

U.S. Catholic Negro Ranks Show Gains

Chicago — (NC) — More than 100,000 Negro Catholics have been baptized in the past year, according to the December issue of *Ebony*, Negro magazine.

In an article entitled "The Catholic Church and the Negro," the magazine states: "The nation's 550,000 Negro Catholics constitute a unique religious minority within a majority. They practice their faith with exemplary zeal and their response to the Church's official declarations against bigotry and discrimination reflects itself in rapidly rising Negro membership totals in Catholic parishes all over the land."

EBONY gives the following statistics on Negro Catholics in the United States:

- More than half million Negro Catholics are served by 1,000 parishes.
- The magazine's survey revealed that there are only 75 Negro priests in the entire country.
- The Official Catholic Directory for 1957 states that as of January 1, 1957, there were 1,000 parishes in the country.
- Some 20 orders of priests throughout the country have Negro members and an equal number of altar boys exist with lay members.
- There are three all-Negro parishes in the country.
- Each year the Church receives \$10,000,000 from Negro Catholics.
- Fully two-thirds of all Negro Catholics live in the South; 1,500,000 are listed in the directory.
- There are more Negro Catholics (75,000) in the city of Los Angeles, La., than in any other city in America.
- According to *Ebony*, "Catholics claim ten million African Negroes who receive spiritual help from 100,000 missionaries, 10,000 native priests, and 23 bishops."
- The article also states that there are 100,000 Negro Catholics in the South; 1,500,000 are listed in the directory.
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Babies Baptized In Railroad Station

Florence, Italy — (NC) — Four Hungarian babies born last July in a refugee camp in Yugoslavia were baptized in the railroad station as their train was passing through Florence.

The event took place when a train carrying 450 refugees was met by representatives of the city's charity organizations as it stopped here.

At the sight of a priest — a member of one of the Charities groups — a Hungarian mother leaped out of a train window and asked him to baptize her infant. Three other mothers quickly did the same thing and the sacrament was administered at the station.

Crucifix Placed In Railroad Depot

Florence, Germany — (NC) — Travelers passing through the main waiting room of the railroad station here have been stopping to look at a large carved wooden crucifix which was recently placed on a wall.

The crucifix dominates the waiting room. There are reports that perhaps this is the first time the Christian symbol has been placed in a public waiting room in this country.



Chaplain Need In Military Posts Cited

Washington — (NC) — There is a continuing need for the assignment of priests to minister to military personnel and others under the spiritual jurisdiction of the Military Ordinariate.

This is stated in the annual report of the Military Ordinariate submitted to the Archbishop and Bishops of the United States at their annual conference at the Catholic University of America here.

CARDINAL Spellman, Archbishop of New York, who is the Military Vicar, or head of the ordinariate, signed the report as did Bishop William R. Arnold and Bishop Philip J. Furlong, the Military Delegates.

The report noted that even though the Armed Forces score will be reduced to about 2,500,000 men, "there will be an estimated 800,000 Catholics in uniform and to this number we must immediately add the fact that most military installations resemble parishes, and the number of wives and children bring another million Catholics under the care of the chaplains."

To this total, the report continued, must be added also "the thousands of Catholics who are patients or permanently domiciled personnel of the Veterans Administration hospitals," as well as others, including U. S. civilian employees overseas in military bases.

Army Helps

Konnersreuth, West Germany — (NC) — U.S. Army helicopters came to the rescue of the village church of Konnersreuth as they lower a 100-pound golden cross onto the church steeple. Army action was in answer to a request from famed stigmatic Therese Neumann, who reported her parish's problem to Gen. Francis Farrell, commander of U.S. Army V Corps.

Catholic Hotel For Aged Gets U.S. Loan Insurance

Detroit — (RNS) — The Federal Housing Administration formally endorsed its commitment to insure a \$4,000,000 mortgage for Carmel Hall, residential hotel for retired people operated by the Detroit Roman Catholic archdiocese.

