

Archbishop Ritter

Segregation Foe Made Cardinal

St. Louis — (RNS) — In elevating Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis to the Sacred College of Cardinals, Pope John XXIII honored a prelate who has been a recognized leader in the fight against racial discrimination in the United States.

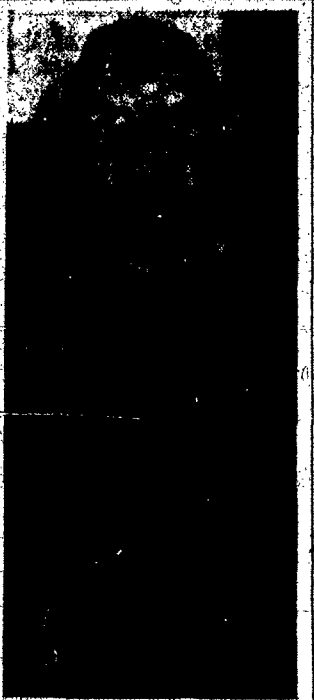
The 68-year-old Indiana-born archbishop also has been noted for his distinguished service in Catholic education and his practical interest in the liturgical movement and in Latin America missionary work. In 1954, he was responsible for organizing the first group of U.S. diocesan priests for missionary work in Bolivia.

In New York, Father John LaFarge, S.J., associate editor of America, national Catholic weekly, and the top leader of the Catholic interracial movement in this country, hailed Pope John's action in making Archbishop Ritter a Prince of the Church as "wonderful news" to Catholic interracialists everywhere.

"Archbishop Ritter," he said, "is honored by persons of all faiths as an uncompromising and pioneering opponent of racial discrimination. His 1947 decree directing parochial school superintendents to accept all children without regard to their race definitely broke the race barrier in St. Louis. His elevation to the cardinalate is an inestimable encouragement to the cause of interracial justice."

Archbishop Ritter's action in 1947 came only a year after his transfer to the St. Louis See from the archbishopric of Indianapolis. It attracted national attention when some of his parishioners organized a movement of protest.

When Archbishop Ritter threatened protesting laymen with excommunication if they persisted in their stand, he appealed to Archbishop Amleto Giovanni Cicognani, Apostolic Delegate to the United States, who has since been made a cardinal and is now a member of the Roman Curia. The Apostolic Delegate upheld the archbishop's decree and the protest movement collapsed.



CARDINAL RITTER

In the following year, Archbishop Ritter was named by the Council Against Intolerance in America, as the winner of the Thomas Jefferson award for the advancement of democracy. In the same year he was cited by the CIO Committee on Abolition of Discrimination for his fight against segregation in the parochial schools of St. Louis.

In 1955, Archbishop Ritter made headlines again when he called for an end to all discrimination in Catholic hospitals. Addressing the 46th annual convention of the Catholic Hospital Association, he said, "Catholic hospitals, along with the whole Church, have a most serious obligation to carry out courageously the teachings of Christ and to put aside in their policies and practice any and all discrimination because of race, color or religion."

Four New Cardinals

Latin American Faith In Peril

(Continued from Page 1)

The American cardinal-designate is Archbishop Joseph E. Ritter of St. Louis, 68, whose appointment raised U.S. membership in the Sacred College to six.

New Italian member of the College is 65-year-old titular Archbishop Giuseppe Ferretto, a prominent prelate of the Roman Curia, who was in the United States last September on his way to the Fourth International Catholic Migration Congress at the University of Ottawa in Canada.

Latin Americans named to the Sacred College were Titular Archbishop Jose Humberto Quintero Acosta and Archbishop Chacon Acevedo of Merida, Venezuela, who is 58; and Archbishop Luis Concha Cordoba of Bogota, Colombia, 60. Their elevations raised the number of cardinals in Latin America to eleven.

The appointments increased membership of the Sacred College to 68. There also are three cardinals "in petto" (within the breast) whom the Pope created at his last consistory in March, withholding their names until some time in the future.

End Bias In Housing

Detroit — (RNS) — The head of Notre Dame University who is a member of the U.S. Commission on Civil Rights suggested here that President-elect John F. Kennedy issue a Presidential order banning all racial and religious discrimination in housing financed or insured by the federal government.

