



Washington — (NC) — Pupils at St. John Baptist school in suburban Chillum have just completed their first year study of Russian language to inaugurate program in Washington Parochial schools.

Catholic Grade Schools Plan Russian Study

By RUSSELL SHAW

Washington — (NC) — More than 400 children in five Catholic grade schools here have tentatively signed up for after-school Russian classes next fall.

Washington archdiocesan school officials said the program probably will be the only one of its kind in the country. Students from the fourth to eighth grades will participate.

In addition, Russian classes will be made part of the curriculum of several Catholic high schools here in the fall. Plans are also under way to introduce Russian into the elementary school curriculum in the lower grades.

These steps follow a 10-week program of extra-curricular Russian classes conducted during the past semester at St. John Baptist de la Salle grade school in suburban Chillum, Md.

Mr. John S. Spence, Washington archdiocesan director of schools, is pastor there.

MORE THAN 100 children took the courses, conducted by professional language instructors. Sister James Marie, principal at St. John Baptist, termed the Russian classes "time well spent."

The pilot program was introduced in April. Classes were conducted for one hour twice a week after school by Russian-born instructors from the Sanz Language School here. Fourth and fifth graders took the course in one group, while sixth, seventh and eighth grade pupils studied together in a second class.

Robert Sanz, president of the language school, described the youngsters' achievement as "a beautiful piece of work." At the end of the 10 weeks, he said, the older children had vocabularies of as many as 300 Russian words and were able both to speak and write the language.

Almost all the grades in an examination conducted at the end of the course ranged between 80 and 90 per cent, he added. The written test was given entirely in Russian and children were required to answer in Russian.

Sister James Marie said the children took a "serious" attitude toward the course. She pointed out that of the 104 children who originally enrolled in the pilot project, only two dropped out, and they did so because of illness.

The nun said that while the Sanz instructors required the children to do one hour of homework every night in the week, it is her opinion that many of them studied Russian as much as two hours nightly.

She added that some "very average students" took the course and did "very well." The Russian classes were a "challenge" to which the children were anxious to respond, she said.

Mr. Sanz said the training given the parochial school students is designed to produce fluency in both speaking and reading a foreign language after four years.

THE STUDY of languages, he added, should not be treated as an elective course on a par with "music and gymnastics." Instead, he said, it is "a very definite important part of education," both for itself and for its value in "training students to think."

Two archdiocesan high schools in which Russian classes will become part of the regular course of studies next fall are John Carroll High School in Washington, a boys' school, and Regina High School for girls in Hyattsville, Md.

Theologian Says:

Whites 'Infected' With Race Prejudice

Minneapolis — (RNS) — Racial segregation in schools as a permanent and long-time policy is immoral, the Catholic Theological Society of America was told here.

Although some delay may be temporarily warranted, there is a serious moral obligation on public officials to work for integration, said Msgr. Francis J. Gilligan, pastor of St. Mark's Catholic church, St. Paul.

Msgr. Gilligan said that "almost every white person in the United States has been infected with some of the sinful virus of race prejudice."

United States has been infected with some of the sinful virus of race prejudice. The institution of segregation in schools.

THE "INFECTION" of racial prejudice is deeper and more widespread in the South because the "exposure to the virus is much greater" there, he pointed out.

In the North he said the Christian attitude should be one of admiration for the courage and moral effort that has been shown by many southerners.

Guilty also of injustice, said the priest, are "the vociferous moulders of public opinion who influence citizens to perpetuating it."

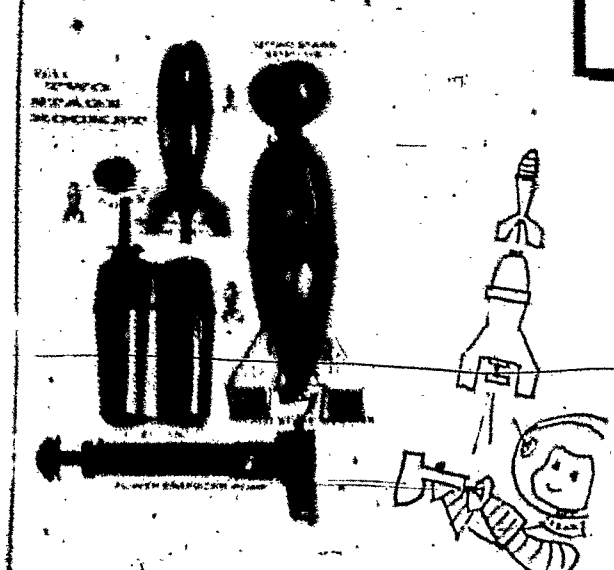
Catholic Univ. Gets Nurse Fund

Washington — (NC) — The School of Nursing of the Catholic University of America has received a \$19,300 grant from the National Nurse Education Fund to provide tuition for students.

The school will be used to train students who have registered nurse certification and who complete their baccalaureate program within one year, according to Sister Charles Marie, dean of the school.

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Greek Author For Grade Schoolers

Louisville, Ky. — (NC) — Gifted Catholic grade school pupils here may be reading the classical Greek author Plato next fall as part of an unusual Junior "great books" program.

The program will be offered to some 400 children from the fifth through eighth grades in Louisville archdiocesan elementary schools.

