

"QUITE INVISIBLE"

Annual Report 1969

C. S. Lewis' infamous tempter "Screwtape" had this to say about the Church:

"One of our great allies at present is the Church itself. Do not misunderstand me. I do not mean the Church as we see her

spread out through all time and space and rooted in eternity, terrible as an army with banners. That, I confess, is a spectacle which makes our boldest tempters uneasy. But fortunately it is quite invisible to these human..."

THE SCREWTAPE LETTERS

"...But fortunately it is quite invisible to these humans..."

Screwtape has a point. Most men sell short the Church of Jesus Christ. After all it is an old institution, hounded with obvious failures from the past, often tied up in the present with a lot of superficial concerns. But beware of casual impressions! The Christian Church is very much alive and its dynamism is not infrequently a shock to both friend and foe. Union Church of Manila is a part of the whole ecumenical people of Christ around the world and we are like our brethren when it comes to greatness and weakness, dynamism and failures. The Lord has blessed us in the past year and we look to 1969-70 with high expectation. The challenge is clear cut: we must as a congregation and as individuals seize hold of the particular moments and opportunities we meet so that real people in real places shall be confronted with the exciting good news of Jesus Christ and be invited to share in both its claim and its promise.

Your church has benefited this year from the hard work of countless laymen and women who have served God in the day to day work of Union Church. We also are grateful for the superior staff of full time employees of the church and for their loyalty. With good humor and hard work they have done their part to make the year a good one: our secretaries, Reynaldo P. Garibay and Nicanor C. Iugay; the maintenance staff, Felix Velarde, Vicente Manlungat, Leodigario Pedrera and Apolonio Palit-ang; housekeeper, Iluminada Velarde; Gardeners, Pamfilo Labeña, Jose Aco and Glicerio Aquino; and the guards, Jesse Daabay, Manuel Erediano and Esteban Manuel.

May the Lord continue to bless our congregation and may we all grow in the full meaning of Christian discipleship.