

Card. Spellman Pilgrims Carry U. S. Flag Into St. Peter's

Vatican City — A pilgrim's cross carried by His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman, archbishop of New York, followed by an American flag born by a sergeant of New York City's police force, headed a procession of more than 500 pilgrims the largest group so far to come from the United States, as they passed through the Holy Door into St. Peter's.

On the morning of the Pope's 75th birthday and the seventh anniversary of his election to the Pontificate and just a few hours after their arrival in the Eternal City, members of the New York archdiocesan pilgrimage began their journey to Rome's four major basilicas.

MEN AND WOMEN from the sidewalks of New York joined Italian railroad workers, stocky mountain folk from Switzerland, solemn-faced Rhinelanders, pilgrims from far off Minnesota and priests and nuns from Ireland in that reverent procession of the faithful, who like their forebears throughout centuries have taken the path to Rome to gain the spiritual benefits of the Holy Year.

THE SIGHT of St. Peter's towering high into the blue sky of a spring-like day, rendered speechless even the New Yorkers accustomed to skyscrapers. They stood silent as they gathered around the ancient obelisk in the center of St. Peter's square. Then the procession formed. Cardinal Spellman held aloft a simple black wooden cross flanked by two priest pilgrims carrying tall candles.

A few steps behind them walked Sgt. Michael Mahoney, bearing the Stars and Stripes waving in the soft breeze. Slowly they led the pilgrims up the steps to the Basilica gates that are wide open for all: saints and sinners, rich and poor.

Watching the procession approach from the portico, it was moving as well as inspiring to see the cross and the flag together against the indelibly beautiful background formed by arching colonnades and the spires and roofs of the Eternal City. It is said here that it was the first time in history that the American flag was borne through the Holy Door into St. Peter's.



Cardinal Spellman, carrying a pilgrim's cross, leads the procession of Holy Year pilgrims into St. Peter's Basilica for the first jubilee visit and Mass at the Altar of the Chair, carrying the American flag is Sgt. Michael Mahoney, of the New York City Police Force (NC Photo)



After his arrival in Rome, His Eminence Francis Cardinal Spellman is greeted at the airport by (left to right) Frank A. Hall, Director of N.C.W.C. News Service, Washington; Count Enrico Galeazzi; and Rev. Daniel B. Harrington.

Public School Heads Oppose Catholic Pupils

Atlantic City, — (NC) — In denying that parochial school children are entitled to any tax benefits, the officials of the public school system of the country are outdone by nobody.

That charge, made several times during the past year by Catholic leaders, has been verified by recent actions of the American Association of School Administrators and the National Council of Chief State School Officers.

THE SCHOOL administrators, at their annual meeting here, went out of their way to oppose the granting of tax funds for services to non-public school children. Though they passed two other resolutions asking Federal aid to the nation's public schools, they drafted and adopted a third resolution stating that no public funds should go for "the direct or indirect support" of other schools.

The council of State school leaders, which is composed of the top officials of the 48 State school systems, printed a statement of policy recently in Washington which recommended that the Federal and State governments should help only the children in public school services, that is, the school lunches, health examinations, and bus rides, should be restricted completely to the public schools, the council stated.

The 7,000 delegates to the school administrators' meeting voted overwhelmingly in favor of the "public funds for public schools only" recommendation despite an effort by Dr. James L. Hanley, Providence, R.I., school superintendent, to get it stricken from the list of resolutions. Dr. Hanley said that the resolution was unnecessary and would hurt the public schools' drive for Federal help.

Truman Undecided On Vatican Post

Washington — (NC) — President Truman told a press conference this week that he has not yet come to a decision whether to fill the vacancy caused by the retirement of Myron C. Taylor as his personal representative to His Holiness Pope Pius XII.

MEDICINE FOR SICK REFUGEES



Typical of the many relief services for the victims of war in many parts of the world are the mobile clinics operated by medical missionaries and Catholic welfare aides. From China comes this photo of a Franciscan Missionary of Mary administering a vaccine to a child held in the arms of his mother. This work will be financed in part by the Bishops' Fund for the Victims of War.

Woman's Cure Attributed To Lady Of Fatima Plea

Havana — (NC) — The remarkable cure of a woman, paralyzed in both legs for several years, has been attributed here to Our Lady of Fatima.

Mrs. Elvira de Hope, a widow, was brought to the Church of Our Lady for the Poor, where the statue of Our Lady of Fatima, currently on pilgrimage tour, was being venerated. She knelt before the statue, kissed it and asked to be cured. Upon returning home, she discarded her crutches and since then has been able to walk without them.

Archbishop Enrique Perez Bertranes of Santiago stated: "From all appearances of the case, it is possible to consider that a miracle has taken place. However, it will be the function of the Church to decide." The Rev. Antonio Arias, S.J., who conducted a pilgrimage of the statue of Our Lady of Fatima to eastern cities and towns of Cuba, confirmed the reports of the case to the press.

Father Arias said that the people were greatly astonished and impressed. Following the cure, it was said that hundreds of marriages were regularized and many adults and children baptized. A large number of people went to confession and received Communion.

Irish Bishop Dies
Dublin — (RNS) — The Most Rev. James Naughton, Roman Catholic Bishop of Killalla for the past 38 years, died at his residence in Ballina, County Mayo, after a long illness. He was 85.

Negro Paper Lauds Church's Social Gain

New York — (NC) — The Catholic social action program has made concrete gains against the "white supremacy" pattern in the South, according to an article in the April issue of Our World, Negro picture monthly published here.

The magazine states that the New Orleans area for its stimulation of the Church's work among American Negroes because, it is stated, while only one out of 25 Negroes the country over is Catholic, four out of five in New Orleans are Catholics.