Carmel Hall represents a pilot project by the federal government and a non-profit religious organization to provide housing for retired persons.

Dwight K. Hambrisky, Detroit FHA director, signed the endorsement for the federal agency. Mother Regina Carmel, superior, signed for Carmel Hall.



SISTER MARIE SUZANNE

French Nun-Scientist Dies, Discovered Leprosy Cure

Lyons, France — (RNS) — Sister Marie Suzanne of the Missionary Sisters of the Society of Mary, discoverer of an anti-leprosy vaccine, died here at the age of 68 following an operation.

THE FRENCH-BORN nun succumbed only an hour before it was announced in Rome that her vaccine had been proved successful after intensive tests by Vatican scientists. Some 300,000 doses have been prepared in France and are ready for distribution.

Sister Marie Suzanne, who spent more than 20 years working in the leper colonies of the Fiji Islands, visited the United States in 1954 to receive the Damien Award named after Father Damien, apostle to the lepers of Molokai, Hawaii, who died of leprosy in 1888.

The nun also received the Frederick Ozanam Medal of the Catholic University of

California Newspapers Oppose Private School Tax

San Francisco — (NC) — All four daily newspapers here have now expressed opposition in their editorial columns to the effort to reimpose property taxation on California's private, non-profit grade and high schools.

The San Francisco Examiner was the last of the four to take a stand. The News, Chronicle and Call-Bulletin earlier expressed their opposition.

Foes of tax exemption for the schools have succeeded in getting on the 1958 ballot an initiative repeal measure that would amend the state constitution to provide for taxation.

THE EXAMINER traced the past history of the controversy, which saw tax exemption approved by the state legislature, supported in a referendum, and backed up in a state court battle. Finally the issue was taken to the U.S. Supreme Court which refused to take jurisdiction in an appeal for review of the exemption.

"Foes cannot properly raise the constitutional issue of separation of church and state because the highest courts have said no such issue is present. Fact is, tax exemption for religious schools dated back to the earliest days of the Union," said the Examiner.

The prelates invited non-Catholics "who love justice and hate iniquity" to join in the day of prayer.

"LET US ALL beg God, our Common Father," they said, "to stretch forth His Mighty Arm to restrain those who have so long crushed His children, to strengthen and console the heroic souls who have endured so much and to lead them speedily to the enjoyment of the freedom of the sons of God."

The Hierarchy stressed that "not all the might of wicked men can overcome the strength which is of God."

"While millions of human beings live under the rule of terror and bitter oppression," the Bishops said, "it is imperative for us to recall that in the arsenal of Christianity, in the reach of all men of goodwill, there is the invincible weapon of prayer."

The Bishops paid special tribute to Hungarians who unsuccessfully fought in October, 1956, to free their country from Soviet control.

There are 1,076 private, non-profit elementary and secondary schools in the state. They include 643 Catholic, 390 Protestant, 4 Jewish and 39 non-sectarian.

Bishops Set Prayers For Red Victims

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Catholics were asked by the archbishops and bishops of the United States, at their annual meeting here, to observe Sunday, Dec. 28, as a day of prayer for those "beneath the heel of Communist slavery."

"LET US ALL beg God, our Common Father," they said, "to stretch forth His Mighty Arm to restrain those who have so long crushed His children, to strengthen and console the heroic souls who have endured so much and to lead them speedily to the enjoyment of the freedom of the sons of God."

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GRATEFUL TO GOD?

All of us living in America have much to be grateful for. God has blessed us abundantly with the basic necessities of life. This is not so at the present time in the strife torn Holy Land, made sacred by the footsteps of Our Lord and Our Lady. Close to one million Palestine refugees have suffered greatly—and they know most vividly the PANGS OF HUNGER. Be another Christ! In thanksgiving for all your blessings, give a \$10 gift which will buy a FOOD PACKAGE which will feed an entire family for a week. As a token of our gratitude to you, we will send you a beautiful OLIVE-WOOD ROSARY from the Holy Land.

