

Bishop's Mass, Sermon at Immaculate Conception Sunday, 8:30 a.m. In Quest for Racial Justice

"I'm a good Catholic but I don't think the Church should get involved in politics and integration!"

That statement, in one form or another, has been made frequently since the Rochester Catholic Interracial Council joined the Protestant Council of Churches and the Jewish Community Council to back the city's public school "open enrollment" program.

State Supreme Court Justice William G. Easton last week ruled the program was simply an attempt to reduce de facto segregation in the schools and therefore, he said, contrary to the New York State Constitution.

The legal aspects of the case will have to be decided by experts more competent in state law than are we.

So also a higher Judge will have to decide just how "good" are the Catholics who object to the Catholic Interracial Council's role in the case.

We assume, of course, that "good" Catholics have steeped themselves in the guidance given by recent popes and the nation's bishops on this subject of integration.

These "good" Catholics undoubtedly remember that Pope Pius XII in 1946 told American Negro publishers: "All men are made brothers in Jesus Christ; for He, though God, became also Man; became a member of the human family, a brother of all."

These same "good" Catholics also recall that the U.S. Catholic bishops in 1958 said, "The heart of the race question is moral and religious."

They also are aware that last year Bishop Kearney said the response white people make to the needs of victims of racial bias is "the ultimate test of our understanding of Christianity." He said we all are obligated as Christians to carry out "the unfinished business of the Emancipation Proclamation."

We would like to ask the "good" Catholics who are so outspoken against efforts at integration what positive action they have taken to fulfill this "unfinished business" — what they have done to show themselves a "brother" with Christ to their Negro fellow citizens — what they have done in the search for a workable answer to this "moral and religious" question of how best to achieve the goal of equality for all Americans?

When their actions match in wisdom and prudence and prayerfulness the actions of the Catholic Interracial Council, then we'll more readily admit their claim as good Catholics.

This Sunday all Catholics will do well to join Bishop Kearney as he prays and preaches at Immaculate Conception Church in Rochester at the 8:30 a.m. Mass for interracial justice.

—Father Henry Atwell



Prayers for Vocations this Sunday

Crisis Point Near In Work for Souls

The first World Day of Prayer for religious vocations will be observed April 12 — Good Shepherd Sunday — to fulfill a command of the world's Saviour. "The harvest indeed is great. Pray ye the Lord of the harvest to send laborers into His vineyard."

Pope Paul designated the day of prayer, Vatican Radio stated this week, "to unite the prayers of the whole world in one great effort and to make mankind more conscious of the problem of religious vocations."

Bishop Kearney, in a letter to priests of the Rochester Diocese, has directed that sermons in parish churches this Sunday "be devoted to the subject of vocations — to the priesthood, diocesan and religious, to the sisterhoods and brotherhoods."

He said the sermons should point out to the Catholic people "the frightening lack of religious vocations to provide future pastors of souls and teachers of God's Word to continue Christ's work of salvation throughout the world."

The Bishop also directed that the prayer printed in the right of this article be said following the vocation sermons.

Vatican Radio in its announcement about the World Day of Prayer for Vocations noted that Pope John proposed the idea for its observance throughout Italy in 1961. "The good results achieved in all the Italian dioceses led to the extension of Vocation Day to the whole world," the Vatican Radio stated.

Also in Rome this week, the Vatican's vocation director, U.S. Passionist Father, Godfrey Poage said worldwide response to the Vocation Day idea has been "enthusiastic."

He held a sheaf of letters from dozens of nations reporting their Vocation Day programs — and asking that more priests, nuns and brothers be sent to aid them in the quest for souls.

"The first step in any vocation program is prayer," Father Poage said. "We need prayers in the whole world to reverse the downward trend in vocations. When you consider that one country, the United States, out of 95 nations accounts for 80% of all religious vocations you begin to see the dimensions of the problem."

Vatican Aides At UN Meet

Rome — (RNS) — The Vatican will be represented by two observers at a regional seminar on freedom of information which will be held here April 7-20 under the sponsorship of the United Nations.

It was expected most non-Communist countries would send delegates to the seminar.

FATHER POAGE gave a series of brief examples of the vocation picture in various countries as compelling reasons why a worldwide day of prayer is vitally needed.

In France, he said, only 8% of all priests, Brothers and Sisters are under 35. In the north of Spain, particularly the Basque Country, vocations are good but in the south very few are to be found. England's clergy is largely Irish, and even Ireland is sending fewer priests to other lands this year than last.

Belgium is a bright spot in the vocation picture, Father Poage said, but the Scandinavian countries are providing few vocations.

Whole areas of Latin America are producing virtually no vocations. The priest said this is largely due to poor educational systems. In Africa, he said vocations are harassed continuously because of the political unrest and underdevelopment.

