

### Race Relations Improve, Says Clare B. Luce

Bayonne, N. J. — (NC) — "In race relations there is every reason to hope in America. Despite all the gloom, little by little, every day in every way, the situation is getting better." Mrs. Clare Boothe Luce, playwright and former member of Congress, declared in a lecture sponsored by the St. Thomas More Guild here.

"TO AN AMAZING extent we in the United States have done away with racial prejudice," she said. "We have made great strides but the prejudice against the Negro is still the great blot on the American flag."

The Negro question, Mrs. Luce added, can be solved only in terms of Christ, since that is the only solution that we as Americans would accept. The Communists, she pointed out, also have a solution, but theirs, as all their solutions to various problems, would begin in hate and violence.

"WE KNOW that racial prejudice is generally born of a feeling of economic fear and a lack of Christian beliefs," she went on. "I find that all racial prejudice is in direct proportion to the intellectual and spiritual worth of an individual. I do not know one educated or spiritual man who is really prejudiced. It has become a mark of an ignorant mentality to hear racial prejudice."

The speaker then proceeded to explore what she termed the myth of racial inferiority in individual Negroes by mentioning famous and respected Negroes who had achieved honor in various fields, ranging from the prize fight arena to the concert stage.

"THE NEGRO," she added, "has been in one Buchenwald or another ever since he came to America in chains. If the Negroes are inferior as a group, it is in the same way that the prisoners at Buchenwald were inferior because they had been so hard driven by their brothers."

"And it is sheer folly for us to keep the Negroes inferior. If you want to keep a man in the gutter you have to sit there with him. The most of our attitudes to us has been staggering economically."

### Japan Delegate



His Excellency the Most Rev. Maximilian de Furstenburg who has been named Apostolic Delegate to Japan. The Archbishop-elect has been assigned the titular See of Pato. (NC Photos)

### Journalists Set 1950 Union Plan

Vienna — (NC) — The International Bureau of Catholic Journalists, meeting March 28 at Lucerne, Switzerland, will prepare the ground for an International Congress of the Catholic Press to be held in the summer of 1950 in Rome.

A plan to be submitted to the proposed 1950 congress of newspapermen from all over the world calls for the creation of an international organization of Catholic journalists, which, superimposed upon the various national associations of that kind, would promote the cooperation of the Catholic press of all countries on essential questions of the times, and in particular cases, coordinate its efforts.

### 'Chapel of Skiers' Honors Bro. Dutton

Stowe, Vt. (NC) — The new Blessed Sacrament Church known to thousands of sports lovers as the "Skiers Chapel," has been dedicated here. The church is a memorial to Brother Joseph Dutton who served the lepers on Molokai for 44 years, and who was born on the property on which the church stands. The church is also the parish church of the famous Trapp Family Singers.

### 'St. Francis Village'

## Pope Aids Housing Project

Rome — (NC) — Laying of the first stone in the Village of St. Francis housing project for the destitute homeless of Rome last Sunday brought out the fact that within a week of the opening of the fund campaign for it, popular subscriptions had matched the original gift of 50 million lire (about \$80,000) made a year ago by His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

THE CAMPAIGN had been opened by the Jesuit orator, the Rev. Riccardo Lombardi, in an address on March 6, when he described the plight of Rome's homeless. So enthusiastic was the popular response, it is hoped here that the idea will be taken up throughout the country, since housing is an acute problem everywhere.

Milan has taken up the idea and already has broken ground on a similar project, while Naples is preparing a campaign for the same purpose.

FATHER LOMBARDI, in his address here, outlined the terrible conditions in which 1,400 homeless families, about 8,000 persons, are existing in and around Rome. They are huddled in ruins, even in archaeological excavations, in the Roman Forum; in improvised lean-tos, and in caves in the hills in and around the city.

In some cases as many as 14 persons, men, women and children of different families, live in a single such hovel. Many are without water.

