

## Witness Child Dies, Transfusion Refused

Atlantic City — (RNS) — A six-year old Jehovah's Witness girl, whose parents refused to allow her to receive a blood transfusion on religious grounds, died here after an emergency operation.

The girl had suffered a depressed compound fracture of the skull when she was struck by an automobile. Her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Joseph Vorinko of nearby Absecon Highlands, told physicians they could not permit the transfusion because it would be the equivalent of "eating" blood, and this is forbidden in the Bible.



Dr. Harry Subin, chief of surgery at Atlantic City Hospital, said before the operation that "we all feel we're going in with one hand tied behind our backs, because in case of further loss of blood or shock we have little recourse."

The hospital earlier lost an attempt to get a court order which would have allowed it to give the transfusion. County Judge George T. Namee said he lacked authority to issue such an order because he believed the parents were sincere in their religious beliefs.



## Interracial Award Winners

New York — (RNS) — Percy H. Steele, Jr., executive director of the San Diego (Cal.) Urban League, receives one of two 1959 James J. Hoey Awards for interracial justice from Auxiliary Bishop Philip J. Fulton of New York. Looking on is the other recipient, John P. Nelson, Jr., of the Institute of Industrial Relations, Loyola University, New Orleans. Steele and Nelson were cited at a meeting of the Catholic Interracial Council of New York at ceremonies on the Feastday of Christ the King. The awards honor the memory of the founder and first president of the council.

## Holy Russia Italy Mayor Sees Kremlin Cracking

Florence — (NC) — A golden ikon stood on the writing desk in the plain whitewashed room of Giorgio La Pira, former mayor of Florence and pilgrim extraordinary.

Mr. La Pira, tiny and intense, spoke of his pilgrimage to "Holy Russia," of which the ikon was a memento.

"Russia is an inflammable country," he said. "By that I mean a country that can be inflamed by grace."

OPTIMISM sparked in the lively eyes behind steel-rimmed spectacles. He spoke in a staccato of truncated sentences.

"Do you not see the symptoms of the times? The religious and political symptoms, both directed toward world peace?"

"In the political field, (British Prime Minister Harold) Macmillan's and (U.S. Vice President Richard) Nixon's trips to Russia. And the recent visit of (Soviet Premier Nikita) Khrushchev to the U.S."

"In the religious field, the promise of Our Lady at Fatima: 'My heart will ultimately triumph. Russia will come back. There will be peace on earth.'"

"Then there is the consecration of the world to the Heart of Mary and the discourse of Pius XII to the youth of Catholic Action on the Feast of St. Joseph last year, shortly before his death. There was a tone of prophecy in this speech when the Pope said: 'The dark winter is behind you. Before you is a brilliant summer.'"

"And the last symptom is the announcement of the ecumenical council, making the question of Christian unity a topic of our times. Do you not see that the world is making dramatic progress toward peace?"

For further support Mr. La Pira referred to his summer pilgrimage to Russia.

"Time was when my journey to Russia would not have been possible. Yet lately it was possible. Here you have the changing times in a nutshell."

Mr. La Pira arrived in Moscow on August 14, the vigil of the Assumption, his valise

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## Catholics Told Rid Ranks Of Race Bias

Chicago — (RNS) — Father John LaFarge, S.J., associate editor of America, national Catholic weekly and chief founder of the Catholic interracial movement, called here upon American Catholics to rid their ranks of racial discrimination. He cited especially "certain specific tasks" in the field of racial integration which he said confront them in the immediate future.

"Notably urgent," Father LaFarge said, was the integration of hospitals and schools for nurses' training, since "the shocking shortage of nurses in some of the country's major hospital systems adds a rather macabre commentary on the shortsightedness of those who would restrict Negro training opportunity in this direction."

In addition, he told the 12th annual Communion breakfast of the Catholic Interracial Council of Chicago, "we badly need a new and enlightened policy on the part of the million-member Catholic fraternal organization, the Knights of Columbus, even though some fragments of its metropolitan areas where honor are saved by the interracial membership of some of its individual local councils."

THE JESUIT editor, who was one of three recipients of the Chicago Council's annual Thomas J. Crowe awards for outstanding service to the cause of interracial justice and charity, said that meanwhile a special challenge confronts the clergy and laity of the north-

"This presents an immediate challenge to parish clergy and lay leaders," he said, "to prepare to welcome the Catholic Negro rather than to offend or perhaps scandalize him."

Father LaFarge's co-recipients of the awards — named in honor of a former president of the Chicago Council — were State Senator John P. Meyer (R-Ill.), leader in a recent fight to pass a Fair Employment Practice Bill; Michael E. Phelan of Nesh, Wis., 21-year-old president of the National Federation of Catholic College Students; and the Michael Reese Hospital in Chicago, whose board and staff, pursuing a policy of complete integration, were instrumental in rehabilitating a run-down section of the city's south side.

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## Tito Reds Arrest Priest

Belgrade — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic priest was sentenced to two years imprisonment by a court in Zadar, Dalmatia, for "hostile activity" against the Yugoslav Communist state, it was learned here.

The priest, identified as Father Nike Padlica, was accused of distributing newspapers published by Yugoslav exiles in the Western countries which contained articles "hostile to the Tito regime."

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