

# Blackfriar in a White Robe



CHARTER MEMBERS of Blackfriars discuss early days of the national theatre organization. Seated: Rev. Don Daniel, S.S.J., president of Nazareth College, and Miss Madeline McNamara, of Corning.

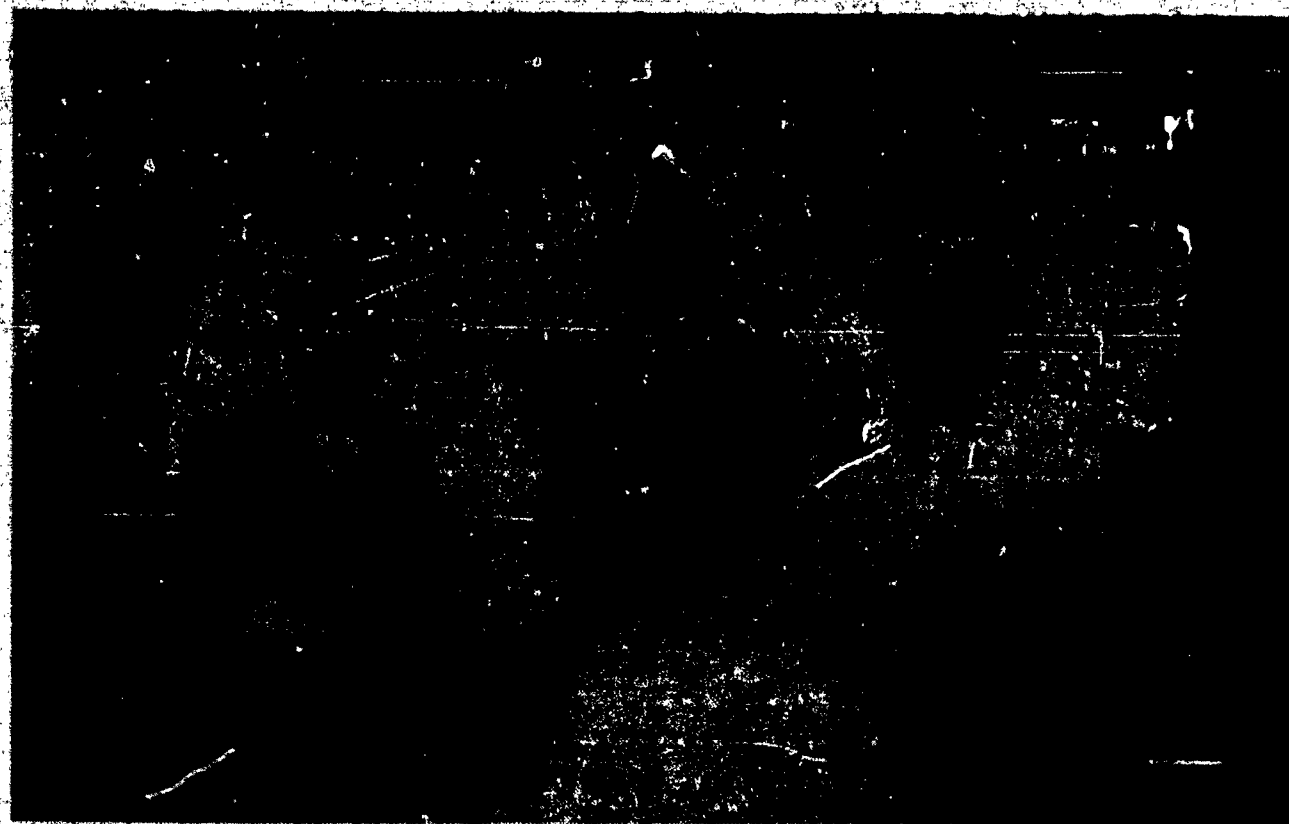
"Mr. Blackfriars" himself in the person of Dominican Father Urban Nagle stopped off in Rochester last week to give a formal retreat to the young ladies at Nazareth College and to greet informally the newly established Rochester Blackfriars.

Blackfriars, a nation-wide theatre organization with chapters throughout the United States, was founded some twenty-five years ago by Father Nagle.

At that time a unit was formed in Rochester and flourished for four years. Blackfriars is now a new name for the 11-year-old Catholic Theatre of Rochester which is producing Shakespeare's "Richard II" this weekend at Aquinas Institute auditorium.

The name Blackfriars is an old one, historically and theatre-wise. The Dominican friars arrived in England in the thirteenth century and, since they wear black capes over their white habits, acquired the name Blackfriars.

