Challenge To Nun:

Some Don't Talk Enough

TALKING NUN: Sister Leo goes over a point in her "verbal stimulation" project with program supervisor Belford Fisher.

Washington — Talk is cheap, but to an under-privileged child between 15 months and 3 years of age, it could mean the difference between his staying underprivileged the rest of his life or being able to eventually make something of himself.

This is the theory that Sister Mary Leo Vincelette is going on in a federally-financed project she is directing here — a project that consists primarily of talk.

Each weekday since last September, tutors under Sister Leo's direction have been visiting the homes of 30 underprivileged children to do nothing but talk with them for an hour — about objects in the home, tables, chairs, pictures; naming them; taking the children for a walk around the block, pointing out dogs, trees, policemen, naming them; casually but deliberately getting the children to talk about them.

"We're trying to supply the normal conversation that they don't get," said Sister Leo, who is directing the project for the Social Research Bureau of Catholic University and who has had extensive experience working with inner-city children.

The nun, a member of the Sisters of Notre Dame de Namur, cites studies that show there is no appreciable intellectual difference among infants of various racial and socio-economic groups up to the age of 15 to 18 months, but that at the age of 3 years there is a marked difference.

This difference is due, she says, to the fact that in the homes of underprivileged children there is very little "verbal stimulation" in the form of mealtime conversation, their parents seldom talk with them during the course of the day and, if they do, "the parents do not offer the best models for language learning."

The result, declares Sister Leo, is that these children are later put at a great disadvantage intellectually, and that much time and money must therefore be spent on them in remedial work.

"At one point in his development a child babbles, at another point he grasps for objects, at another point he can identify objects and put words to them," Sister Leo said. "If a child passes through this talking stage without developing it, it is extremely difficult to go back and take him through it again.

"The 'Head Start' people are saying that age five is too late to begin training an underprivileged child—that you have to go back to age three. We're saying THREE is too late."

Sister Leo's project, financed by the National Institutes of Mental Health under the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare, is headquartered in the SS. Paul and Augustine Parish Center, in the capital's inner city. It began when the 30 experimental children were 14 months and it will stay with them through their third year and possibly on into nursery school and kindergarten.

At intervals throughout this period, the children will be the test results will be compared with those from a "control group" — 30 other children of similar background who are not receiving the tutoring.

A native of Washington, where she graduated from Trinity College in 1951 before entering the Notre Dame order, Sister Leo has been active in bringing nuns of her own and other orders into inner-city work.

During the past two summers, she organized summer educational programs for as many as 1400 elementary-school children, recruiting and training 300 teen-age boys and 60 nuns from 12 different orders. When she began the program in the summer of 1964 for the Washington public school system, it was the first time that nuns were brought into the capital's public schools — and they were invited back the following summer.

For her work in organizing the summer programs and winter tutoring projects for public school children from the Negro inner-city, Sister Leo received the capital's 1965 Catholic Interracial Council award.

She developed an interest in the underprivileged Negro's problems when she began teaching in a Philadelphia archdiocesan high school shortly after her profession.

"The Negro girls in my Spanish and French classes seemed withdrawn, and when I tried to reach these girls I failed. It wasn't until after I had read John Howard Griffin's 'Black Like Me' that I began to understand why."

(Catholic Press Features)

Pope Greets Peace Pilot

Vatican City — (RNS) — Abie Nathan, the Israeli former airline pilot who made a "peace flight" to Egypt in February, was received in audience here by Pope Paul VI.

The pontiff gave the 39-year-old flier, who now operates a restaurant in Tel Aviv, a medal commemorating his visit to the United Nations last year, and told him, "I bless all sincere efforts for world peace."

Mr. Nathan flew to Port Said on Feb. 28 carrying peace petitions from Israeli citizens to President Gamal Abdel Nasser of the United Arab Republic.

He gave the Pope a silver-bound copy of the Bible in Hebrew and English and decorated stones from the Red Sea.

Degree for Srokose

Paul S. Srokose was awarded a Master's Degree in Political Science by the Maxwell Division of Syracuse University. He is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Stanley Srokose of 50 Rogers Parkway, Rochester. He attended Aquinas, and graduated from LeMoyne College. He, and his wife, Melissa (Coley) Srokose, and their son reside in DeWitt, New York.

Catechist's Mission Is First Saturday Topic

"A Sense of Mission: The Lay Catechist" will be the topic of Mrs. Leonard Deleskey, who will address the First Saturday breakfast sponsored by the Monroe County Council of Catholic Women on April 2. The breakfast, at the Sibley Tower Restaurant, will follow a 9 a.m. Mass offered at St. Joseph's Church.

