

Rev. John Berube Named Assistant At St. Joseph

VINTON (Spl) — Rev. John Berube, a native of Springfield, Mass., has been named assistant to Rev. A. Gilbert at St. Joseph Catholic Church.

Rev. Berube, recently returned from Madagascar where he was director of Catholic Relief Services, NCWC, because of poor health. He has been assigned to the St. Louis Province of the La Salette Fathers with residence in Vinton.

Upon his return to the United States in 1960, after six years of missionary work on the island of Madagascar, Rev. Berube served in Sulphur as assistant to Rev. Francis Lavin, former pastor of the local church.

After a six-month stay in Sulphur, Bishop E. Swanstrom asked that Rev. Berube be liberated from his duties to join the overseas staff of CRS. Rev. Berube's knowledge of French and Malagasy made him a likely candidate for the post of national director of CRS' new relief program.

The Rev. Berube joined the CRS in June, 1961. After nearly a month of indoctrination in its New York offices he was sent to Morocco and Senegal to study on the spot the intricacies of running a relief program.

He undertook the first negotiations with the government officials on the island and in the neighboring islands of Mauritius and Reunion in July of 1961. It was not until Jan. 5, 1962 that the agreements were finally signed.

The next two months he devoted to making out a plan and ordering the necessary relief supplies. The first shipments of what was to be a \$1 million food program were to arrive in July, 1962. The topography of the island and the lack of good roads made the use of six ports of entry a necessity.

The Rev. Berube attended local Catholic schools in Springfield before entering the La Salette Seminary.