

Blind Pupils Taught In Parish Schools

By MARJORIE FILLYAW

Miami Beach — (NC) — A blueprint for educating blind children in their parish school while they continue to live at home was sketched by a nun at the American Federation of Catholic Workers for the Blind convention here.

Sister Anne Columba told the delegates that such a program is working successfully in the Diocese of Brooklyn, N.Y.

Father Robert J. Shea of Rocky Hill, Conn., newly elected president of the federation, told convention delegates that society has an obligation to expand a special interest in the abilities of handicapped and disabled persons since each individual has a place in creation.

A member of the Congregation of Sisters of St. Joseph of Brentwood, N.Y., Sister Anne Columba traveled 45 miles daily last year teaching the visually handicapped.

She supplemented a regular parochial school program by teaching Braille reading, writing and arithmetic to blind children. In addition to teaching six children enrolled in three various schools last year, Sister Anne Columba also qualified students teachers and parents with equipment designed for the handicapped.

"Since education no longer can be considered a goal in itself but rather a part of learning to live in a community," the nun said, "educators in the

field of the visually handicapped have found it undesirable to change a child from a limited, highly specialized and segregated life to an adult life which is directly opposite. In many instances the impact has been too great. Placing the child in the regular classroom, he hopes, will make the transition to adult life easier."

The Brooklyn program was inaugurated by Father Alfred J. Weinlich, director of the diocese's Catholic Guild for the Blind. Sister Anne Columba said, like a number of parents, she doubted the program would work, but now is pleased with the results.

"The children were able to go along with all their other lessons when the itinerant teacher was not there since each one was equipped with a set of Braille textbooks and, as far as possible, Braille workbooks which exactly duplicate those of their sighted classmates," she said.

"Besides textbooks, each child has a Braillewriter and a special arithmetic slate. Beginning in the fourth or fifth grade, a blind child is expected to learn regular typewriting and must be provided with a portable typewriter for school use."

Laity Spurred To Study Faith

New York — (RNS) — Application of Catholic principles to all intellectual endeavors by youths and young adults was urged by panelists at the 1960 Socialism Congress of the Lay Apostolate here.

At the same time the speakers warned that Catholic communists must not ignore intellectualism if they do not wish to become "mediocre."

Participating in a discussion on the "Catholic Intellectual Apostolate" were Thomas I. Monahan, supervisor of the Optics section, Naval Material Laboratory of the New York Naval Shipyard, Brooklyn; Miss Ellen A. Usher, assistant editor of "Ingenue," national teen-age service publication; and James Haughey, text book editor, Harcourt Brace & Co.

Mr. Monahan noted "an ever growing need for an informed laity" in the Church and urged the delegates to become more familiar with social order or cyclical of recent Popes.

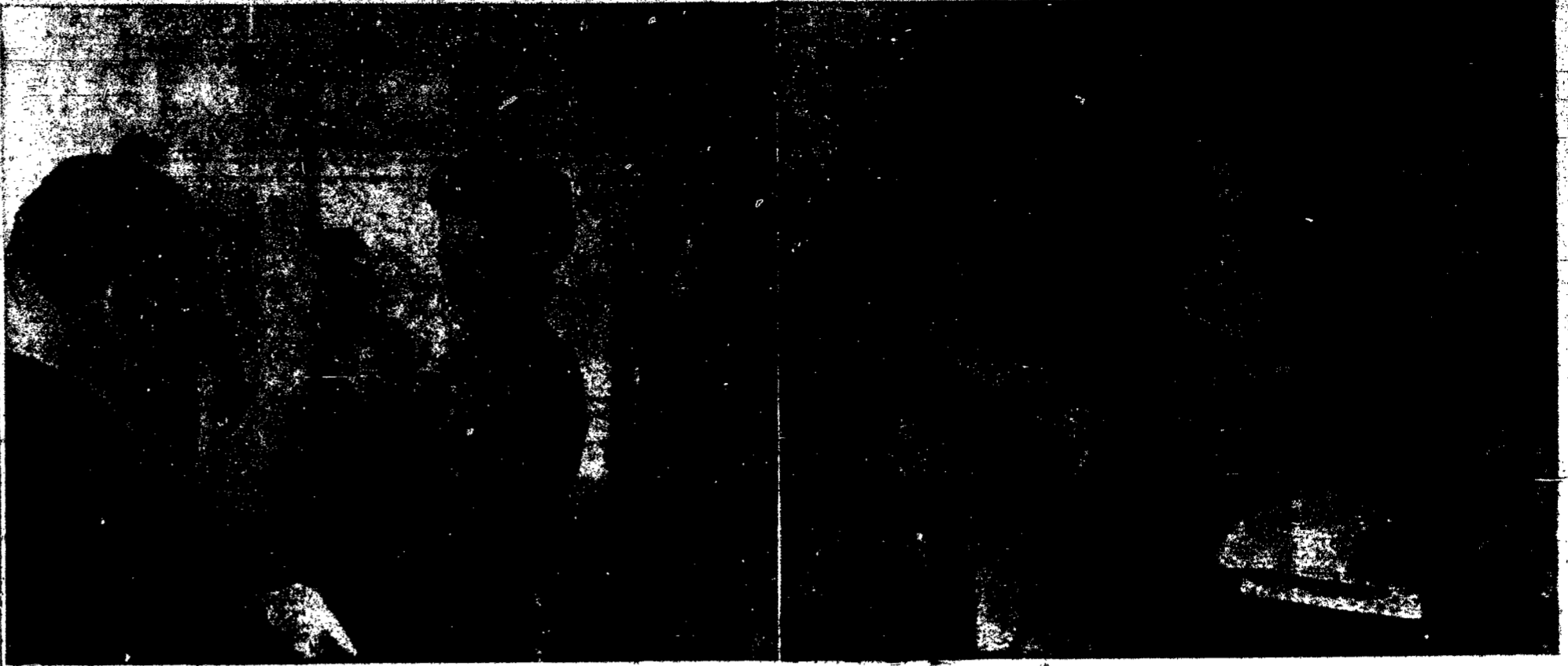
The need for well informed lay men and women, he said, "is not limited to intellectual skills, but to a general Catholic community which understands, and through understanding, is carrying Christ and His mes-

sage into every element of daily living."