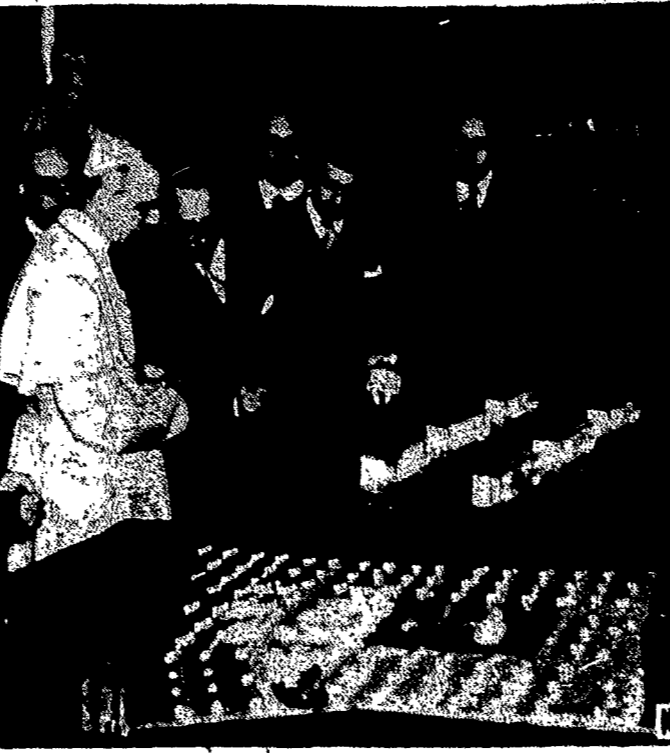
THE VILLAGE of St. Francis, a completely new village, is the idea of a small group of construction men. It will contain about 100 individual housing units, each having four apartments of three rooms, kitchen, bath, a plot for a garden and a private entrance.

A quadrangular area in the center of the village will accommodate a church, a school, markets and a piazza around which the homes will be built.

The city of Rome has donated the land for the project, which is on the Via Del Mare at Actia, between Rome and Ostia. It will also provide for public facilities such as water, lighting and paving.

Upon completion of the project, will remain municipal property. THE COMMITTEE sponsoring the project estimates an eventual outlay of 800 million lire and is now engaged in raising the remaining necessary funds.

Adjacent to the site of the Village of St. Francis is a similar plot of land, and both the city and the committee have expressed themselves as willing to build an other village if the present campaign justifies it.



Following an audience granted to the officers and workers of the campaign for funds for the building of the 'Village of St. Francis' near Rome His Holiness Pope Pius XII inspects the model of proposed building project. (NC Photos)

Every effort will be made, according to officials, to insure fair distribution and administration of the apartments. Families will be accepted on the basis of need and moral fitness, according to the verdict of the individual pastors in whose parishes these homeless people have been living. Religion might have an adverse reaction on the person questioned, the article said.

"This objection could be applied to any other question as well. Thus if you ask a person how many radios he has . . . he might conceivably get angry and refuse to tell the attitude which has warped the bureau's view must be the same which has caused religious intolerance throughout the world failure to recognize that a man is proud of his religious beliefs and is not ashamed to acclaim them."

### Dispersed Communities Worry Catholics in Israel

Jerusalem — (RNS) — The greatest problem confronting the Catholic Church in Israel is the reestablishment of communities which were dispersed during the Arab-Jewish conflict. This view was expressed here by the Rev. Terence Kuehn, prior of the Terra Sancta College in Jerusalem, and Vicar General of Southern Israel.

FATHER KUHN said the preservation of the Holy Places had been guaranteed by the Israeli government, which had also promised to support pilgrimages to the shrines.

"What we are mostly concerned with at the moment," he said, "is the future of the Catholic community in Israel, dispersed over a wide area in the Middle East, and with the fate of Catholic institutions, parishes, schools and hospitals."

"All these institutions would lose their reason for existing if the refugees were not to return. The Catholic priesthood of the Holy Land would then, as in the period immediately after the Crusades — have to confine its work to the protection of the Holy Places and the care of pilgrims."

### Religion Query Excluded From Census In 1950

Washington — (NC) — The U. S. Bureau of the Census has decided not to include questions of religion in the 1950 census, according to J. C. Capt, director of the bureau.

This decision was revealed in a letter addressed by Mr. Capt to Representative Benjamin F. James of Pennsylvania. Mr. James had forwarded to the census bureau a request received by him from Miss Mary Ellen McLaughlin, Chester, Pa., that such questions be included in the census.

MISS MCLAUGHLIN'S request was inspired by an article which appeared in The Catholic Digest and stated that a question on religion would be included in the 1950 census if a few million Catholics would write their congressmen and senators to see that it is asked.