On the bright side, however, Father Poage said, "Here is a letter from Cuba and they promise to promote the day as well as possible. Here is another from Montevideo. Fifty-eight women of religious congregations in Uruguay have promised continuous adoration throughout the day for more vocations, and every provincial and major superior in the country has promised to celebrate three Masses for vocations in connection with this observance."

Belgian Church leaders wrote to acknowledge the Pope's appeal and pointed out that a new center for vocations has been opened in Brussels. The Church in some countries, such as the Congo and Syria, replied that although they had no formal organizations such as conferences of major religious superiors, the Pope's desires have been conveyed to individual congregations by the papal representatives in their respective countries.

Letters from Thailand, Malaysia, Ethiopia, Iraq and Iran all promised maximum cooperation, Father Poage said.

"Prayer is the first requirement," Father Poage repeated, "and this we are doing from now on with a permanent annual observance on the second Sunday after Easter everywhere, with the universal Church united in praying for workers for the vineyard."

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...if I be lifted up from the earth, will draw all things to myself.—John xiii, 32.

Prayer For Vocations

Lord Jesus Christ, Savior of the world!

We humbly beg of Thee to manifest in Thy Church the Spirit Whom Thou didst so abundantly bestow upon Thy Apostles. Call, we pray Thee, very many to Thy priesthood and to the religious life.

And may zeal for Thy Glory and the salvation of souls inflame those whom Thou hast chosen; may they be saints in Thy likeness, and may Thy spirit strengthen them.

O Jesus, give us priests and religious according to Thine own Heart!

N.Y. Cardinal Spellman To Mark Jubilees

New York — (NC) — Priests, nuns and laymen of the New York archdiocese will celebrate two anniversaries with Cardinal Spellman on May 3, 4 and 22 — his 25th year as Archbishop of New York and his 75th birthday.

On May 3 Cardinal Spellman will offer a solemn Mass in St. Patrick's cathedral for the laity.

On May 4, his birthday, the Cardinal will offer another Solemn Mass in the cathedral for the nuns of the archdiocese.

On May 22, anniversary of his enthronement as Archbishop of New York, Cardinal Spellman will offer a special Mass of thanksgiving in the cathedral with priests and brothers of the archdiocese.



Bishop Kearney was one of the nation's 195 Catholic bishops at a meeting in Washington last week to decide on English texts to be used at Mass. With him in photo are Bishops Louis Reicher of Austin, Texas; Leo Dworschak of Fargo, North Dakota, and eastern rite Archbishop Ambrose Senysyn of Philadelphia. (NC Photo)

Vatican Approval Awaited

English Mass Text OK'd

Use of English instead of Latin at Mass and other Church rites moved closer to reality as 198 U.S. Catholic bishops met last week in the nation's capital.

Their decision to adopt nationwide a standard English text has been submitted to the Vatican for final approval.

"When this is forthcoming," said Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, head of the bishops' Commission on Liturgy, "it will be put into effect in the United States, as soon as possible."

A spokesman in Washington said the most likely date for the first use of English at Mass will be the first Sunday of Advent, Nov. 29, the beginning of a new liturgical year.

No details of the text decided on have been announced. "Nothing can be said" until the Vatican acts on the American bishops' proposals, Archbishop Dearden said.

Both Bishop Kearney and Bishop Casey attended the meeting held at the Catholic University.

The world's Catholic bishops

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at the Vatican Council last autumn voted to use local languages in Church rites and also called for a drastic revision of ceremonies to make them "short, clear, and unencumbered by useless repetitions."

Educators Vote Reply To Schools' Critic

Atlantic City — (RNS) — A group of Catholic educators voted to raise \$40,000 to answer arguments in a book challenging value of the Catholic school system in America.

The action was taken by the Primary Education Department of the National Catholic Educational Association at its 61st annual meeting here. The money is to come in \$5 donations from the NCEA's 8,000 elementary school members.

Proposed by Msgr. William E. McManus, president of the department and superintendent of schools in the Chicago archdiocese, the defense plan was approved by some 3,000 members of the department.

PUBLISHED recently, the book is "Are Parochial Schools the Answer?" In it Mrs. Ryan, a Catholic, contends that the Catholic school system is obsolete and hindering the preparation of the lives of young Catholic pupils.

She urges the Catholic Church to leave the field of

general education and to concentrate on the religious training of children.

The book has been under attack by some Catholic educators throughout the nation.

Msgr. McManus said that Mrs. Ryan "writes about our children when she doesn't know anything about educating them." The priest said the \$40,000 drive would "expose the book as simply the example of poor writing it really is."

He said the money will be used to hire an author to make an intensive year's research of all phases of Catholic schools throughout the country. The author, he added, will then put together what he has found in reputation to Mrs. Ryan's observations.

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