United in Integration Crisis

New Orleans—(RNS)—The Rev. Jerome A. Drolet of Our Lady of Perpetual Help Church, Kenner, La., accompanies the Rev. Lloyd A. Foreman of St. Mark's Methodist Church as he escorts his daughter, Pamela Lynn, 5, from newly integrated William Frantz Elementary School here. The child is one of two white pupils still attending class at the school after a Negro pupil was permitted to enroll. The priest then confronted segregationists hecklers outside the school and was shoved and verbally abused.

Press Month Theme Set

New York — (NC) — "Alert Catholics Read the Catholic Press" is the theme for Catholic Press Month, 1961, which will be observed in February.

Father Albert J. Nevins, M.M., president of the Catholic Press Association, which sponsors the observance, said that February, 1961, will mark the 40th anniversary of the observance of Catholic Press Month in the United States.

LAST FEBRUARY, Catholic Press Month focuses attention on Catholic newspapers, magazines, Bibles, books and pamphlets in a campaign to encourage purchase, subscription and readership of Catholic periodicals and literature, Father Nevins said.

A comprehensive Catholic Press Month kit for schools, libraries, parish and diocesan organizations and similar groups has been prepared by the Catholic Press Association. It is available at $1 each from the CPA office, 6 East 39th Street, New York 16, New York.

The 1961 kit contains the official three-color Catholic Press Month poster, dramatizing the theme; the 1961 discussion and sermon outline; folder of facts about the Catholic press, and quotations from the popes on the Catholic press.

The kit also contains a statement by Father Nevins on the Catholic Press in America today, a diagram with instructions for building a parish reading rack for Catholic publications, and an editorial appreciation of the Catholic press, for use in parish or organization publications and bulletins.

Faith Listing Cancelled

Washington — (RNS) — The Library of Congress said here that it will no longer make any compilations of the religious affiliation of members of Congress.

Hugh L. Elsbree, director of the Legislative Reference Service of the Library, declared: "In light of our repeated experience in having a substantial number of errors in the listing called to our attention, we decided against preparing any further list of religious affiliations."

Sudan Sunday on Friday

Priest's Protest 'Sedition'

Khartoum—(NC)—When is a protest "seditious" in the Sudan?

Answer: When a Christian makes it.

Father Paolino Dogale, a Sudanese priest, and four Catholic students of Rumbek in the southern Sudan are accused of issuing a circular protesting a decree that makes Sunday an official working day.

Addressed to "Fellow Christians of Every Denomination," the circular called for a protest by "peaceful means" and, specifically, a boycott of Sunday work. It set forth purely religious reasons.

THE GOVERNMENT decision to make Friday—the Moslem holy day—the official weekly holiday in place of Sunday in the southern Sudan was reached last February.

The vast majority of the three million people in the southern Sudan are non-Moslems. About 375,000 are Christians, most of whom are Catholics. In Bahr El Ghezal province, where the letter of protest was allegedly written, Moslems are "very few," the governor told me.

The five defendants accused of issuing the protest are charged with "taking hostile action against the government" in twofold violation of the Defense of the Sudan Act of December, 1958. The penalties under the two headings are: "death or imprisonment for a term which may extend to life" and "imprisonment which may extend to 10 years or a fine or both."

Three of the students are accused of drafting the circular and the fourth of distributing it. The priest is accused of correcting the draft and making copies of it on a duplicating machine.

"It's seditious," one high official said to me, speaking of Father Dogale's alleged offense. "It's a major crime," said his colleague, "a crime against the state."

The sequel to another bigger and more public protest is enlightening. This time Moslems did the protesting, directly against government policies and even against the revolution by which the present government took power. (Parliament was dissolved in November, 1958, when the Supreme Council of the Armed Forces took over the government.)

The protest took the form of an anti-government demonstration held here in Khartoum on October 25. Out of a crowd of demonstrators, 40 were arrested. They were charged merely with doing "an act likely to cause a breach of the peace."

After eight days they were tried before a magistrate. Sixteen were acquitted. The heaviest sentence imposed was a fine of 15 Sudanese pounds (about $42.) Nobody was sent to prison.

