

# Prelate Counteracts Blanchard Intolerance

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## THE CATHOLIC *Courier Journal*

OFFICIAL NEWSPAPER OF THE ROCHESTER DIOCESE

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**'Defense Plan Will Not Defend'**  
Declares Father Meade, Pg. 7  
★ ★ ★

## Show Church Foes Charity, Bishop Leech Tells Flock

Early in January, Paul Blanchard, professional writer and speaker against the Catholic Church, spoke in Harrisburg, Pa., and his anti-Catholic speech was carried over the local radio station WHGB. After widespread protests, the station invited Bishop George L. Leech to use its facilities to reply to the Blanchard attack.

Public interest, aroused by Blanchard's plea for dignity, increased to such an extent that, Sunday, Jan. 13, Bishop Leech had what was probably the largest radio audience in the history of station WHGB. For hours after the Bishop's appeal for unity, charity and understanding, the station's switchboard was swamped with overwhelmingly favorable comments by telephone. The text of Bishop Leech's address follows.

MY DEAR Friends and Neighbors:

Ten days ago a stranger came to town, Mr. Paul Blanchard. He was honored with an invitation to speak to our local community both in a hall and over this radio station.

Mr. Blanchard spoke about the Catholic Church and succeeded in hurling our Catholic people, more deeply than he knows, by making fun of our beloved and venerable spiritual father, by holding up to ridicule the ancient and sacred ceremonies, customs and institutions of the Church and by rehearsing a long litany of calumnies and clever half-truths and plain misstatements about us, to all of which we Catholics are quite accustomed, I assure you, only not in this community.

AS THE SPIRITUAL shepherd of my precious flock, I had no intention of dignifying the stranger with a response because I knew our Catholic people would not particularly need it.

For, however hurt they may feel, when a fellow citizen questions the fidelity and the purpose of the Church, to raise up good American citizens, or when a neighbor makes fun of their true and ancient faith and the Sacraments—however hurt they may feel, they are pretty well able to take it and to forgive, because they are pretty well instructed and practiced in the spirit of Our Savior, in whose dying words they always find the answer: "Father, forgive them for they know not what they do."

But it now appears that it wasn't only our Catholic citizens that were hurt. Now we learn, and of course it is no surprise, that our good neighbors and fellow-citizens are hurt too, and even indignant. If we are to judge by the reaction of minister and layman, of Protestant and Jew, and even of non-religious neighbors in our Harrisburg community.

And besides, this radio station WHGB which broadcast Mr. Blanchard's speech (and may I say, one of the few stations which did so among the many cities where the same speech has been given) has considered itself obliged in the circumstances to invite me to speak to the community because, in the words of the station, "the speaker proved offensive."

IT IS FOR these reasons, therefore, that I have accepted the invitation to speak, and before I finish, I shall tell my Catholic people precisely what they are expected to do in the way of Christian and American retaliation.

And now let me get on with my talk to my neighbors of the community.

You know, you can never catch up with a lie, the Big Lie or the Little Lie; and the half-truth, the

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OXNAM SHAPES Methodist Stand

Back Hill Falls, Pa. — (RNS) — Opposition to the appointment of "anyone, at any time, in any place" as an ambassador to the Vatican was unanimously expressed here by the Board of Missions and Church Extension of The Methodist Church.

Working of the resolution adopted by the board at its week-long annual meeting here was proposed by Bishop G. Bromley Oxnam of New York in amending a statement submitted by the board's resolutions committee which he asserted was "not strong enough."

The bishop said, in presenting his amendment, that he spoke with "no bigotry" in his heart and without a "spirit of anti-Catholicism."

AIR STATION HOLY Name Elects Negro

Cherry Point, N. C. — (RNS) — A 22-year-old Negro Marine has been selected as one of the leaders of the Cherry Point Holy Name Society here at the world's largest Marine Corps Air Station.

He is Pfc. Rudolph Jones, 22, of New York, and was elected vice president of the Holy Name Society at its organization meeting. He is a former hospital attendant at the tuberculosis sanitarium at Henrytown, Md. He attended elementary school in New York and high school at Baltimore, where his mother, Mrs. Queen Jones, resides.

JAPANESE OFFICER, Once Ordered To Commit Suicide, Ordained To Priesthood

Kyoto, Japan — (RNS) — As a soldier in the Japanese army, Paul Oka was once ordered by higher authorities to commit suicide. That did not prevent him from rising to the rank of major, nor from being ordained here as a priest of the Diocese of Kyoto.

PAUL OKA had just completed his studies in philosophy in the major seminary when he was called to the colors. He began as a private and served for eight long years in the army in China. In the end his family lost all contact with him and thought that he had been killed.

During the war, a bullet struck Paul near the heart but could not penetrate the metal-encased New Testament he carried there and he came through unscathed.