Henry VIII suppressed the religious orders in the sixteenth century and the London Dominican monastery was left empty for many years. Wandering actors found that it made an ideal theatre—it had a roof and could be heated, a rarity at the time—and it soon housed the produc-



ROCHESTER BLACKFRIARS, chat with Father Scott, director; Robert Smith, president; and the Rev. Nagle; Richard Mancini, production manager; Wilford Robert F. McNamara, moderator.

tions of playwrights Ben Jonson and William Shakespeare. It became England's most famous theatre and remained so until recent times.

shows for young hopeful actors and playwrights.

It is the duty of Blackfriars and like organizations in the theatre, Father Nagle says, to maintain beauty in the art form and to remember that beauty requires integrity, proportion and clarity.

In the '20's Father Nagle founded the New York Blackfriars, one of the first "off-Broadway" theatre groups. Through the years it has continued to attract audiences and critics and has become a

The Blackfriar in the white robe left an indelible mark on his Rochester fledglings.



## Textbook Survey Reveals

### Pupils Get Slanted View

Washington — (RNS) — A report issued here on 120 social studies textbooks used in the nation's elementary schools charged that they ignore the religious pluralism of American life, favoring Protestantism over Catholicism and Christianity over Judaism.

This claim was made in the three-year study entitled "The Treatment of Religion in Elementary School Social Studies Textbooks" by Dr. Judith J. Harris, a New York educator.

Findings of the survey, compiled for the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, Jewish service organization, were disclosed here at the League's 19th annual meeting. Samuel Dastner of New York, chairman of the League's program committee, released the report.

According to Dr. Harris' study, many textbook authors show anti-Catholic bias in their treatment of the Reformation, the survey stated, many Roman Catholic measures of persecution are detailed but similar steps taken by Protestants are ignored.

The Reformation, it claimed, is presented as a battle in

which the forces of good freed themselves from the forces of evil.

THE STUDY found that textbooks as a whole neglect Jewish history and Judaism after biblical times and do not discuss modern Jewish contributions to society. In addition, it was noted, the relationship of Jesus Christ to the Jews is often portrayed in a manner so superficial as to dispel anti-Semitic attitudes.

Religion, the survey stated, is stressed as a motivating force in past history, but on the contemporary level, however, it is pictured as being primarily a matter of church-going, with a limited role in welfare service and character education.

The report went on to state that only five of the eleven texts discussed Hitler and Nazism mentioned the subject of persecutions of the Jews.

Treatment accorded the persecution of other religious groups was also found wanting. The study said textbook authors mentioned the Crusades often

stressed misdeeds of Moslems, not those of Christians, and the treatment of the Inquisition and the Reformation generally pictured Catholics as the agents of reaction and Protestants as exclusive advocates of enlightenment.

### Peace Corps Team at BC

Newton — (RNS) — Boston College, a Jesuit university here, has been assigned to conduct a 10-week U.S. Peace Corps Training Program for 50 volunteers who will serve in a Community Development Program at Lima, Peru.

The development program for Peru is related to the field of community organization which has been an area of concentration at the school of social work. The Peruvian Peace Corps project is operated in cooperation with the Instituto de la Vivienda, an agency for urban housing.

### Germans Stem Smut Invasion

Bonn — (RNS) — Roman Catholic and Protestant authorities in West Germany have called on the federal government for increased efforts to halt the spread of obscene literature because of its "devastating effect" upon young people.

They referred to statistics issued recently by the Federal Literature Investigation Board which disclosed that 164 foreign publishing houses or export firms are still channelling 240 salacious periodicals into the country.

The report said that most of the publications come from the United States, followed by Sweden, England and France. The U.S. products were described as particularly objectionable because of an "ugly mixture of sex and sadism."

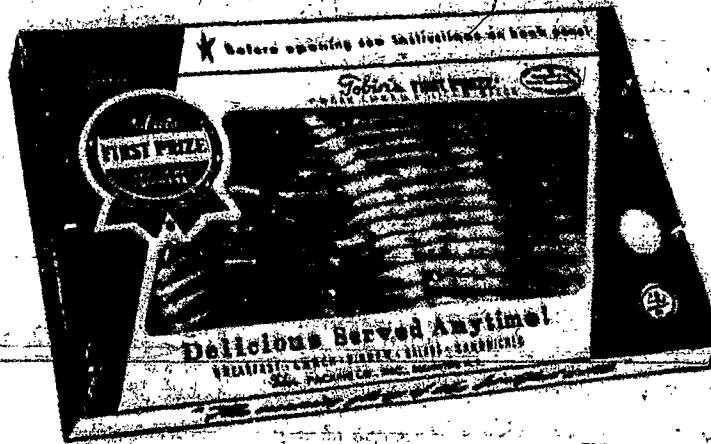
### Catholic Blood For Moslems

Algiers — (NC) — Archbishop Leon-Etienne Duval of Algiers took the lead in a "show of brotherhood" by responding to an appeal to Christians for blood donations during the Moslem month of fasting.



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