

# Diversity, Curse Or Blessing

Cincinnati (NC)—A visiting German Benedictine abbot likened today's division among Christians to a divine punishment like the confusion of tongues at the tower of Babel.

Abbot Laurentius Klein, O.S.B., of St. Matthias Abbey, Trier, Germany, expressed confidence that the German Catholic Church will bring its members together at the first Pentecost of the people who had been separated at Babel.

The abbot, an authority on ecumenism and official adviser to the German bishops and Protestant groups on Christian unity in Germany, told some 10 Protestant and Catholic clergy and lay leaders that while the "Church is indivisible," too much emphasis may have been placed on unity and not enough on "multiculturally and diversely."

"Perhaps we shall come out with a statement," he said, "declaring that the universal Church of Christ exists in many churches, as God exists in three persons."

"I think that the non-Roman Catholic Christian communities," he said, "can be considered as members of the universal Church of Christ, but in an implicit way."

What needs to be done, the abbot added, is to "develop our common Christian heritage and personal salvation."

that we can overcome the obstacles to reunion."

"We must approach the non-Roman Catholic Christian churches as communities," he said. "It is not allowed for us to stay in separation, but we are not allowed to destroy the nature and character of our Christian communities as communities; for they are supernatural realities and instruments of salvation."

In coming together as communities, "we must have principles of unity while retaining diversity in our liturgy, our church government, and our method of teaching," the abbot said.

"What these principles of unity are, must be elaborated by our ecumenical dialogues," he said.

The Benedictine abbot also cited "the new Biblical theologies" as a source of ecumenism.

"Today, Catholics are rediscovering the existential character of the Biblical message," he stressed. "What is, they are asking: What does the message mean for me and for my personal salvation?"

## India Eucharistic Congress To Do Work of Thousands

Washington (NC)—A hundred thousand missionaries in a hundred years may not be able to publicize Christ on such a vast scale and with such good will all around as the International Eucharistic Congress may do in India.

This was the prediction of Father Herman D'Souza, general secretary of the nine-day congress scheduled to begin in Bombay Nov. 28.

## Romania Bans Hungarian Rite

Bomb (NC)—The German Catholic news agency KNA reported here that the Rumanian government has forbidden the use of the Hungarian language in Mass in the many dioceses in northeastern Rumania. It is estimated there are about 80,000 Hungarian-speaking Roman Catholics in the area.

KNA also reported that the embassy of a neutral country is negotiating with the Rumanian government for permission to send the third session of the Council for a Rumanian bishop to the Vatican Council this fall. It said the prelate in question, Bishop Aaron Martin of Alba Julia, has not been able to make his required "ad limina" visits to the Holy See to attend the first two sessions of the Council. Bishop Martin, now 67, has been Bishop of Alba Julia since February, 1959.

## GOD LOVE YOU!

By MOST REV. FULTON J. SHEEN

Have you ever seen a person cross a muddy road by stepping on little rocks placed at convenient spots? Is this the way our parishes are in cities, and our dioceses in the world? Are they little ghettos and spiritual fortresses in which we take refuge to avoid getting involved in the muck and mud of the city's crime and the dirty puddle of the world's hunger and poverty? What concern is there for the "sheep not of the fold," for the "sheep without a shepherd," for those non-parochial, non-diocesan areas which made Jesus weep as He looked over such a city and such a world?