Demonstrators in Port Sudan were given only a suspended sentence of six months' imprisonment.

But these were all Moslems.

Meanwhile, Father Paolino Dogale, a former Member of Parliament, has been five months in custody. On October 24 a magistrate's court in Wau heard the police case against him and the students. All five were committed to be tried by a major court of three civilian judges or a court martial.

They are Christians, of course.

Laity Asked Spur Mission Work

New York—(RNS)—Father John J. Considine, head of the newly formed Latin American Bureau of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, placed responsibility of the new "Papal Volunteers" program of the Holy See squarely in the hands of the Church's already existing lay mission groups.

Declaring that the "Papal Volunteers" program will not be an entity in itself, Father Considine told 700 delegates and visitors to the Second Annual Conference on the International Lay Apostolate here that the new program is intended to be "rather a movement which embraces all lay sending societies," as well as various established organizations like the National Council of Catholic Men and Women, the Sodalities, and groups formed from campuses of Catholic colleges and universities.

The program seeks selected teams of qualified Catholic laity to work in social, educational and religious projects in Latin America.

"The approximately 50 Catholic lay missioners working today in Latin America are by the very fact of their labors to be considered as Papal Volunteers," he said.

Father Considine also announced the opening of a coordinating office for the Papal Volunteers program on February 15 in Chicago. Secretary of the operation will be David O'Shea, an authority on Catholic overseas work and active for many years in lay apostolate groups in the Chicago area.

Telling his audience that "the Catholic Church in Latin America is in deep trouble today," Father Considine declared, "in this situation, no Catholic can consider himself alien to the suffering of the Church."

Egypt Closes 20 Schools

Cairo — (RNS) — Twenty schools operated by the Catholic Association of Free Schools in the Ayut region of Upper Egypt were closed by order of the government, it was reported here.

The government said the schools would not be permitted to open for the new academic year because teacher qualifications and building management did not conform to the law. According to the report, three telegrams of protest sent to the government by Catholic officials failed to obtain any immediate results.

To prevent the government from requisitioning the school buildings, the free school association plans to use them as reception centers for poor children. The children will receive catechetical instruction at the centers.

Priest Doubles As Doctor

Munich — (RNS) — Father Stephen Kukolja (right), who is both a priest and a physician, blesses his new surgery here. A native of Croatia, Father Kukolja was granted special permission by Joseph Cardinal Wendel, Archbishop of Munich, to carry on medical practice as a priest.

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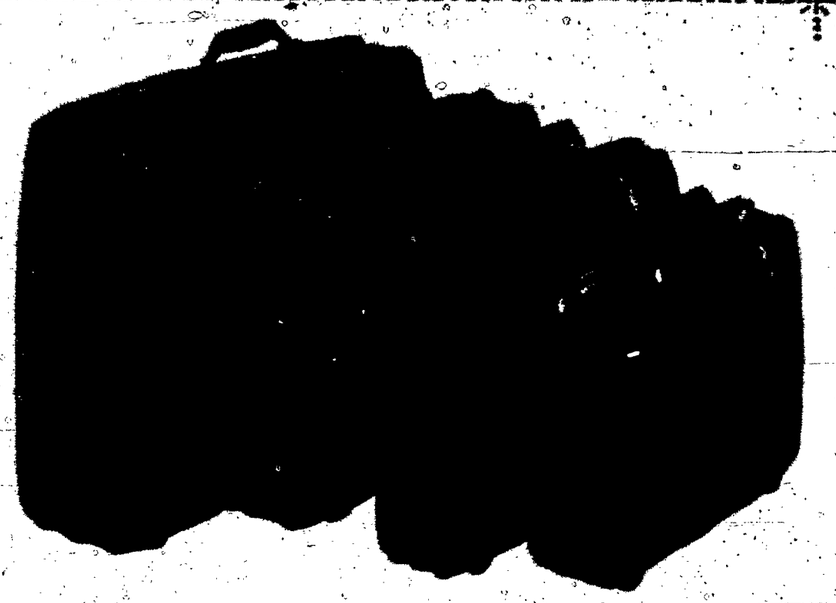

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