

WANTED: A BIKE!

Last year, freewill offerings given by students for the poor made it possible for the Prefect of Religion to help a young seminarian in India prepare for his Ordination Day. The young man is now a Catholic priest working among his own people of India. A recent letter from him is worth your reading.

"It is now nearly seven months since I came to this parish. Making converts is very difficult. Until recently, the higher caste Hindus despised the lower caste. They treated them as slaves, and in many instances, as worse than slaves. But there has been a change of attitude, and now they are trying to be friendly.

"Up to now the so-called untouchables were not admitted to the temples, nor were they allowed to draw water from even common wells. The government has stepped in and has issued orders opening all the temples to untouchables.

"You must have read in the papers about the sad state of affairs here in India. Even now many people are murdered everyday. Up to now only Hindus and Moslems were the victims, but now it looks like they are attacking Catholics also. At Baramulla the pagans have attacked and destroyed completely St. Joseph's convent, killing innocent nuns and small girls. In Karacki the Moslems entered St. Lawrence's church and carried off vestments and other articles. They even tried to break open the tabernacle, but failed.

"From Pakistan over a thousand Catholics have come, leaving all their possessions. They had to run away, so cruelly were they treated by the Moslems. The other day the papers said that the Hindus of some villages near Delle have asked the Catholics of that place to leave it within a few days. So it looks like persecution has already begun. Under the foreign rule we at least enjoyed complete freedom of religion. Who knows now what is in store for us?

"A bicycle is very necessary here, since the houses in my parish are very far from the church. I have been borrowing a bike when I had to go out on sick calls. I dislike to go on borrowing. Could you help me purchase a bike? Good lady's bikes are now available in Bombay. Soon foreign bikes will no longer be imported. Bikes made in India are no good at all. So could you please come to help me?"

The Bike Fund has already started. Five dollars has come from a student whose note reads: "Forward this to a worthy charity as an offering in return for a favor granted." This priest will be more needed than ever by his flock now that persecution faces them. Do what you can to take away some of the burden of his apostolate. At least pray for him and the people of India. Send your offerings to the Prefect of Religion, or slip them under the door of his office, 117 Dillon Hall.

PRAYERS: (deceased) William Donahoe; Dan Foley, '23 (Fort Leavenworth); mother of Brother Francis Jerome, CSC. (Ill) Manuel Lopez, uncle of Harry Medeiros (Far).
Two Special Intentions. Two Thanksgivings.

NOVENA FOR EXAMS BEGINS SATURDAY JAN 17