Father Theodore M. Hesburgh, C.S.C., president of the university, said he hoped such an order would be forthcoming from the new President after he assumes office.

Chicago Seminarian Beaten On Subway

Chicago (NC) — The head of Quigley Preparatory Seminary, said after one of his students was brutally beaten on a subway that he would ask more police protection for the students.

Mr. Martin M. Howard said he wants more protection on Chicago Transit Authority (CTA) buses and in the Chicago Avenue subway station, which is near the school.

He said he planned to confer with city police officials and the CTA in hopes of obtaining more protection.

The Quigley seminary, located on the near north side, has an enrollment of 1,483 youths between 13 and 18.

Christmas Crisis — Over 100,000 people have visited a display of 140 Christmas cribs in the crypt of St. Peter's Church here.

My Daughter Wants To Be A Nun, I Think They Waste Their Lives

By FATHER JOHN L. THOMAS, S. J.
Sociology Professor St. Louis University

I'm a parent and my 16-year-old daughter is wanting permission to be a nun. I can't force myself to say yes. She can give me no logical reasons for becoming a sister, and I feel that these women who make themselves a specialty by their unusual ways and dress are wasting their precious lives. Is there any Scriptural foundation for this? My Catholic friends say it is a blessing, but must my daughter be odd and eccentric in order to be a blessing?

I think nobody will enjoy your comments about nuns more than the sisters themselves. Your letter suggests that you know very few of them personally.

They tend to be odd and eccentric as the average run of women—just look around you! Considering the large number of women appearing in shorts, slacks, and various odd outfits, I doubt whether we can reasonably accuse the sisters of making a spectacle of themselves by their "unnatural" dress. Unless one is opposed to all distinctive uniforms, the sisters seem justified in maintaining their traditional garb.

Although some of their uniforms offer room for improvement—many have been or are being considerably modified—I think an unbiased observer would have to admit that the appearance of the average nun compares very well with her sister in secular garb. After all, the nun is out to catch neither a cold nor a mate; if she chooses to wear a little extra yardage, that should be up to her.

Of course, the real source of your difficulty is your failure to understand the spiritual significance of the sisters' way of life. I can appreciate your problem here because popular explanations of the religious life (the life of the vows) are often superficial and inadequate. Nuns, considered as such, are not odd or eccentric, though their way of life makes sense only when viewed within a supernatural frame of reference.

Through a life devoted to prayer, sacrifice, and the apostolate they assume a vocation in which they strive to forget themselves in order to dedicate themselves more completely to the service of God and their neighbor. This renunciation of self is not imposed by God—it is offered as a free choice to the individual Christian.

Christ himself made the distinction between the vocation of the counsels and the precepts when pointing out to

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The ACLU mailed to 1,200 Statement on Public School

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B. Forman Co. — open Thursday and Friday nights til 9

