

Called To Vows

Cleveland — (RNS) — Three members of the Joseph Gray family of Cleveland will enter religious life within the next few months, there by writing an unusual chapter in the religious formation of a family. Joseph Gray, first in a convent of the Catholic Church four years ago, will enter St. Joseph College (Collegeville, Ind.) to begin studies as a Brother of the Society of the Precious Blood. His younger brother, James, will enter Brunerdale Seminary, Canton, to study for the priesthood in the same order. Sometime after the first of the year, James will go to Cincinnati to enter the Sisters of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd. They are among the seven children of the Gray family which was baptized as a group two years ago.



The Nun of Next Century

Cincinnati — (NC) — The Sister of the 21st century will look different but will have a deeper understanding of her religious vocation and will be in closer touch with the laity. A panel of 20th-century Sisters agreed on this as they discussed the Sister of the future for the 400 top officials of religious orders attending the annual meeting of the Conference of Major Superiors of Women held at the College of Mt. St. Joseph here.

She will be imbued with a deep sense of the social nature of her vows.

She will be a modern version of St. Paul's ancient picture of God's Chosen People. Her habit will be the livery of tender compassion, kindness, humility, gentleness, and patience, and her crown, "charity."

The panelists agreed that the Sister of the 21st century "already is in our novitiates," and has been freed from many of the "inhibitions" of earlier generations.

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God's World

The Aged Parent

By REV. LEO J. TRESE

A reader has written to ask guidance on a problem which is fairly common in our day. It is the problem of the aged parent in the home of a son or daughter. In this particular instance it is a daughter who writes. Her mother, in her seventies, has been crippled by a stroke. She is not confined to bed but must have assistance in all that she does. In addition to caring for her mother, the daughter must minister to needs of her husband and five young and active children. The daughter is finding the task to be more than she can cope with and feels she is on the verge of a breakdown. What should she do?

IT IS DANGEROUS to offer off-the-cuff advice in this matter. Each such case is an individual problem with ramifications which need careful consideration. This lady, and any others with a similar problem, would do well to seek guidance from a family counselor at the local Catholic Charities office. Face to face discussion with a skilled and experienced adviser will lead to a more confident decision.

However, it does seem obvious that this correspondent should place her mother in a nursing home. The lady's first duty is to her husband and children. Their needs and welfare must come first. It will be no charity to anyone if this woman suffers such physical and nervous exhaustion that she cannot properly discharge her duties as a wife and mother.

This does not mean that she has no responsibility to her mother. The fourth commandment obliges us to assist our parents in their time of need to the full extent of our ability. However, the fourth commandment does not bind us to the personal care of an afflicted parent if that care can be handled by other duties which have precedence.

Sometimes, in such situations, there is a financial obstacle. Nursing homes are expensive. Homes for the aged poor, conducted by Sisters, usually have long waiting lists. If family resources are limited, they mean turning to the county authorities for financial assistance in the placement of the parent. If this is necessary, false shame should not be allowed to stand in the way. It is our own taxes which maintain state and county social services. We must make use of these services, let us remember that we have paid for them in advance.

FOR MANY sons and daughters the problem is one of confidence rather than of money. Usually when an aged parent becomes a burden it is largely because the parent's mental facilities have become impaired by a stroke or by the onset of senility. Consequently the parent is unable to see the situation in true perspective and with childish stubbornness or with weeping self-pity, resists the idea of a change of residence.

The son or daughter, recalling the years of self-sacrificing love and care received from

Airmen Help Migrants

Amarillo, Tex. — (NC) — A group of volunteer U.S. airmen headed by a priest from the Springfield, Ill., diocese are spreading their Saturdays to improve conditions for migrant workers living in a former prisoner of war camp in the Texas Panhandle.

Director of the effort is Father Thomas Gallenbach of Decatur, Ill., Catholic chaplain at Amarillo Air Force Base.

Father Gallenbach, who initiated the project, said more than 50 airmen travel each Saturday to the St. Joseph Mission labor camp near Hereford, about 45 miles southwest of Amarillo.

"Although the weekends are free for most student airmen and a trip to town is invited, these men instead dedicate their free time to helping those who need help to help themselves," Father Gallenbach said.

During the peak of the harvest season, more than 2,500 persons live in the camp. About 100 families stay year-round.

In less than two months, helpful airmen have completed badly needed carpentry work, put in sidewalks, cleaned out areas of future playgrounds and are in the process of digging a ditch for a sewage system.

A barber has set up a one-chair shop to give haircuts to children. Nurses from the base hospital often join the weekly visit to help at the camp's hospital and relieve overworked staff nurses.

"The enthusiasm shown is almost unbelievable," Father Gallenbach stated. "The project started just as a means for helping the men find something worthwhile to do on a free Saturday. But it has blossomed into one of the most successful public relations and humanitarian projects the base has ever experienced."

Father Gallenbach said that it has come to the point where there are more volunteers than can be accommodated on the buses.

Rural Life Conference Seeks Farm Federation

St. Louis — (NC) — The National Catholic Rural Life Conference has resolved to work with other church groups to bring major farm organizations into a proposed "American Federation of Agriculture."

Purpose of the federation, the NCRLC resolution said, would be "to give agriculture a united and effective voice in the councils of the nation, without destroying the identity of the participating organizations."

Five major farm organizations were specifically named in the resolution adopted at the end of the NCRLC's 40th convention: the National Farmers Union, the American Farm Bureau Federation, the National Farmers Organization, the National Grange and the National Council of Farmer Cooperatives.

The resolution proposed that the NCRLC working with the rural life groups of other religious bodies act as a catalyst in calling an organizational meeting.

