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ROBERT MOSES
PRESIDENT

NEWS:

June 14, 1965

REFER INQUIRIES TO:

Joyce Martin -- WF 4-6543

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

NEW YORK WORLD'S FAIR, June 14 -- His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman and Dr. Leslie C. Dunn, of Columbia University, one of the world's outstanding authorities on genetics, will head a group of distinguished guests as the Church and science join in the formal dedication of the Father Mendel Garden of Heredity at the Vatican Pavilion at 3 P.M., Sunday, (June 20), it was announced today by Fair President, Robert Moses.

The Right Rev. Monsignor John J. Gorman will be Master of Ceremonies at the dedication which will include a formal blessing of the Garden by Cardinal Spellman in commemoration of the 100th Anniversary of Father Mendel's discovery of some of the basic Laws of Heredity.

The Garden, a 3,000-square-foot area on the Belgian Village side of the Vatican Pavilion, will serve as a dramatic demonstration of some of Father Mendel's epoch-making discoveries of plant heredity which have been found also to apply to other realms of life.

For practical purposes, the Garden will display red, white and blue petunias and tall and short yews to illustrate some of Father Mendel's laws.

William L. Laurence, Science Consultant to the World's Fair and dean of science writers in the United States, has prepared a text which will be included in an illustrated folder describing in simple language Father Mendel's Laws of Heredity and their extension into

(more)

FROM: Wm. J. Donoghue Corporation
10 Columbus Circle, N.Y.C.

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the modern science of genetics which applies to all living things. It will be given to Vatican Pavilion visitors free of charge.

The Garden at the Vatican Pavilion was made possible through a gift of \$25,000 by a friend of Fordham University who wishes to remain anonymous. The sponsor wanted his gift to be associated with the Fordham expansion at Lincoln Square.

Father Mendel, an Augustinian Monk, used several varieties of common garden peas to study the hereditary processes in plant life. In his spare time in the small garden of the Monastery in Bruenn, Austria, now Brno, Czechoslovakia, Father Mendel worked tirelessly, both physically and intellectually, to learn some of the basic secrets of nature.

The Father Mendel Garden was designed by Richard C. Guthridge of Vollmer Associates, Engineers--Landscape Architects, and built by the Roman Landscape Contracting Co., Inc. It will be open to the public following the ceremonies on Sunday.

Tribute to Father Mendel was paid recently in an official publication of the Soviet Academy of Sciences which had previously refused to consider Father Mendel's contributions as truly scientific.

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