WHAT YOU PUT IN THE HANDS OF THE HOLY FATHER YOU PUT IN THE HANDS OF CHRIST

REMEMBER YOUR LOVED ONES? Be mindful, O Lord, of thy servants and handmaids, who will come before you. This beautiful prayer reminds us to love the Holy Sacrifice of the Mass offered for the repose of our loved ones. By so doing you help your dear departed and also our missionaries who depend completely on Mass offerings for their daily support.

IS GOD IN YOUR WILL? THIS IS THE HOLY FATHER'S MISSION AID FOR THE CHURCH IN THE NEAR EAST COUNTRIES

CHRISTMAS GIFTS? WHY NOT ENROLL A LOVED ONE, LIVING OR DECEASED, IN OUR ASSOCIATION AND HAVE THEM SHARE IN PRAYERS AND MASSES (15,000 yearly) OF OUR MISSIONARIES? Yearly enrollment is \$1. Perpetual, \$20. The entire family \$5 yearly and \$100 perpetually.

JOHN-VARGHESE-CASSIANO—YOUR PRIEST?

These three young men are studying for the Priesthood in India and Eritrea. Future apostles of God—they need \$100 for each of their six years' training before they become mission priests. They have nothing but their zeal to work for souls. Can you adopt one? The Lord will bless you.

ONE MISSION CHAPEL NEEDED!

\$2,000 is all we need to build a Mission Chapel in Aiga, Ethiopia. The former chapel in the village lies in ruins. It was built in 1914 of baked mud with a roof of thatched leaves. The rains and humidity have ruined it. The poor Catholics in the village will bless you by their prayers of gratitude for any little thing that you might be able to do for them. \$2,000 will give them a House of God.

WHO GIVES TO THE POOR MAKES A LOAN TO GOD

SISTER JOSEPHA-SISTER STEPHANE AND OTHERS IN NEED

These two Sisters plus Sisters Agnella, Sister Savina, Sister Dalmatia and Sister Osmund and beginning their training as novices in Lebanon, Egypt and India. They need \$150 for each of their two years' training before they become missionaries for God. Could you adopt one of these young novices? You can pay the amount in installments. God will bless you.

YOUR STRINGLESS GIFTS HELP OUR HOLY FATHER IN CRITICAL NEEDS. YOUR GIFT IS HIS STRENGTH

Near East Missions
FRANCIS CARDINAL SPELLMAN, President
Mgr. Peter P. Turely, N.Y. Secretary
Send all communications to:
CATHOLIC NEAR EAST WELFARE ASSOCIATION
480 Lexington Ave. at 46th St. New York 17, N. Y.

Post Office To Investigate Obscene Christmas Cards

Washington — (NC) — Postmaster General Arthur E. Summerfield has promised a "thorough investigation" of use of the mails for "obscene and suggestive" Christmas cards. It was disclosed here.

Rep. Frank Thompson Jr. of New Jersey announced that the Post Office Department head also assured him "prompt action" will be taken if violations of postal anti-obscenity laws are found.

Mr. Summerfield expressed his concern in reply to a letter in which Mr. Thompson charged that many cards on sale this year "extoll drunkenness and make venal suggestions, and otherwise mock and desecrate the spirit of Christmas."

They should be barred from the mails, he said, and "the purveyors of these so-called Christmas cards should be warned that they are subject to the penalties of the law."

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Visit Lourdes during The Year of Jubilee — proclaimed by the Holy Father to commemorate the 100th Anniversary of Our Lady's appearances to St. Bernadette.

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Join with The Most Reverend Leo R. Smith, Auxiliary Bishop of Buffalo, in the colorful ceremonies opening the Jubilee Year on February 11th.

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Retrace the steps of Our Savior in the Holy Land, and assist of Mass at the Tomb of Our Lord in the Church of the Holy Sepulcher.

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