Cooperation of national bodies of various churches would be sought in bringing about the admittedly difficult task of bringing together major farm groups, said Msgr. Edward W. O'Rourke, executive director of NCRLC.

The proposal for an American Federation of Agriculture first was advanced at the convention by Howard A. Cowden, a Protestant and a founder of the Consumers Cooperative Association, is a consultant for an insurance company.

The proposed organization "could be constructed so each of the existing organizations might continue as now, performing most of the services each is engaged in at present, but leaving national policy to the American Federation of Agriculture," he proposed.

Catholic Schools Admit Negroes in Alabama

Mobile, Ala. — (NC) — Catholic elementary and secondary schools in Alabama peacefully registered Negro students in line with a decision announced in April.

School officials declined to release statistics on the extent of integration in the Mobile-Birmingham diocese's 15 high schools and 86 elementary schools. The system enrolls about 26,000 students.

Archbishop Thomas J. Toole announced the decision to desegregate in an April letter read in all churches. "I know this will not meet with the approval of many of our people, but in justice and charity, this must be done," he said then.

Gov. George Wallace of Alabama told an audience in Wisconsin earlier this year he would not interfere in the Catholic schools' desegregation. He said the issue was entirely one for the Church.

Indian Nuns In Germany

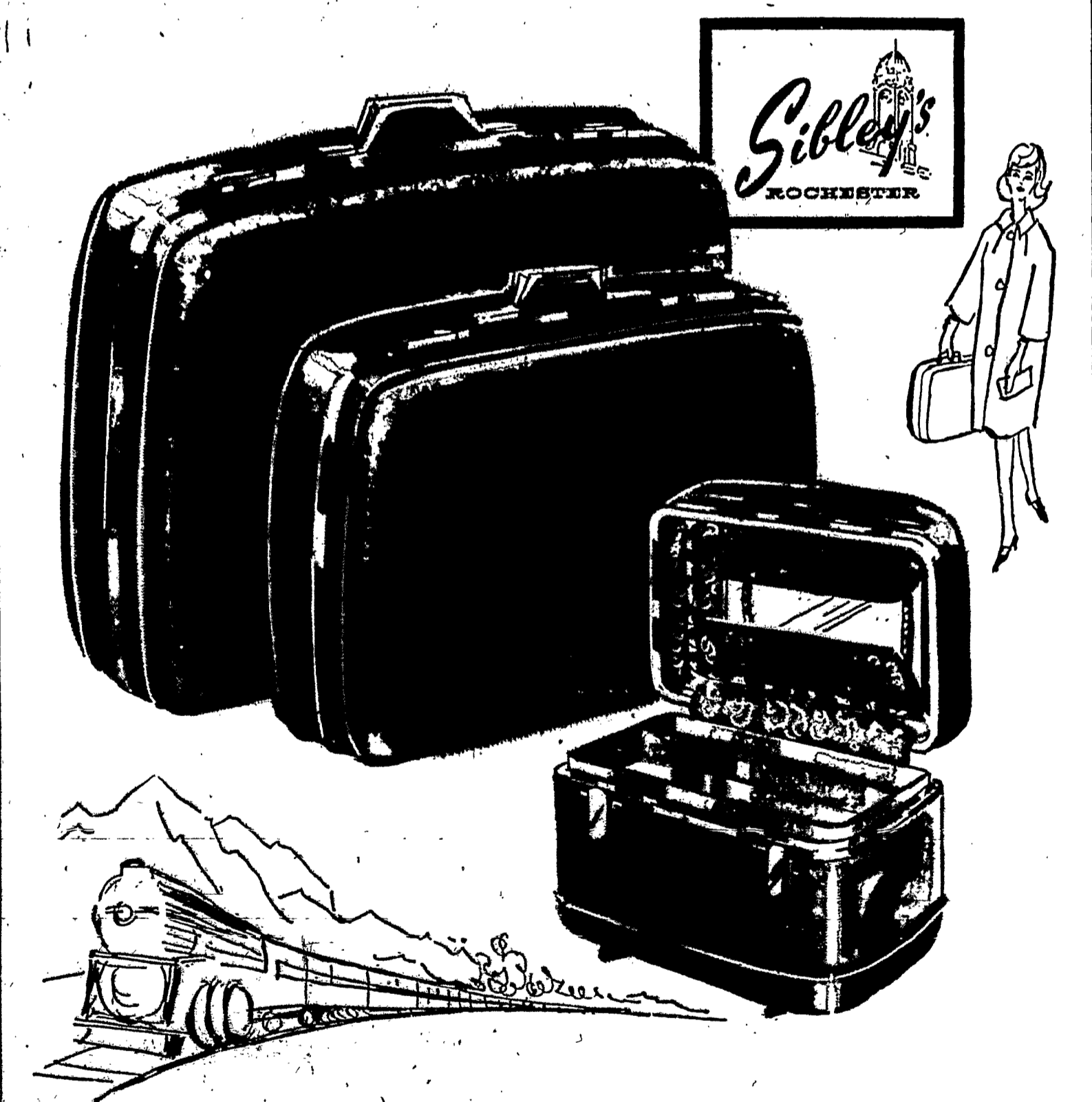
Cochin, India — (NC) — Five Syro-Malabar rite nuns have left here for West Germany to serve in a poor house which is short of personnel.

The nuns left in the company of Syro-Malabar rite Archbishop Joseph Parecattil of Ernakulam, who will travel with them to their new home before going to Rome for the ecumenical council's third session.

The nuns are members of the Congregation of the Sisters of the Desolata, whose motherhouse is at Changanamberry about 20 miles from here. The congregation is well known for works of mercy in hospitals, poor houses and homes for the aged.



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