

20-Year-Old Girl To Devote Herself To Mominoki Gakuen

KOBE, Sept. 7—A girl who was greatly influenced by the teaching of Brother Zeno Zebrowsky, 75, and Brother Balencino, 66, of the Franciscan Missionaries, has decided to dedicate her life to the welfare of the mentally retarded children at the Mominoki Gakuen here.

Twenty-year-old Miss Satoe Hiroe called at the bedside of Brother Zeno, now convalescing at the St. Mary's Hospital in Himeji City, to report her noble decision.

Miss Hiroe, hailing originally from Aogashima Island of the Izu chain, some 350 kilometers off Tokyo Bay, came to know Brother Zeno when she joined a tour of the Kanto area in September 1960 with other students of her junior high school as guests of the Franciscan Missionaries.

For Miss Hiroe and the rest of the students, the trip was fascinating as it was the first time that they had visited the mainland. However, it meant something more to her than that. She was deeply impressed by the work that the missionaries were doing.

After graduation from the junior high school, she came to work in Tokyo. During this time she kept up correspondence with the Catholic Brothers.

As the years passed, her determination became stronger to serve the underprivileged children. The Mominoki Gakuen which was opened in Tarumi-ku, Kobe only last June offered her an ideal place to work.

The Aogashiman quit her job in Tokyo and began to work at the school on September 1. On her first holiday, she took her time off to report and encourage the ailing missionary in the hospital.

Brother Zeno was apparently overjoyed when he heard her say that she was planning to work for the rest of her life for the mentally retarded children. He told her that he is too old for active work and hopes that young people like her will devote their lives to caring for hapless children.



Brother Zeno meeting Miss Hiroe at St. Mary's Hospital.

Barber's Wife Murders Husband

A barber's wife confessed in Osaka Tuesday to the murder of her husband.

Taeko Matsuoka, 32, wife of Yoichi Matsuoka, 31, told the police that she left his body on a vacant lot after strangling him at their home in Uriwari Higashino-cho, Sumiyoshi-ku, Osaka, on August 24.

Mrs. Matsuoka admitted her crime Tuesday morning when she was brought in for questioning.

According to her statement, her husband gave her only ¥500 monthly for living expenses and spent most of his income on liquor.

On the night of August 23, she said she gave him Sake and strangled him as he was sleeping.

Zeno Boys' Ranch Opening In April

The Zeno Boys' Ranch, a new establishment for mentally-retarded children and the life-work of well-known Polish Catholic missionary Brother Zeno Zebrowski, will be completed at Numakuma-machi, Numakuma-gun, Hiroshima Prefecture, by the end of this month, and will be opened in a simple Christian ceremony April 1, it was learned in Tokyo Tuesday.

The current third stage of the construction of the ranch involves 180 square meters of land and a wooden building proposed for the dwelling of ranch officials. "The entire establishment will be opened to poor mentally-retarded boys," the white-bearded Zeno said.

He returned to Tokyo recently from the ranch site at Numakuma with Shigemasa Sakashita, who will become the headmaster of the Zeno boys' town.

Sakashita said that one of the ranch's landmarks is a Mother Mary totem pole which has already been placed at the entrance of the site. The pole was carved by Sakashita and symbolizes, he says, the oneness and happiness of the poor children to be housed there.

Foreign Housewives Donate Clothing

The Yokohama Chapel Center Ladies Guild, formed of foreign community housewives in the city, has donated seven cases of second-hand clothing to Japanese charities.

The donations, received by the Rev. John Hara of Yokohama's Sacred Heart Cathedral, were delivered to the poverty-stricken town of Urahoro, Tokachi-gun, Hokkaido, on Wednesday by Brother Zeno Zebrowski, a Polish-born Catholic missionary in Tokyo.

Brother Zebrowski was contacted by the Rev. Hara Tuesday, and sent his emissary to the Sacred Heart Cathedral Tuesday afternoon. Brother Zeno has been working for Japanese charities since before the outbreak of World War II.