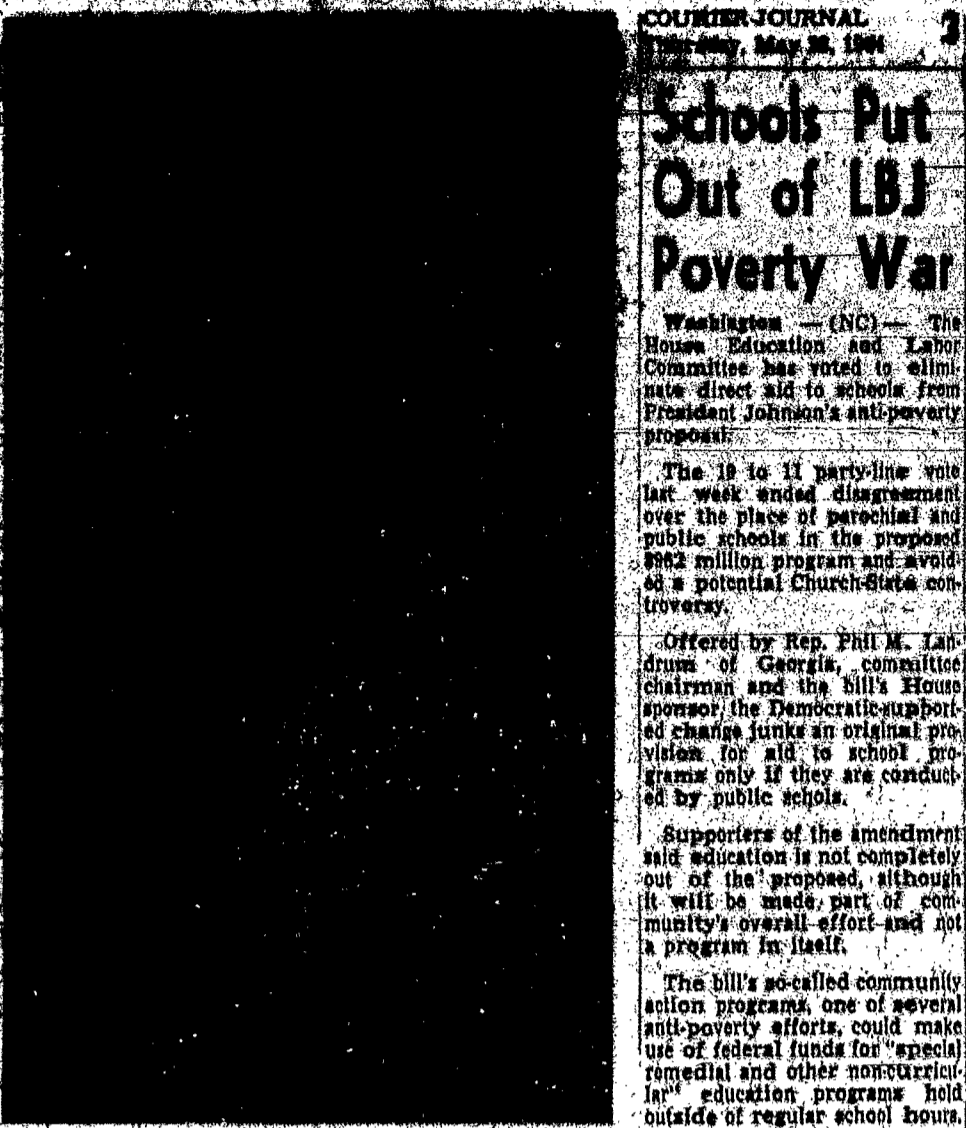
A parish is not jurisdictionally responsible for a city or diocese. It is morally responsible for the world. Our Lord often spoke about the world: "God so loved the world," "I am the Light of the world," "I have come to save the world." And He delegated the same responsibility to His Apostles: "I send you into the world." If the parish lives for itself, the city suffers. If the diocese lives for itself, the Prince of the World takes possession of it!

May the Holy Spirit inspire our bishops, priests and laity to realize that the exit from the altar is not the security but the broken world. The Communion rail is the prelude to loving action in the world. The Eucharist, the Lord's Supper, was not instituted to be eaten at death; it was instituted to be eaten at life. It is not only those who are already rich, but those who become rich and unspiritual and identify the Kingdom of God with the addition of barn to barn. Give to the poor, wherever they are—in your slums, in the hovels of Latin America, in the paper colonies of Africa. Yes, the poor! Pray not only for your own needs, but make your lips one with the lonely hearts who cry out in their despair: "My God, why hast Thou forsaken Me!"

Begin thinking your spiritual life! We all belong to spiritual entities where hundreds are united. We are members of the Mystical Body we saw made at heaven's entrance in the clouds and as all of the earth. Look for Christ everywhere, in the varied faces of the spiritual homeland. In the Magdalene, in those for whom the Vine of Christ must trouble his soul. Revolve your life. Give principally to those who give to the poor and make on West Street Investments. Better still, give to the Vine of Christ through the Society for the Propagation of the Faith and allow the Holy Father to make the distribution.

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## Schools Put Out of LBJ Poverty War

Washington (NC)—The House Education and Labor Committee has voted to eliminate direct aid to schools from President Johnson's anti-poverty program.

The 19 to 11 party-line vote last week ended disagreement over the phase of per capita public schools in the proposed \$600 million program and averted a potential Church-State controversy.

Offered by Rep. Phil M. Landrum, a Georgia committee chairman and the bill's House sponsor, the Democratic-sponsored change junks an original provision for aid to school programs only if they are conducted by public schools.

Supporters of the amendment said education is not completely out of the proposed, although it will be made part of community's overall effort and not a program in itself.