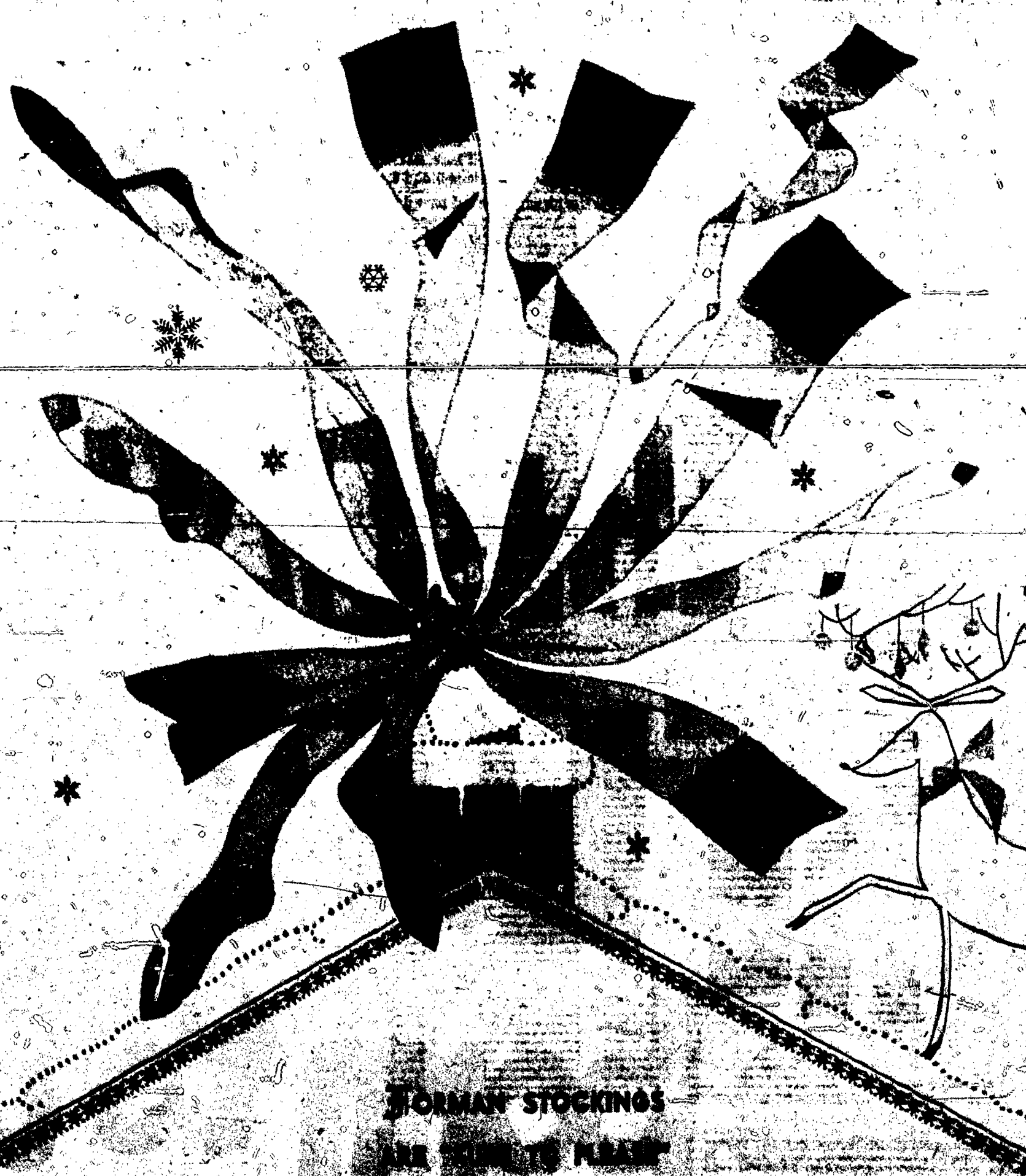
December 22 and 23

Forman nylons are Christmas gift "musts".

Hanes knows the beauty, the flattery and comfort of seam-free nylons. Hanes' seamless in fashion shades compliment every costume. 1.50 a pair; 3 pairs 4.50.

Archer is often called "the loveliest thing on two legs." Dress sheers with seams or seamless. 1.35 a pair; 3-pair box 3.90 or 1.65 a pair; 3-pair box 4.80.

Barbara Lee Forman's own, the pride of gift-makers for decades! Choose a wardrobe of different weights and colors. 1.35 a pair; 3-pair box 3.90.



All are fully-proportioned and in fashion shades.

Bryans or to give them their full name "Beautiful Bryans." Luxury stockings in a lovely satin gift case. With seams, 1.95 pr. 3 for 5.65. Seamless, 1.50 pr. 3 for 4.35, or 1.65, 3 for 4.80.

Round the Clock, the stockings made for all types of wearers. Likely we have her size on file! Personalized red box with her initials. Seams or seamless, 1.50, 3 for 4.35, or 1.65, 3 for 4.80.

Nina Ricci, real "glamour Parisienne." With new French type heel, or seamless. Gorgeous satin gift case. Each pair 2.00; box of 3 for 6.00.

Hosiery, Street Floor, also Culver Ridge, except Bryans and Nina Ricci