the United Nations.

Anglo-Ceylonese Talks.—Economic talks between Ceylon and Britain, which will largely decide the

NOTICE

We remind all our Fatima friends that the anniversary of the first apparition of the Blessed Virgin at Fatima on the 13th of May will be celebrated in the Church of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, at the place called IRASA-MURUK-KADI at Pandateruppu.



A preparatory triduum will be preached by Rev. Father Louis Dessy, O.M.I. That triduum will start on Sunday evening, 9th of May.

On Wednesday 12th evening the ceremonies will start at 6-30. After the Rosary and sermon the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed till midnight. At 12-30 in the night a solemn High Mass will be celebrated. After that High Mass the Blessed Sacrament will be exposed again till the morning masses.

From every village, we are confident, pious pilgrims will flock to our little shrine to adore Jesus in

His Sacrament of Love, to thank the Blessed Virgin for Her wonderful Fatima message and to promise Her to make that message the rule of their private life.

Henri Gesland, O.M.I.
Parish Priest.

Island Dominion's future as a granary of the East, have now reached a state where "differences are very small," it was learnt officially in Ceylonese quarters in London.

The amount of Ceylon's sterling balances has been agreed upon as £51 million up to the end of 1958.

Of this total, £36 million represent Ceylon's war loan to Britain and surpluses of the Ceylon Government made up of deposits by Ceylonese people in Savings Banks and other Government accounts.

These moneys were deposited in London, before the transfer of power, under colonial legislation which did not give Ceylon the right either to have her own Reserve Bank or to retain her surpluses in her own or any other country than Britain.

Future of French India.—Addressing a public meeting on April 18, Mr. Goubert, Minister of French India in-charge of General Administration, said that the French Indian people should eliminate French Imperialism and get their independence.

He said that they could decide the question whether they should join the Indian Union or not after the Indian Union had settled the Hyderabad and Kashmir issues.

Catholic Medical Work.—The Catholic Church operates 1,049 hospitals in the United States. These institutions are staffed by 22,000 Sisters and Brothers, and by 160,000 professional and non-professional lay workers. No less than 40,000 physicians work in them.

More than 3,000,000 persons received complete hospital care in Catholic institutions during 1946. To this figure add 700,000 persons treated in emergencies, more than 1,000,000 who were given aid in clinics and out-patient departments, and the 1,650,000 who obtained X-ray and therapy treatment and laboratory tests.

More than 36,000 vitally-needed student nurses—28 per cent. of the national total—are now in Catholic schools of nursing.

Court Sentences 14 SS Men to Death.—A U.S. war crimes tribunal sentenced to death on Saturday by hanging 14 of the 20 S.S. "extermination group" officers found guilty of participating in the murder of more than 1,000,000 Jews, gypsies and opponents of the Nazi regime.

In its judgment the American tribunal had called the trial, "the biggest murder trial in history."

Two of the accused were sentenced to life imprisonment, three to 20 years' imprisonment, and one to 10 years' imprisonment.

As well as these 20—all of whom had been found guilty of crimes against humanity—a former S.S. captain was sentenced to 10 years' imprisonment for murder.

Italian Film Company Screening 'Fabiola'.—Ancient Rome of the third and fourth centuries after Christ is being reproduced in a new Italian film version of Cardinal Wiseman's novel, "Fabiola," according to "Osservatore Romano."

Michele Morgan, French actress, has been cast in the role of the Christian heroine in a Universal production which will strive for archaeological accuracy. An archaeologist has completed preliminary studies of the filming and has designed the scenery in detail. Costumes will be authentic reproductions.

The scenery depicts the Circo Massimo, the port of Ostia dominated by a huge statue of Caesar Augustus, the Roman villa of Fabio and the general storehouses of Agrippa, in addition to other historic places.

Hirakud Dam.—Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru, Prime Minister of India, laying the first concrete of the Hirakud Dam on April 12, said that the dam when built would benefit not only Orissa, but India as a whole; he would even say that it would benefit the entire world.

This multi-purpose development project has been made possible because of the grant of a loan of Rs. 48 crores to Orissa by the Central Government.

The project is estimated to cost Rs. 47.81 crores and to be completed in six years.

TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way and Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of Six sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Nawalapitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30th April, 1948.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.
Chief Engineer's Office,
Way & Works, C.G.R.,
Maradana.

"Flying Convent" Staffs Australian Hospital

On an errand of mercy, ten Cabrini nuns made Church history when they flew half-way around the world—from Rome to Melbourne—to staff an Australian hospital which because of a shortage of nursing staff was threatened with closure.

Travelling in a specially chartered and outfitted Lockheed Lodestar aircraft, the community of nursing sisters landed at Melbourne's Essendon airport on January 25, 11 days out from Rome.

They were the first Cabrini nuns to take their order to Australia.

After being greeted at the airport by the Right Rev. A. Fox, V.G. Adm. and other dignitaries of the Church they were driven to St. Patrick's Cathedral, where His Grace, Archbishop D. D. Mannix, was waiting to welcome them.

Anxious to see their new home and keen to tackle the task facing them, the Cabrini sisters took up residence immediately at the hospital which was responsible for their historic flight, St. Benedict's of Malvern—an outer suburb of Melbourne.

The Sisters of Mercy had been obliged to decide on the closure of St. Benedict's because they found it impossible to keep it fully staffed as well as their large, ultra modern Mercy Hospital, which caters for all types of cases, including maternity.

News that St. Benedict's was to close caused alarm among the Catholic doctors and people of areas served by the hospital, and after unsuccessfully seeking a nursing staff in Australia they approached Archbishop Mannix with their problem.

His Grace immediately instituted enquiries in Australia, Eire, Great Britain, Canada and the United States of America, but the replies were disheartening. No nursing sisters were available.

As a result of a suggestion by the Superior of the Blessed Sacrament Fathers in Australia, the Archbishop had a direct approach made to the Mother-General of the Cabrini Sisters in Rome. Because of the shortage of nursing sisters in Europe, even that solution looked impossible, but finally, after consulting the Pope, the Mother-General announced that Archbishop Mannix's request would be granted—ten Missionary Sisters of the Sacred Heart of Jesus would take over St. Benedict's hospital and thus make the first Cabrini foundation in Australia.

The sisters were truly an international group. They comprised three Americans, one English and six Italians.

Then followed disheartening delays and disappointments because of the shortage of shipping between Italy and Australia.

Finally, Archbishop Mannix decided that an Australian aircraft should be chartered to bring the Cabrini Sisters from Rome. Before they left, the Sisters visited His Holiness, who gave his special blessing for a safe journey and the work they were to undertake in Australia.

Leaving Rome on January 14, the "Flying Convent" made the 12,000-mile journey from Rome to Melbourne in easy stages. Their first stop was at Athens, where the Sisters stayed the night at an hotel. The following day they reached Cyprus, and after a hurried lunch they were on their way to Bagdad, where they were guests in the convent of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

After an uncomfortable night in Bahrien (Arabia), where they were forced to sleep at the aerodrome, the Sisters flew on to Karachi and a more comfortable rest in the Convent of the Sisters of the Holy Cross. They passed on through Calcutta, Rangoon, Singapore, Sourabaya and finally to Timor, on the last stage of their flight to Darwin, in Australia's north west, where the Cabrini Sisters first saw their new homeland.

At Darwin they met with a most warm welcome from the Daughters of Our Lady of the Sacred Heart, who had been looking forward with eagerness to the privilege of being first Australian church foundation to welcome the new Cabrini order.

The Sisters stayed overnight at the convent school and after assisting at the 4-30 a.m. Mass on January 23,

they took off on the 3,000 miles flight across Australia to Melbourne.

The Sisters have now settled happily into their new home and already they have made plans for big improvements to St. Benedict's Hospital. They say that if their work is blessed they hope one day to see a fine new hospital rise in place of the present day St. Benedict's.

"Mother of Sorrow, Pray for us"

(Continued from Page 1.)

to those footsteps; they are the footsteps of victory; they are the footsteps of failure; victory, because many sheep that carelessly and surreptitiously wandered away from the eyes of their vigilant Shepherd have returned to their fold; failure, there are many, many more that are still wandering about in the wilderness in constant danger of the prowling wolf, heedless of the urgent call of the Shepherd; these also must be gathered together into the same pen, under the same Shepherd. That is Her mission.