ON ANOTHER occasion, his group failed to attain its objective and all the soldiers were ordered to commit suicide. The others did, but Paul was asleep at the time and when he woke up he received a scolding—but won the argument on the question of suicide.

The most dramatic episode of all came at the end of the war when Paul, then a major, was to take his soldiers across the Yellow River to surrender. The river was full of boats but the Chinese boatmen refused to cooperate. Finding one of the boats marked with a cross, Major Oka asked the meaning of that emblem and found that the boatman was a Catholic.

PAUL SAID that he, too, was a Catholic and made the sign of the Cross, but the boatman was still skeptical. Paul then pulled out his rosary. That did it! The Chinese called the other boatmen together and persuaded them to ferry the Japanese soldiers across. Some were killed by the Chinese who were still firing from the river. Several bullets pierced Paul's clothing, but again he came off without a scratch.

Repatricated to Japan, Paul resumed his studies in the seminary but he was still a soldier—a soldier of Christ—and during his vacation periods he has been instrumental in winning a number of converts, getting backsliders to receive the Sacraments and having invalid marriages straightened out.

Now ordained, Paul has abandoned his military career but will continue to wear the uniform of a priest.

## Nazareth College Slates Test For 12 Scholarships

Twelve scholarships to Nazareth College for women are available to entrants in the college's annual scholarship examination, officials announced this week. The scholarships, totaling in value over \$8,000, include:

Two full-tuition scholarships of \$1,400 each, five half-tuition scholarships of \$700 apiece, and five partial grants worth \$400 each. One \$700 scholarship will go to a Music Department freshman, one to a Fine Arts applicant, and one to a student enrolling in the Secretarial course.

All scholarships will be awarded to senior high school girls on the basis of a competitive examination scheduled for Saturday morning, February 9, at 9 o'clock in the college administration building, 4245 East Avenue.

The college has issued invitations to participate in the scholarship test to senior girls in all public and private high schools of western New York.

For acceptance as a scholarship candidate, each contestant must have 16 high school units, her principal's recommendation, and meet the entrance requirements of Nazareth College.

OUT-OF-TOWN candidates who find it difficult to reach the college in time for the test on Saturday are invited to be guests at John Fisher Hall, the college residence hall, on Friday night.

All contestants will be guests of the college at luncheon in the college cafeteria Saturday after the examination.

Application blanks and further information about the scholarships may be obtained by writing Nazareth College, 4245 East Avenue, Rochester 18, N.Y.

NAZARETH COLLEGE has an excellent Liberal Arts and Science Department which gives basic preparation for teaching, social work, science research, medicine, dentistry, law and other professions. In addition to these standard courses Nazareth offers special courses in Fine Arts, Music, Secretarial Science and Economics, and Nursing, all of which lead to Bachelor's degrees.

The Fine Arts and Music courses prepare graduates to teach in the public school on both the elementary and secondary level.

The Secretarial course prepares Commercial teachers as well as secretaries and other types of high-grade office workers.

Graduates of the Nursing course are prepared to take the New York State Licensing examination for registered nurses and in addition receive a Bachelor of Science in Nursing.

ANOTHER POPULAR course at Nazareth is the Medical Technology course, which prepares its graduates to take the American Society of Clinical Pathologists examination for certification as Medical Technologist (ASCP). Students in this course spend three years at the college and the twelve months following at St. Joseph's Hospital, Elmira, for instruction in clinical laboratory methods. Graduates receive a Bachelor of Science degree in Medical Technology.

Nazareth also offers undergraduate courses in Librarianship which prepares graduates to enter one of the professional library courses leading to a Master's degree.

## Latin America Lacks Priests

Home — (RNS) — A lack of priests is Roman Catholicism's fundamental problem in Latin America, according to a bulletin issued here by the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith.

The bulletin said that there are only 25,000 priests for the 154,000,000 inhabitants of Latin America, the overwhelming majority of whom are Catholics.

Express your sympathy with Flowers, Call RA. 9491, Blanchard Hotel at 55 LaSalle Avenue, where you really get best value. Daily deliveries to all sections, including hospitals.—Adv.

## 'In Prison — You Came To Me'



There are no bad men and women in jail—only those who have made mistakes, according to Sister Mary de Chantal (left photo) and Sister Mary Albert (right photo) of the Sisters of Mercy, who have been visiting the Worcester County Jail each Sunday morning for many years. Spiritual talks and instruction and visits to see that their families are cared for have brought a number of baptisms and confirmations among the prisoners in the past few years. Photos courtesy of Catholic Free Press. (NO Photos)

## Nuns' Weekly Jail Visits Win Converts

Worcester, Mass.—(NC) — At a given hour each Sunday morning the heavy iron doors of the Worcester County jail swing open. Two Sisters of Mercy are admitted. Then the doors swing shut behind them.

For 11 years Sister Mary de Chantal has been visiting the prisoners in the Worcester County jail. To her there are no really bad men and women

in jail—only those who have made mistakes.