"The possibility of including one or more inquiries on religious affiliation on the 1950 population schedule has been considered on a number of occasions," Mr. Capt's letter stated. "After due consideration, the final decision has been not to include such questions on the schedule."

"IT WAS FELT that many persons would consider questions on this subject as an infringement of their constitutional rights as to religious freedom. Moreover, there are those who would consider such questions as unjustifiable curiosity on the part of government hardly in keeping with the principle of separation of Church and State."

"So much resentment might be aroused as to result not only in inadequate information being given on religious questions, but also leading to incomplete answers to other questions already on the schedule. The inclusion of questions on religion might, therefore, adversely affect the obtaining of the basic statistical data for the decennial census."

Gold Vestments Tokyo — (CIP) — The Catholics of Japan will present Pope Pius XII with an elaborate set of gold vestments in commemoration of the fiftieth anniversary of his ordination as a priest. The vestments, which are for use at solemn High Mass, are being made by the Mishiji weavers in Kyoto.

### 'Straddling' On Negro Rights Hit

Columbus — (NC) — "I hope Negro citizen today simply is asking 'for what any decent American should gladly give,'" Bishop Michael J. Ready of Columbus declared at the annual St. Patrick's Day Communion breakfast of the Shamrock Club as he deplored the "mumbo jumbo" in the present proposed legislation to prohibit discriminatory practices in Ohio and the "straddling" of the issue by some politicians.

The Bishop asserted that St. Patrick's Day was a fine occasion to speak in support of civil rights for Negro citizens. He said: "Some of us still remember the discrimination practiced against American citizens of Irish ancestry throughout this country. 'No Irish Need Apply' was placarded before the employment agencies and written on the rental signs in so-called better neighborhoods."

"Irishmen, the sons of St. Patrick, were considered second or third class citizens despised by hewers of wood and drawers of water for a self-styled better class. The same discrimination was practiced against Italians, Jews, Slavs and others."

THESE PEOPLE by determination to love and serve democracy became influential in the growth and preservation of this country, the Bishop asserted. They have won their place of respect and honor in America, he added. Bishop Ready declared that everyone knows FEPC legislation "is designed to help the Negro because of the apparent insurmountable employment blockages put before him."

"THE NEGRO citizen simply asks for what any decent Amer-

ican should gladly give. He asks for a chance to work, to advance economically, to provide better and happier opportunities for his children, to grow in the knowledge and peace and charity of Christ and constantly to show his love for his fellow men in the brotherhood of Christ."

### Bolivia Requests UN To Act For Cardinal's Cause

Lake Success, N. Y. — (NC) — The United Nations has received from Bolivia a request for action by the 55-nation General Assembly, which convenes in New York on April 5, on the case of His Eminence, Cardinal Mindszenty, imprisoned Primate of Hungary.

THE REQUEST was made by Eduardo Arze Matienzo, Bolivia's permanent representative to the U.N. and was based on Article I, Section 3 of the U.N. Charter which specifies that the U.N. aims "to achieve international cooperation in solving international problems of economic, social, cultural or humanitarian character and in promoting and encouraging respect for human rights and for the fundamental freedoms of all without distinction as to race, sex, language or religion."

A majority vote of the Assembly is required to place the request on the agenda. Bolivia's request gave no indication as to what action she would ask the Assembly to take.

IF PLACED on the agenda, several courses of action are open to the Assembly, ranging from a condemnation of Hungary's action in the Cardinal's case to a recommendation for a worldwide diplomatic and economic break with Hungary.

Bolivia's action came in the wake of several private meetings of Latin-American delegations on Cardinal Mindszenty's case.

Previously the Cuban delegation had indicated that it would seek United Nations action on the case of the Cardinal, and the 25 Protestant leaders in Bulgaria as a violation of human rights and the Colombian delegation had indicated that it was contemplating action along similar lines.

### Mexico Group Opens War on Immoral Film

Mexico City — (NC) — A six-month campaign against immorality in motion pictures is to be undertaken by Mexican Catholic Action. This will include spiritual offerings, Masses, communions, prayers and the like, the promise not to attend indecent shows.

Unless motion pictures become moral, human society will daily become more corrupted and children will turn into the foremost propagandists of delinquency and vagrancy. Mexican Catholic Action says in publishing its plan.

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