Two thousand years ago, Mary accompanied her beloved Son, on His march to Calvary. What a woeful spectacle! "Tell me, he who passes by, dost thou know a sorrow greater than mine" those kindly eyes seemed to ask through a veil of tears when they beheld her Divine Son, surrounded by mocking maniacs, weighted down by the heavy cross, falling helplessly on the thorny briars and stony by-paths, leading to Calvary. Today, the same sorrow fills her soul, as she looks down on us—Her children—bound by earthly ties and torn by carnal desires, groping from blunder to blunder, falling recklessly, hopelessly into the deepest abyss of sin and shame, tightening the fetters more and more round our own throat, plunging headlong into the ever-lasting fires of Hell and damnation! Can [she, Our beloved, revered Mother, see this sorrowful sight and yet remain a silent, passive sight seer? No. Never. Pity, mercy overwhelms her tender heart. She, who, in years gone by could not lift a single finger to alleviate the cruel torments endured by the Son of Man, today condescends to come to us with open, outstretched arms, to gather us up with maternal love, away from the burning pit into which we are hurtling headlong, to conduct us safely to a mansion beyond the stars, to the feet of Our Celestial Father, perhaps entreating Him: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do." This is Her mission, and how can we remain ungrateful to Her? Shall we not fulfill her desires, by purifying ourselves with the ethereal balm which she brings to everyone of us? Mother, lead us and we will follow you. Let it be said: "Everywhere Mary went, the lambs were sure to go."

Come, let us then hammer our souls into activity; let us stir them up from their drowsy, spiritual hibernation, and let us advance, with folded arms and bowed head, to meet Our Mother and beg Her indulgence on our behalf before Her Divine Son—not with rash promises or random delight, not with colourful decorations or costly suits, but with fervent faith and penitent hearts. Our hearts, our eyes, our lips pay, our very spirits MUST speak to her. Let us cling like little children to her garment and keep her gaoled amongst us; let her not depart from our midst, unless and until she is convinced of the fervour of our faith of our ready realisation of our sinful ways, of a perfect and happy contrition in our hearts and of our humble obedience to the Divine Will. Then and then only can we be satisfied; then and only can she be satisfied.

O Mary, Mother most merciful, pray for us.

"SAGGITA."

TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of One Set of Workmen's Dwellings at Manampitiya.

For further particulars, please see

Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,
Way & Works C.G.R.,
Maradana.

TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 18th May, 1948 for the construction of Three Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at China Bay.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,
Way & Works, C.G.R.,
Maradana.

TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 28th May, 1948 for the construction of Two Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Valaichchenai.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 30-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,
Way & Works, C.G.R.,
Maradana.

TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 21st May, 1948, for the

construction of Three Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Behiwala.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 23-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,
Way & Works, C.G.R.,
Maradana.

TENDER NOTICE

CEYLON GOVERNMENT RAILWAY

The Chairman, Way & Works Head Office Tender Board, will receive, at the Chief Engineer's Office, C.G.R., Macallum Road, Maradana, tenders up to 12 noon on Friday, 14th May, 1948 for the construction of Eighteen Sets of Workmen's Dwellings at Nawalapitiya.

For further particulars, please see Government Gazette of 16-4-48.

Sgd. W. A. SHAW,
Chief Engineer, C.G.R.

Chief Engineer's Office,
Way & Works, C.G.R.,
Maradana.

PUBLIC AUCTION

LORRIES FOR SALE

Two Ford Lorries bearing Nos. CE-837 of 30 H.P. and H-1033 of 24.03 H.P. belonging to the Jaffna Urban Council will be sold by Public Auction at this Office on Saturday the 8th May 1948 at 10 a.m.

Permits are not necessary to purchase these lorries as the Commissioner of Motor Transport has authorised me to dispose these lorries to any one without permits.

The lorries are in running condition and were licensed and used by the Council during the year 1947.

The lorries can be inspected at the Council's workshop between 9 a.m. and 4 p.m. daily except on Sundays.

C. PONNAMBALAM,
Chairman, U. C., Jaffna.
April 17, 1948.

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