

## Hundred Thousand Dollars Donated Locally to Rehabilitate Fire Victims of Colony

A dream that was born of the Christian spirit of charity at Christmastime has become a real monument to Hong Kong's self-less sacrifice for its own less fortunates at Easter! The size of Hong Kong's open-handed giving for the victims of the disastrous Tung Tau village fire is measured already in terms of six figures, and blocks of sanitary, neat cottages.

The Maryknoll Sisters have announced that donations to the building fund for homes of the fire victims has passed the 100,000 mark. Twenty-six of the new fire-proof cottages are already occupied by their new owners. Twenty-five others are nearing completion and will be soon ready for occupancy. In all, over two hundred and fifty victims of the November fire will be resettled in permanent homes of their own.

The building project that started only with hope has far out-run even the fondest expectations of the Sisters who first envisaged it. When the homeless crowded into the Maryknoll Sisters Convent, as they did many other places, on the November evening when the fire destroyed two thirds of Tung Tau village, the nuns saw beyond the immediate aid the 16,000 refugees needed. The magnitude of the task of rehabilitating so many destitute was staggering to the imagination. The Sisters set themselves to do whatever they were able.

The plan at first was to build just a few cottages. The cost of each new home was to be kept at a minimum, without sacrificing safety or sanitation. Before the first few cottages were completed, however, the original dream was adding castle upon castle. A host of people, with donations that ranged from pennies to thousands of dollars, kept enlarging the scheme. School children, businessmen, organizations, clubs got into the business of "building cottages for the fire victims".

A visit to King's Park and to Tung Tau village will be most enlightening. This modern miracle of Hong Kong charity would be a notable achievement in any city. Every dollar came from the people of the colony and went immediately into the construction of these homes, to be given to their occupants as an outright gift. Nothing went for administration, nothing went into any "sinking fund". Hong Kong's open heart was turned into stone and cement. It is truly worth while seeing!



A happy refugee greets the Reverend Headmistress and students of St. Mary's School to his new home. He has been allotted a stone dwelling in the King's Park Resettlement Camp.



Sister Madelaine Sophie of Maryknoll Convent shows Mother Mary Virginia of St. Mary's what the home will look like which the students of the Canossian Schools in Hong Kong have so generously helped to build. The St. Mary's students in the picture are proud of their two sister schools, Sacred Heart, Hong Kong which has given H.K.\$1,000 and St. Francis, Wanchai which has given \$700. After the Easter holidays the St. Mary's students will have their drive for donations.