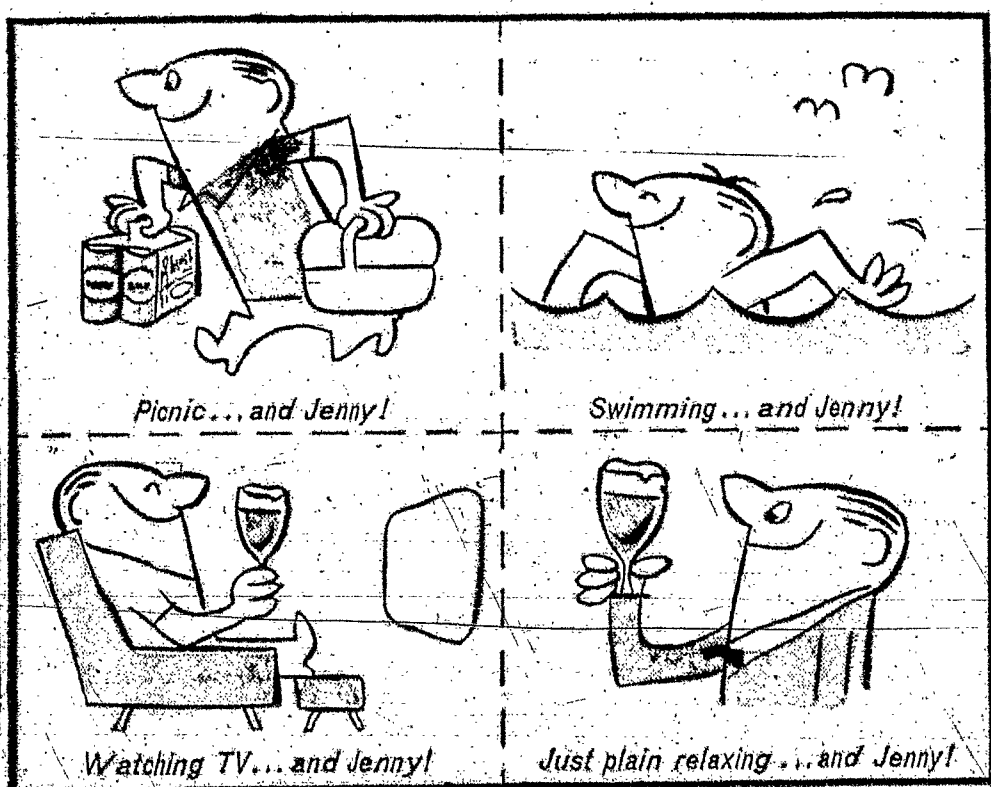
A pilot project for selected pupils was conducted during the past school year under the direction of John Ford, professor of philosophy at Bellarmine College here. It involved reading and discussion of classics.

Among the books studied by the children were "Apology" and "Crito," by Plato; "Huckleberry Finn" by Mark Twain; "The Red Badge of Courage" by Stephen Crane, and "Kidnapped" by Robert Louis Stevenson.

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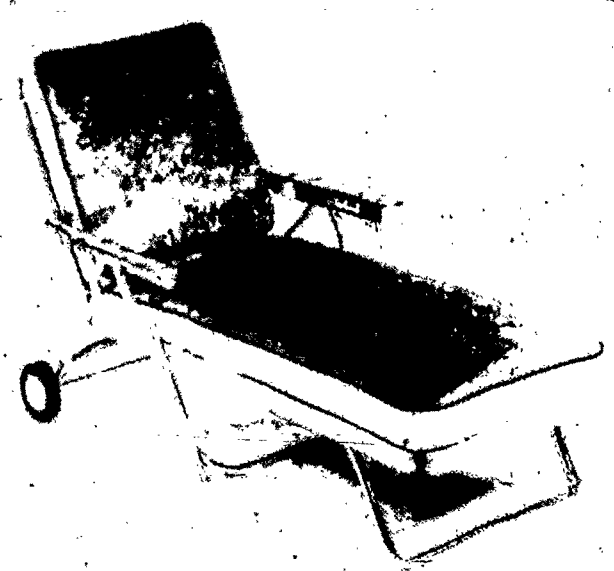
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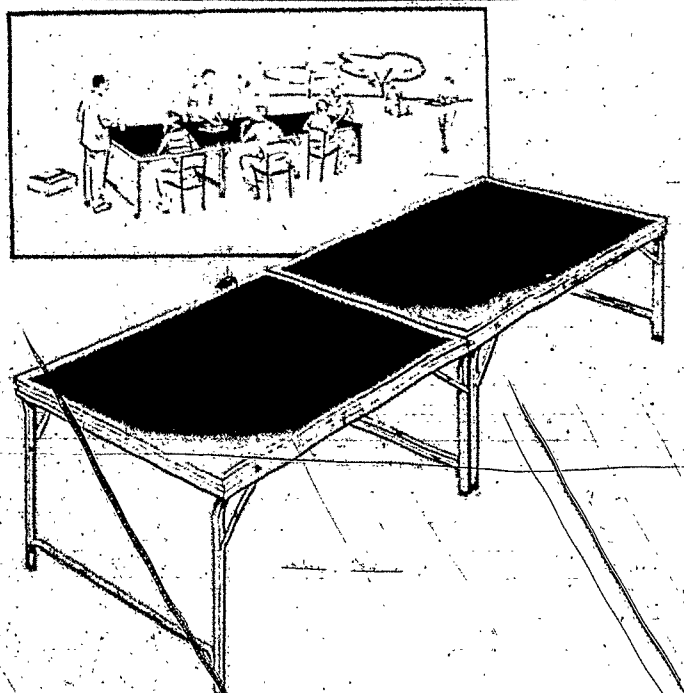
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