

# U. S. Catholics Called to Active Role In Current Turmoil on Racial Issue

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### Vocations' Lack Topic for Council Priests, Nuns Gain Only In U.S.

The following article gives some of the background for the Second Vatican Council's decision to make the lack of vocations a topic for discussion. It is expected to be one of the topics taken up by the bishops of the world when they gather in St. Peter's for the second session of the Second Vatican Council, which begins on September 29.

Why is it, the bishops want to know, that vocations flourish in some places and appear virtually nonexistent in others? The statistical-analyzing apparatus of today—the Pontifical Office for Religious Vocations in Rome—has a UNIVAC computer that is over a year old—shows the situation in bold relief.

Why are there such differences?

The Montreal archdiocese, for example, between the number of Catholics in certain countries and the number of priests serving them? In Belgium, for instance, the ratio of Catholics per priest is 600 to 1, while in Guatemala it is 11,000 to 1.

In the United States, while the ratio is 820 to 1, that figure is rapidly changing, for the Catholic population there has increased 35.9 per cent in the last decade and during the same time the priests have increased only 22.2 per cent.

The overall picture in the United States is one of a shortage of vocations. The Catholic population has been increasing steadily, while the number of priests has been decreasing. In Latin America the population increase has been explosive, for in the past five years the Catholics have doubled percentage-wise over the number of seminarians.

The few figures available for Africa and Asia show the beginning of similar phenomena. Some regions of Africa have already attained a condition like that of Latin America.

Only in the United States has there been an increase in the number of vocations. The enrollment in U.S. seminaries today totals some 47,000. All of the rest of the Catholic world at present has only some 50,000 seminarians. In the United States, with less than 10 per cent of the total Catholic population, accounts for almost half the seminarian students.

During the closing days of the first session of the Second Vatican Council, Leo Cardinal Suenens, Archbishop of Malines-Brussels, gave everyone present a copy of a book he had prepared on the changing conditions of religious vocations in the modern world. He had titled this study "The Nuns in the Modern World," but immediately qualified it. "When we talk of nuns," he said, "we have also in mind all souls dedicated to God whose object is visible apostolic propagation, such as brothers and sisters of all kinds."

Most of the recipients had time only to peek the book with curiosity before the attention was turned to the next item on the agenda. But during the intervening months all have now had a chance to read and evaluate. Cardinal Suenens' appeal for a more modern approach to the life of the religious life. He wants to extend the Church's apostolicity to new dimensions, and makes some startling suggestions for utilizing present personnel more effectively.

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### Pastoral To Be Read Sunday

Washington—(NC)—The Church and its agencies to the present racial crisis, for biracial discussions of national Catholic Bishops get personally involved in individual Catholics and mutual problems and have urged members of the quest for harmony during Church groups should sponsor, the bishops said. They urged similar action by civic associations.



Father Natale, paratrooper chaplain

### Sky-Ranger Priest 'Safe from Danger'

Valiant St. Michael, bear my call  
As through the sky I swiftly fall...  
St. Michael, help this sky-ranger  
To make a landing safe from danger.

A paratrooper priest who made an archangel his patron was entrusted this week to the company of angels for eternity.

Father Joseph Natale, husky and widely acclaimed as a priest who best filled the hazardous role of a U.S. Army chaplain, ended an honor-studded military career in death Friday, August 16, 1963.

Three bishops, scores of priests, hundreds of nuns and lay people attended his funeral at Sacred Heart Cathedral this Wednesday morning.

He had more than a hundred parachute jumps to his credit and yet despite an apparent bravado he admitted — "When I was ready to make my first jump, I was scared to death. Every jump after that, I was more scared."

His courage was not in a lack of fear but that he overcame it to be a priest to that hardy breed of men who face death in every step they take from airplanes streaking high above the earth.

Father Natale, 42, ordained in 1946, organized the St. Michael's Society for Catholics in the paratrooper corps of the U. S. Army. The organization maintains rigid religious requirements for its members and St. Michael, warrior angel, is their patron. A portion of the prayer-poem to the saint composed by Father Natale is at the head of this article.

Bishop Kearney offered the Requiem Mass at the Cathedral. Text of his eulogy will be in next week's Courier Journal.

Auxiliary Bishop Philip J. Furlong of New York represented Cardinal Spellman, spiritual shepherd of the nation's armed forces. Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence B. Casey of Rochester assisted at the Mass. All three bishops also presided at final grave-side rites in Holy Sepulchre Cemetery.

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### TV to Show Class for Blind

Newton, Mass. —(RNS)— Robert Ametola, a Boston artist, conducts a class in visualization for newly blinded adults at the St. Paul's Rehabilitation Center for the Blind in Newton, Mass. St. Paul's was founded by Father Thomas J. Carroll, its present director, in 1954 under auspices of Boston's Catholic Guild for All the Blind. Admission to the center is open to blind persons of any religious belief. St. Paul's has a staff of 40 therapists and instructors. They are headed by Dr. Thomas E. Caulfield, one of the nation's leading experts in the psychology of blindness. The center will be the subject of a documentary and dramatic film Sept. 8 on the "Look up and Live" program over the CBS-TV network. The film, shot on location at Newton, is being produced in cooperation with the National Council of Catholic Men.