The bill's so-called community action program, one of several anti-poverty efforts, could make use of federal funds for "special remedial and other non-curricular" education programs held outside of regular school hours.

## Pope and Senator

Vatican City (RNS)—Pope Paul VI receives Sen. Edward M. Kennedy (D-Mass.) at a private audience in the papal library. The senator, youngest brother of the late President Kennedy, said the pontiff had taken "this occasion to express his sincere sympathy to the Kennedy family." He was the first Kennedy to have an audience with Pope Paul since the President's assassination last November. The senator was on a European fund-raising tour in connection with the John F. Kennedy Memorial Library to be built in Boston.

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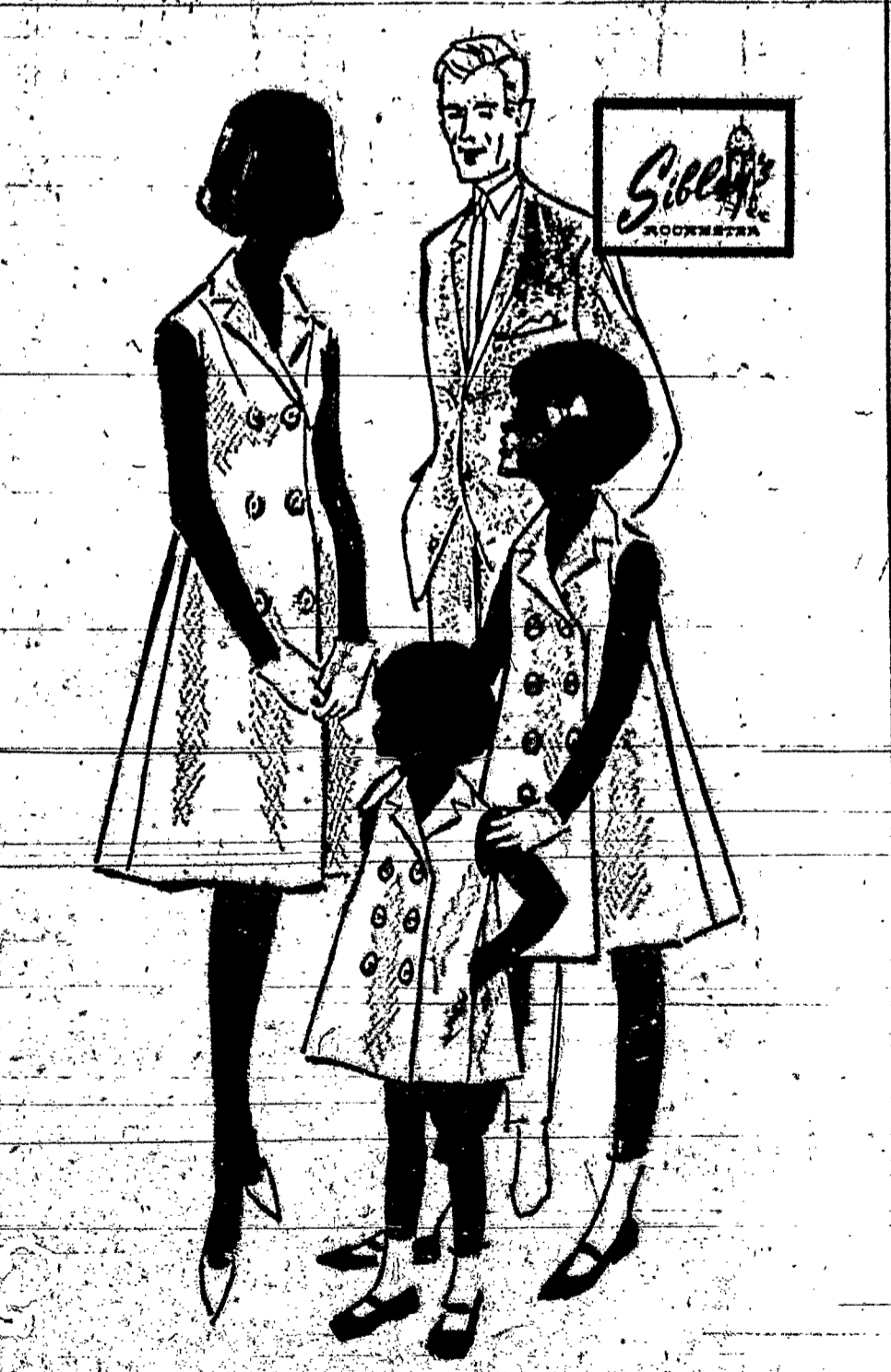
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