"The Catholic Faith today represents in the South possibly the most outstanding religious striking force against racial prejudice," Our World declares. "Because of the thousands of Negro Baptists and other Negro Protestants in the South are looking to the Catholic Church of the South for aid."

The publication devotes 18 pages of text and pictures in a large issue to the Negro Catholic activities in New Orleans. There are scores of parish life at Corpus Christi Church, which has 12,000 parishioners; pictures of Negro nuns at work, study and prayer; pictures of school life in parochial schools and at Xavier University, the scene of family life.

THE MAGAZINE editors sent a staff of five writers, two photographers and three researchers into New Orleans to get their story. Episodes out of the Negro monthly declared: "The Church has shown its hand here after more than 100 years right against Jim Crow. You may or may not believe in the infallibility of the Pope, but it is impossible to deny the tangible gains of the Church's social action."

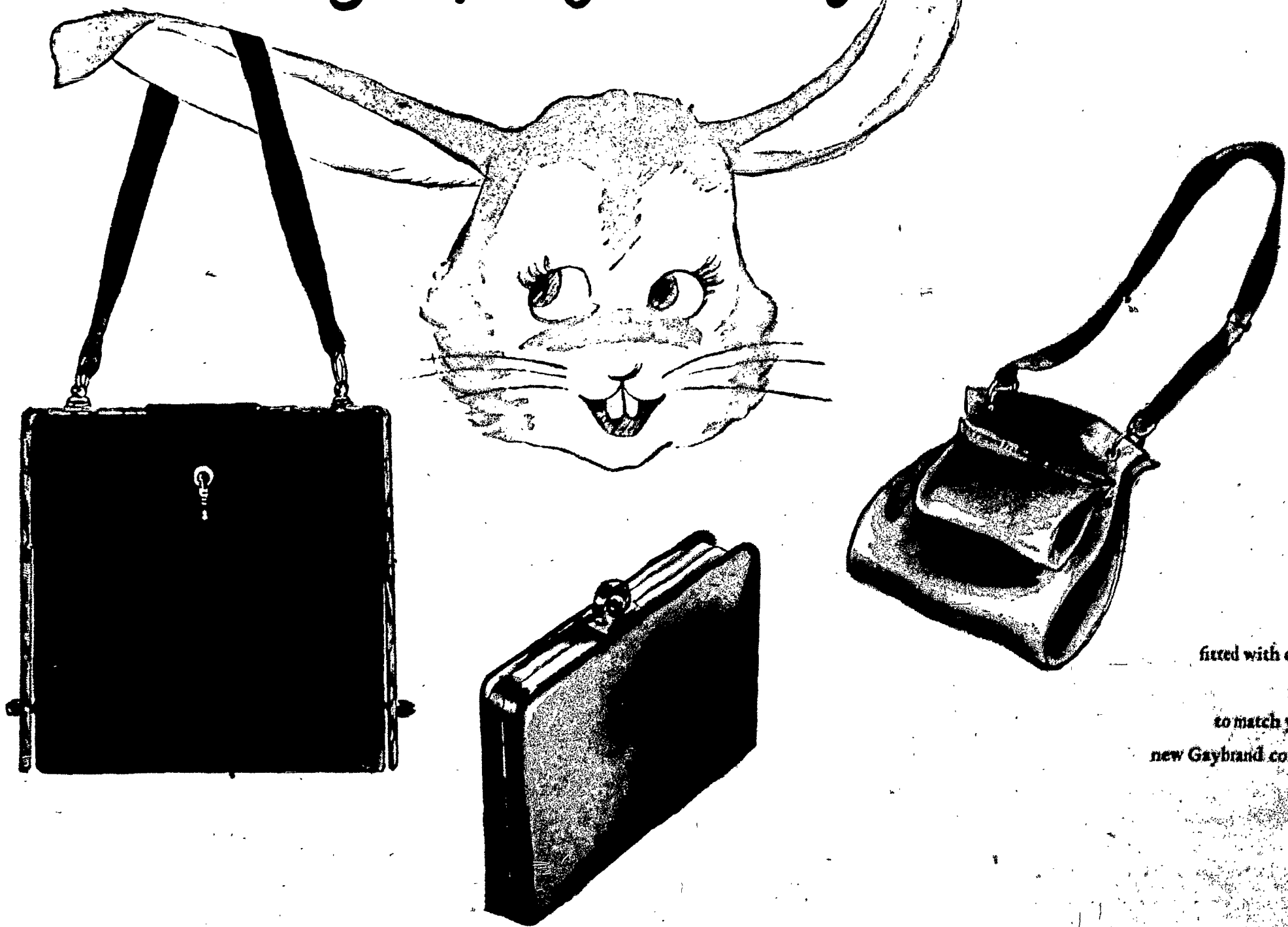
Rome Trip For Negroes. Whites Alike, Diocese Says

Washington — (NC) — The Archdiocese of Washington has underlined the fact that its official archdiocesan Holy Year pilgrimage to Europe is open to colored as well as white Catholics.

Catholics Pray For U.S. Negroes
New York — (CIN) — The mission intention of Pope Pius XII for the month of March, asks prayers throughout the world for the progress of the Catholic Church among American Negroes.

Stories had appeared in the past that the Washington Archdiocese had planned to send a pilgrimage to Europe in 1958. It was reported that the pilgrimage is open to all, and that the Washington Archdiocese had planned to send a pilgrimage to Europe in 1958. It was reported that the pilgrimage is open to all, and that the Washington Archdiocese had planned to send a pilgrimage to Europe in 1958.

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