### 'Let Fall the Barriers'

## Pope Renews Unity Plea to East

Gratiaterra —(NC)— "Let fall the barriers that separate us," Pope Paul VI pleaded in a homily to the pope and great Eastern Churches, and said: "Come! I were to state my feeling of unity, it would be truly expressed with the greatest sincerity and with the same fraternal expansion of spirit with which a bishop of the Catholic Church, Bishop (François) Charlier of Fribourg and Geneva, was authorized recently to go and honor Patriarch Alexei at Moscow on his 80th birthday."

The Pope said the purpose of the Swiss Bishop's journey to Moscow was "entirely with the intention of rendering homage and to show that there is no reason for rivalry or question of prestige or pride; that there is no question of ambition or desire to perpetuate discord or distances which might have had cause to exist but which are now altogether anachronistic."

The Pope took fully upon himself the task which he called Pope John had undertaken but was unable to see fulfilled in his lifetime. "I desire to make mine," he said, "the wish which, with sudden and spontaneous generosity, welled up in the heart of my predecessors, especially John XXIII. I wish to have the

### Upper Grades First To Go

Toledo —(NC)— The Catholic school superintendent here has said that if Toledo diocesan schools are ever forced to drop grades, he favors eliminating the upper grades, such as seventh and eighth grade.

Mr. N. H. Schumaker, in a pre-emptive statement he said enrollment in many schools here is already at the maximum, wrote.

"Should conditions in the Toledo diocese reach a crisis in regards to enrollment, it is my studied opinion that the primary and intermediate grades should be held open for all children."

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### Liturgy and Little Brothers

Santiago, Chile—The liturgical movement received some new advice from a young pupil here.

"What is the best way to assist at Mass?" asked Father Joseph R. English, M.M., of Newburgh, N.Y., during a catechism class in the Mary-Knoll parish.

"By leaving your kid brother at home," came the reply from a "knowing" girl in the back of the class.

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### Sudan Muslims Oust Three More Nuns

Rome, —(NC)— The government of the Sudan has expelled three more Catholic missionaries — all of them Verona Sisters.

The three said on arrival here that a Verona Father had also been ordered expelled from the Sudan, but was now in jail for refusing to sign a document stating that he was leaving the country because his work had been completed.

The nuns bring to 113 the number of Catholic missionaries ousted by the Muslim regime of President Ibrahim Abboud since the latter part of 1962. About 50 Protestant missionaries have also been expelled.

The missionaries were working among the primarily Negro tribes of the southern part of the Sudan, where there are now about 500,000 Christians in a predominantly pagan population of around four million. The country is dominated by the Muslim Arabs of the northern region, who constitute about two-thirds of the Sudan's 12 million people.

"It is only by open and free exchange of ideas that we can understand the rights and obligations that prevail on both sides."

The bishops — from the heads of small, almost-missionary dioceses to the five U.S. Princes of the Church — issued their appeal in a historic joint pastoral letter addressed to the nation's 43 million Catholics.

Released here through the National Catholic Welfare Conference, the letter also will be read from the pulpit of Catholic churches throughout the country this Sunday, August 25.

(Full text, page 4)

It bluntly says that the nation must remove inequalities stemming from race, that public authorities must help correct the evils of discrimination, that no good Catholic can fail to recognize the rights of all citizens to vote and that the racial question confronts the conscience of every American.

"The most crucial test of love of God is love of neighbor," said the bishops.

The pastoral noted that the hierarchy has condemned racial discrimination twice in the past 1043 and 1958. But it said that in the "present crisis," the bishops wish to offer "some pastoral suggestions for a Catholic approach to racial harmony."

Condemning all forms of discrimination and segregation based on prejudice, the bishops counseled Catholics: "It is our strict duty to respect the basic human rights of every person."

"We know," they said, "that public authority is obliged to help correct the evils of unjust discrimination practiced against any group or class. We also recognize that every minority group in America seeking its lawful rights has the obligation of respecting the lawful rights of others."

"No Catholic with a good Christian conscience," they added, "can fail to recognize the rights of all citizens to vote."

"Moreover, we must provide for all equal opportunities for employment. Full participation in our public and private educational facilities, proper housing and adequate welfare assistance when needed."

APPEALING for action to increase knowledge of the attitudes among both races before action is taken to correct inequities, the Bishops said.

"We can show our Christian charity by a quiet and courageous determination to make the racial harmony a matter of personal involvement. We must go beyond slogans and generalizations about color and realize that all of us are human beings, men, women and children, all sharing the same human nature and dignity, with the same desires, hopes and feelings. We should try to know and understand one another."

Catholic parish and diocesan societies, along with political gatherings and civic associations, can provide the "common meeting grounds," the prelates said.

We may act through the various lay organizations of the Church as well as with civic groups of every type," they said. "In many parts of the nation, there are interracial committees representing the major religious faiths as well as important aspects of civic life. We bless and endorse such efforts."

Civic action will be more fruitful, the Bishops said, if all citizens "openly and explicitly proclaim the religious basis of racial justice and love."

### Race Hate Nation's Top Problem

Newark, N.J. —(NC)— Racism was characterized as the nation's most serious domestic evil in a declaration of conscience issued by religious leaders at the first Greater Newark Conference on Religion and Race.

The declaration was drafted by Catholic, Protestant and Jewish clergymen and was read to some 400 participants in the conference at Essex Catholic High School by Father Aloisius Welsh, coordinator of interracial justice programs for the Newark archdiocese and one of the prime movers in the conference.