

# North Carolina Catholic

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## Congo Crisis Calls Up New Mission Approach

LEOPOLDVILLE, The Congo — (NC) — The Church in the Congo is "undergoing a profound renewal," but recruits for the priesthood have dropped 35 per cent in the past three years, a Belgian priest said here.

Msgr. Jean Jadot, director of Belgium's Pontifical Missionary Society, gave his impressions of the Church's situation in the Congo in an interview after traveling around the country to give retreats for priests. His trip took him to Leopoldville, Matadi, Boma, Luluabourg and 36 outposts.

"The work of the apostolate is undergoing a profound renewal," he said. "In general, the moral and religious formation of the Christian is being strengthened."

While the number of practicing Catholics has dropped, Msgr. Jadot noted, there has been "for several months, in the big cities as well as in the brush, a return of many Christians who have been away from the sacraments for two or three years."

The most serious problem facing the Church in the Congo is the recruiting of candidates for the priesthood, he said, noting that the number of major seminarians has gone down from 369 in 1959 to 204 in 1962, a drop of 35 per cent.

"The causes for the drop are complex," he explained, "and must be linked with the confusion of ideas which reigns in educated circles before the possibilities of rapid and brilliant promotion in many sectors of lay life. The tempta-

tion to an interesting lay career has made its weight felt all the more since often the family will exercise strong pressure to influence a young man to change his mind."

He noted that this situation will probably change soon. The minor seminaries have been getting larger classes, with a greater proportion choosing to go on to the major seminary.

"The crisis the Congo is suffering now," he noted, "brings difficulties that cause important setbacks for the Church."

"Political rivalries and the disorder of administrative services," he explained, "with the paralysis of economic activities which follows, have created in the regions most affected a climate of psychological tension which muffles the call of religious duties and draws troubled spirits back to pagan superstitions."

Missionaries are trying to form not just Christians, he said, but "living Christians communities, where each is called according to his abilities to take an active part in the life of the Church — in worship and prayer, in the apostolate and social action, or in the exercise of charity and mutual help."

The recent Plenary Assembly of Bishops vigorously promoted this outlook, he noted, which "is seen in the development of the community liturgy, simplified by the use of local languages and African music in religious services."

conciliar procedure . . .

## Two-Thirds Vote, With Assent Of Christ's Vicar, To Carry

VATICAN CITY — His Holiness Pope John XXIII has put the finishing touches on preparations for the Second Vatican Council by appointing the council's major officers and spelling out its rules and procedures.

He did so only five weeks before the council's opening by issuing a motu proprio—the technical name for a document drawn up and signed by the Pope on his own initiative.

One of the Pope's acts was to name a presiding council of 10 cardinals who will take turns in presiding over plenary sessions of the ecumenical council in the Pope's name when he is not present. The 10 are from nine nations, and among them is Francis Cardinal Spellman, Archbishop of New York.

With the release (Sept. 5) of the motu proprio, the Pope also:

—Named cardinals of the Roman Curia to head 10 council commissions which in general parallel the

preparatory commissions he set up for the council two years ago.

—Appointed Amleto Cardinal Cicognani, his Secretary of State and former Apostolic Delegate to the United States, president of a Secretariat for Extraordinary Affairs which will deal with any unforeseen problems. Among its seven other members is Albert Cardinal Meyer, Archbishop of Chicago.

—Required a two-third majority plus his own approval for enactment of decrees of the council.

—Stated that non-Catholic delegate observers may attend not only the solemn public sessions of the council, but also the working sessions in which all the Catholic bishops take part.

The motu proprio was released September 5. It is known as "Apropropinquant Concilio," from its opening words (With the advent of the council. . .).

Pope John began the document by declaring that "the coming ecumenical council by virtue of the number and variety of those who



PAPAL AUDIENCE — Vice President Lyndon B. Johnson, left, listens to Pope John XXIII, early Sept. 7th, during an unofficial audience with the Pontiff. The Pope holds a miniature replica of the U.S. Telstar satellite presented to him by the Vice President.

### For self-help

## International Body Planned Among Catholic Farm Groups

ROME —(NC)— Catholic farmers and their organizations in some 50 countries are setting up a hands-across-the-sea program for mutual help in men, machines and money.

This program was among their first fruits of a weeklong convention (Sept. 3-9) of Catholics who devote themselves to farm problems. This second international meeting of Catholics on rural life drew to Rome some 300 delegates from about 50 countries. They represented more than 100 national and international organizations.

THE DELEGATES decided at their final session to set up an international secretariat, with headquarters in Rome, to act as a clearing house for mutual help among Catholic farm organizations of the world. A provisional committee of eight will lay the foundations for the secretariat.

A Passionist missionary from Ireland welcomed the secretariat as "the answer to my needs," and his words were echoed by many

other delegates.

Father Carthage Power, C.P., said that the secretariat can help overcome a major obstacle to efficient farming in his region of the Bechuanaland protectorate in South Africa.

"We hope to lease water-diving equipment through this program," he said. "I learned that a new American machine can find water a mile beneath the earth."

A PRIEST from Elkton, S. D., See Farm Groups, page 2A



BISHOP'S RESIDENCE  
600 Bilyeu Street  
Raleigh, North Carolina

September 4, 1962

My dear Brethren:

One of the greatest achievements in our country made by the Catholic Church is the parochial school system. It puts the Catholics far out in front of other Catholics throughout the world.

After this, the next greatest achievement has been the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine which is attempting to educate, in their Christian Faith, Catholics in the public school system. We, in North Carolina, have had the valued help of Bishop Navagh, Father Koch, Father McSweeney, and now Father Allen and the Sisters of the Mission Helpers of the Sacred Heart, to put our Confraternity far out in front in our region.

I hope the Pastors and Sisters of all Religious Orders, as well as the Lay people, will cooperate in making our Confraternity of Christian Doctrine one of the best in the entire nation. This can be done only by Teacher Training Courses, the Priests assisting with the Doctrine and the Sisters with the Method. The Mission Helpers are unsurpassed with this Confraternity work. If we had entered into the Confraternity program in a serious way 25 years ago, we would be far ahead, religiously speaking.

Discussion Clubs, carried on systematically in every parish, a regular graded School of Religion for every grammar school and high school child in every public or private school, and a real Confraternity Parish Board with representation of all the departments, as indicated so well by the Flying Squadron of lay Confraternity workers from Worcester last year, are a must in all our parishes.

Please help us to accomplish this aim and on Sunday, September 16, put a contribution in the NCCLA-CCD Membership Drive envelope to assist Father Allen, the Mission Helpers, and all of us in this good work.

Wishing God's blessings on one of the most important fields of Religious work in the diocese, the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, I remain

Sincerely yours in Christ,

*Vincent J. Statur*

Bishop of Raleigh

The commissions and their presidents are:

Doctrinal Commission for Faith and Morals, Alfredo Cardinal Ottaviani; Commission for Bishops and Government of Dioceses, Paolo Cardinal Marella; Commission for the Oriental Churches, Amleto See Council, page 3A