Sister Mary Albert, younger of the two, has been accompanying Sister Mary de Chantal for some time now.

These Sisters of Mercy are not interested in what led a prisoner to jail, "what he can make a fresh start, that prayer and the Sacraments can lead him upward to a new, a better path in their only concern," writes Joan Tucker in The Catholic Free Press, Worcester, Massachusetts paper.

Since the Sisters have been visiting the jail, attendance at Mass and weekly Communions have increased. In the past few years there have been 11 baptisms and one confirmation among prisoners.

The Sisters will tell you it's a long, drawn-out task, but they are patient.

"If only something of what we say is remembered, even if it's not until they are on their death beds, then it is certainly worth it."

Each Sunday the Sisters begin their visits with the women prisoners. While Sister Mary Albert explains the feast of the day, the grace to be earned through frequent Communion to a small group, Sister Mary de Chantal calls on others individually in their cells.

Then the two Sisters meet with a group of men in the guardroom.

At a given time a bell rings. The prisoners return to their cells, some turning to smile and wave to the Sisters.

Their Sunday visit over the Sisters are escorted to the heavy door of bars. It swings open. They step out to call on the prisoners' families—as many as they can.

The door once more swings shut behind them, but this time behind those bars perhaps a seed of freedom has been sown—a seed that means freedom from sin and a new life.

Sister was sure it was a prank but when a second and a third and finally a fourth call (apparently from the same young man) repeated the warning she ordered the 2,000 girl students to evacuate the premises. School officials called police. Firemen also responded. The eight-story building was searched from basement to garret. No bomb was found.

Communists Set New Divorce Ground

Rome — (RNS) — A new ground for divorce has been established in Communist Czechoslovakia, according to Veritas, a publication sponsored here by Czech Roman Catholics.

The publication said that a divorce can be obtained at once if one of the parties makes a formal declaration that his or her partner is "incapable of educating children according to the democratic spirit."

Veritas is the official organ of the Czechoslovak Catholic Action organization in Rome.

Check for every room in the Hotel Electric and Key West, William E. Thomas, Secretary, 318 Main St. East, RA. 9881.—Adv.

## Minister Sees Conscience Problem If Supreme Court Bans Released Time

New York — (NC) — A Protestant minister told his fellow Protestant clergymen at a meeting here that if the Supreme Court bars religious education from public schools, then support of the public schools becomes a problem of conscience.

The U. S. Supreme Court last month agreed to rule on whether the New York City released time religious education program is constitutional. It has been upheld by the State court.

THE PROTESTANT churches' representatives were addressed by Dr. James A. Pike, Columbia University chaplain and dean of the Episcopal Cathedral of St. John the Divine. The meeting was sponsored by the New York Protestant Council, which is cooperating in the New York released time program.

Exclusion of religion in public schools means "man's affairs are considered all week without reference to God—and that is precisely what the secularist philosophy means to communicate—man without God," Dr. Pike said. He declared it is "essential that time for religious instruction be provided during school hours."

DR. PIKE told the Council representatives that an understanding of the religious education program in schools "is especially important now, because the Supreme Court of the United States is soon to rule on the constitutionality of this type of education, which has passed muster with our own State Court of Appeals."

If the Supreme Court upholds religion in schools, said Dr. Pike, "then we must proceed full steam ahead to utilize this resource for bringing the Judeo-Christian faith more effectively to bear upon our children's educational development."

If the court "gives a red light, then our citizens who stand in the Judeo-Christian tradition must be ready to give radical reconsideration as to whether we can conscientiously give our moral support to schools from which by judicial fiat have been excluded all religions except the religion of humanistic secularism," he added.

## Bridge Honors Hero Chaplain

RIDGEFIELD PARK, N. J. — A plaque dedicating a Passaic River bridge to the memory of FATHER JOHN E. WASHINGTON of Newark, N. J., is unveiled here by his sister, Mrs. L. A. Schwoebel. Chaplain Washington died with three other heroic chaplains in 1945 when the troopship Dorchester was torpedoed in the North Atlantic and the four clergymen handed their lives to soldiers. Shown left to right: Gov. Alfred Driscoll of New Jersey; the Very Rev. Msgr. James F. Looney of the Newark archdiocese; Mrs. Schwoebel; and Thomas and Edmund Washington, his brothers. Dedication of the Chaplain Washington Memorial bridge marked the opening of the final nine-mile section of the 112-mile New Jersey Turnpike.

## Bomb In School Warning False

New York — (NC) — Sister Aloisia, principal of the Cathedral High School, Lexington Ave., and 56th St., received a telephone call at 2:05 p. m. Friday. A youthful voice said: "Get out. There's a bomb in the basement."

Sister was sure it was a prank but when a second and a third and finally a fourth call (apparently from the same young man) repeated the warning she ordered the 2,000 girl students to evacuate the premises. School officials called police. Firemen also responded. The eight-story building was searched from basement to garret. No bomb was found.

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