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Marists Chart Unified Program

Boston—(RNS)—Marist provincial and leaders met in Boston to study methods for coordinating their work in the U.S. It was the first combined meeting of Marist Fathers, Brothers and Sisters since they began their apostolate in this country. Participants in the study included Sister Mary Augustine, editor of Marist Missions, who displays an original illustration for Father Stanley Hollis, S.M., Rome representative for Marist publications, and Brother Christopher, S.M., of Esopus, N.Y.

Cured at Lourdes Now a Nun

Dublin—(RNS)—An Irish girl, whose doctors pronounced her incurable, crippled eight years ago, has made her profession of vows as a member of the Sisters of the Holy Family at Stockport, England.

The story of Mary Henry of Dalkey, County Dublin—now Sister Marie Bernard—began when she was taken on a pilgrimage to the shrine of Our Lady in Lourdes in France eight years ago.

She was so hopelessly crippled that her left leg was doubled-up behind her neck and she was unable to hold even a cup in her hand.

What happened is told by her mother, who has her a tearful goodbye as she left by plane with a group of other pilgrims in August, 1955.

"Mary was wrapped in a blanket from head to foot. The doctors had said they could do nothing for her, and we had very little hope of a cure. But on the morning of Aug. 7, in the hospital in Lourdes, Mary suddenly woke from her sleep and began to move her hands.

"Judge our great surprise when we got a card from her written in her own hand (which had been unable to hold a pen), saying, 'Dear Mum: I'm willing to do anything you want me to do, and I am feeling grand.'

"Dodie (the family name for Mary) had been cured. She was able to walk about again, and became perfectly healthy. It was not until I saw her at the airport on her return with the other pilgrims that I realized the great miracle that had happened."

Her cure has not been officially recognized, since it requires ten years for the Lourdes Medical Bureau to certify a cure as beyond medical explanation. But it is believed she may and even of future generations become the first Irish girl to be recognized as having been miraculously cured at Lourdes.

Realtors Blamed In Housing Bias

San Francisco—(RNS)—Msgr. George G. Higgins charged here that the National Association of Realtors is encouraging racial discrimination in housing.

The prominent authority on Catholic social teachings and the organization's recent policy statement which upheld absolute property rights means "that the social teaching of the church has had practically no influence in the real estate profession."

Msgr. Higgins is director of the Social Action Department of the National Catholic Welfare Conference, Washington, D.C. He spoke here (Sept. 12) at a local conference on Negroes and race at which nearly every church in the city was represented.

In his address, Msgr. Higgins said Negroes have "the duty" to stand up for their rights and "Christians ought to explain this to their congregations."

He also said white Americans are free to disagree with the Negro's tactics in the civil rights drive. But he added: "On the other hand, they are not free to tell the Negro to sit back patiently and wait for time to vindicate his rights."

Msgr. Higgins said that while he did not rate President Kennedy's civil rights proposals "a perfect bill," it is a "great step forward."

"It is to be hoped," he said, "that religious organizations will do everything within their power to encourage the Congress to enact this bill into law at the earliest possible date."

Msgr. Higgins brought in the National Association of Real Estate Boards because, he said, its opposition to open occupancy legislation "is so diametrically opposed to traditional Catholic teaching on the subject of property."

The association, which he said represents 74,000 individual real estate agents and 1,335 local boards, recently adopted at a Chicago meeting of its board of directors a policy statement on property rights.

Msgr. Higgins said that the statement held that property owners have the right to own and enjoy their property according to their own dictates and the right to occupy and dispose of it without government interference.

"To call a spade a spade, this means that, in NAREB's opinion, property owners should have the legal right to discriminate against Negroes," he said.

Patronism Topic Taught

Washington—(RNS)—Archbishop Patrick A. O'Boyle of Washington told more than 1,200 teachers in the parochial school system of the national capital area that "they are doing more to teach patronism than the virtues of citizenship that really count than any group I know of."

The archbishop spoke at the annual Mass for teachers in the 22 elementary and 33 secondary schools of the diocese at St. Matthew's Cathedral.

Thinking the teachers for the contributions they make to good citizenship and morally, Archbishop O'Boyle reminded them that "what you teach today will affect the lives of your students and even of future generations. But it is believed she may and even of future generations become the first Irish girl to be recognized as having been miraculously cured at Lourdes."

After Riots Against Negro Couple Laymen Aid in Clean-up

Winston, Pa.—(RNS)—Several Catholic laymen from the Philadelphian area put teachings of the Church to work during a violent racial crisis here.

Almost simultaneously with Pope Paul's appeal for lay assistance in Catholic action, two area lay organizations took the Catholic initiative in coming to the aid of a young Negro couple who moved into predominantly white Delmar Village here amid rioting and terrorism.

Four members of the Catholic Lay Council of Bucks County, Pa., and three members of the St. Martin de Porres Society of Philadelphia joined several Protestant clergymen in restoring the heavily damaged home of Florence and Sara Baker.

The St. Martin group had been formed only last month in time to charter a bus and join the August 28 civil rights March on Washington.

The Catholic assistance came four days after a mob of more than 1,500 persons ransacked the Baker home a shambles. Insults, bricks, bottles, eggs and children's marbles and yo-yoes were hurled at the Negro couple's house.

The day following the riot, a group of Protestant clergymen, municipal officials and representatives of civic groups held an emergency meeting to map plans for alleviating the situation and mustering financial help for the Bakers. No Catholic representatives attended the meeting.

The next evening about 35 laymen gathered at the Baker home to help police work off a second onslaught.

THE TWO Catholic groups—St. Martin de Porres and the Lay Council—arrived on Labor Day and staged an impromptu cleanup operation.

Father Robert Heim, C.S.S., of Holy Cross Preparatory School, Cornwall, Pa., also arrived. He attracted a picture of St. Martin de Porres, the Latin American saint who was canonized last year.

"We are all very sorry and we'd like to help out," Father Heim told the Bakers.

"Father Heim's little presentation was the spur for our group," said John Malloy, a member of the Bucks County lay group. "We buckled down and went to work."

According to Malloy, "Sara was everywhere." Father Heim tried to talk to some of the people in the neighborhood, but he couldn't get anywhere. The situation was too emotional," he said.

(Malloy later disclosed that the Rev. Paul A. Corcoran, pastor of the Presbyterian Church, had received violent and threatening letters from neighborhood people for his part in the operation.)

Legion of Mary Region Meeting

New York—(RNS)—The New York region of the Legion of Mary, which includes New York, New Jersey and Pennsylvania, will hold a four-day conference here starting October 10.

The first three days of the meeting at the Hotel Commodore will be devoted to talks and exhibits of the works of the legion, including recruiting Negroes in the civil and extension, apostolate to the crowd, the crusade for souls, the holiday apostolate, social service, paritarian meetings and Junior Legionnaires.

The legionnaires will spend the final day in various parts of the city performing some of the works previously studied.

Smith Memorial

New York—(RNS)—The 19th annual Alfred E. Smith Memorial Foundation Dinner will be held October 16 at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel here.

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Church's Men

(RNS)—The new and improved Church's Men is being advertised throughout the city of Cincinnati in a series of posters.

The posters feature a man in a suit and tie, looking directly at the viewer. The text on the posters is partially obscured but appears to be an advertisement for Church's Men clothing.

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