"In seeking intellectual excellence, let us not concern ourselves with the sin of pride," he declared. "A proud person at times rests on his laurels as he contemplates his success. Let us mortify ourselves at these times by more intense activity."

Miss Usher suggested that Catholic women contribute Christian concepts to the big debate over the "role of women in society" which she said was now being conducted in slick magazines and elsewhere.

She cited "tremendous need for apostolic Catholic women to contribute to the conception of the status of women in Christ-ian terms to propose solutions and refute erroneous ones in the light of the faith and the perspective of the Redemption."



Communist "name giving" rite replaces Christian baptism.

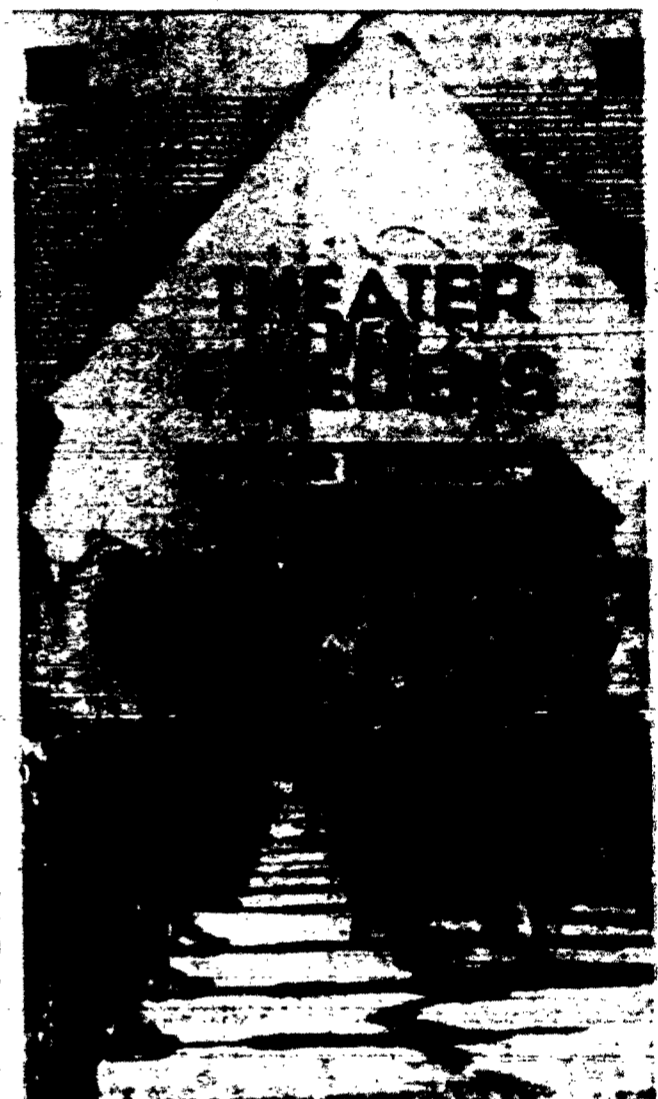
Teach books of Khrushchev doctrine are given youngsters as reward for dedication ceremony. Church authorities are fighting losing battle.

Red Rites Replace Sacraments



Socialist wedding is substitute for religious rite.

These pictures show how the Communist East German regime seeks to draw people from traditional Christian rites by substituting "Kreuzriten." Both Catholic and Protestant clergymen have warned their people that the Red rites are equal to outright denial of Christian faith but government pressure brought 22 per cent of eligible young people to take part in youth dedication ceremonies this spring. Other Soviet rituals include "name giving" to replace baptism and "Socialist weddings." All rites are atheistic and pledge participants to promote a "with active struggle for Socialist achievements and the power of the workers and peasants." (RNS Photos)



Youngsters leave "Theater of Peace" in East Germany after dedication ceremony, atheist counterpart of Confirmation.

New Grail Center In N.Y.

New York — (RNS) — A Catholic training center to prepare Latin American young women for lay apostolate work in their homelands will be established here under the auspices of The Grail, an international movement of Catholic lay women.

The center was planned in response to the recent call by Pope John XXIII for lay missionaries to assist the Church in Latin America. Archbishop Karl J. Alter of Cincinnati is chairman of the advisory board for the new project.

ITS ONEYEAR course, scheduled to begin Jan. 20, 1961, will stress intellectual and apostolic information as well as practical experience in planning and organizing programs for Latin American students in the United States, catechetical and recreational work among the Spanish-speaking, literacy courses and other community development projects.

The training program also will include an analysis of the role of the woman in the family and community, professional and government a theoretical and practical study of the so-

We Have A Problem

Newark — (NC) — A new community service for couples having "serious marital difficulties" will be started by the Mount Carmel Guild of the Newark diocese.

Only those couples who have exhausted other methods of solving their problems will be accepted, announcement by the guild said. The program will consist of a 16-week series of group discussions lasting 75 minutes each.

Wives and husbands will meet in separate sections on the same night. Each group is to be self-governing and will decide the nature and extent of its work to be agreed upon with the bishops of the diocese.

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