MRS. DELESKEY

Mrs. Deleskey is a lay catechist herself, in St. Helen's parish in Gates. She's a graduate of the training program in catechists which is given yearly by Fairport's Mission Helper Sisters. A graduate nurse, mother of three, the speaker will stress the vital need of strong parish catechetical programs.

Father Emmett Halloran moderator of the First Saturday breakfasts, will celebrate the Mass. Mrs. Joseph Grainer will be toastmistress of the breakfast, which is being handled by the Southeast District of the Monroe Council this month.

Reservations for the breakfast, $1.75 per person, can be made by calling Mrs. Robert Bishop at ID 6-9126 or Mrs. Joseph Cattalani at CO 6-3996 by Thursday, March 31.

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Confiscation of Land Sometimes Justified

Santiago — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI, in a message to the Third National Catholic Social Week here, declared that in specific cases it would be legitimate to confiscate privately-owned land or property for the general well-being.

However, he cautioned that while this could apply even to private possessions administered for the good of the community, experience has taught that every change "must be carried out with prudence and that it is better to proceed slowly but surely, than to rush into a risky darkness."

The Pope's message was addressed to Raul Cardinal Silva Henriquez, Archbishop of Santiago, and relayed through Amleto Giovanni Cardinal Cicognani, Vatican Secretary of State. The general theme of the Social Week was the rights and duties in private ownership of property in the light of Catholic teaching.

Pope Paul noted that because of population shifts and economic changes, existing legislation and practice are often out of touch with reality and fail to satisfy the legitimate needs of large sections of the population.

"One of the striking aspects of the problem," the Pope wrote, "is that in many parts of the world, people suffer unjustifiably from hunger. Other aspects include inequitable social situations or injustice in the world of labor. It is in this light that the Chilean Social Week should discuss the subject of private property."

Pope Paul quoted passages from the teachings of Pope Pius XII condemning inertia on the part of private interests leading to the general harm. He said unbridled capitalism and selfish exploitation of private property had been condemned by Pius XII and Pope John XXIII.

To Be Wed

The engagement of Miss Mary Elizabeth Keenan, 21 Colonial Parkway, Pittsford to John M. Slattery was announced recently by her mother, Mrs. John E. Keenan. Mr. Slattery is the son of Mr. and Mrs. Frank J. Slattery of 171 Inglewood Dr., in Rochester.

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More Club Marks 10th Birthday

Tenth anniversary of the St. Thomas More Club will be marked by a Reunion Weekend on April 16-17. A dinner dance at Brooklea Country Club on Saturday evening opens festivities; on Sunday an Open House and Reception will be held at St. Andrew's School hall. Former members who have not received invitations yet, can contact Ron Magin at MA 1-3943 or Len Mros at No 3-8064. Deadline for reservations is April 10. In picture, from left, are past-presidents Magin and Mros, co-chairman Bernie Billitier, chairman Jean Barbato and Joe Turiano, current president of the More Club.

Pope Warns on Double Danger in Ecumenism

Vatican City —(NC)— While cautioning against the danger of "excessive enthusiasm," Pope Paul VI called for the commitment of all Catholics to the progress of ecumenism.

He warned those who are skeptical of success regarding Christian unity efforts or who are fearful that the efforts will entail doctrinal indifferentism that their attitude "is not in accord with the will of Christ."

The ecumenical spirit, he told his weekly general audience during the worldwide observance of Christian unity octave, was one of the principal characteristics of the ecumenical council.

Catholic, he said, "can no longer ignore a problem of such importance and topicality," but must carefuly avoid extremes in their approach to it.

"On the one hand," he said, "there is an attitude demonstrating an excess of enthusiasm and over-simplification, as if contact with the separated brethren were easy and without danger, and as if the immediate establishment of concord and collaboration would result from ceasing to attach importance to doctrinal and disciplinary matters. This attitude is wrong because it can bring about illusions and delusions of weakness and conformism not at all beneficial to the cause of true ecumenism.

There is on the other hand the attitude of the diffident and skeptical. Some fear that ecumenism may entail criticism and revision of the truths of the faith, disregard for Christian traditions and teachings, and conformism to the religious concepts of others at the expense of one's own. Still others fear it is vain to hope for the effective re-establishment of one single religious belief and a single and true ecclesial communion. Too many things divide us from the separated brethren, they say, too much time has passed since the breach — by now unbridgeable — and one should not expect miracles which would be needed for a true reconciliation."

Population Forum Topic

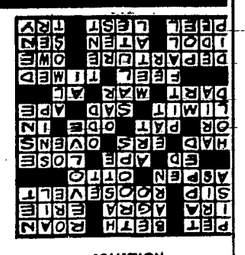
Philip Appelman, author of "The Silent Explosion," will speak on the world population problem at a forum open to the public at the Unitarian Church, 220 Winton Road South, Rochester, Wednesday, March 30 at 8 p.m. The public is invited.

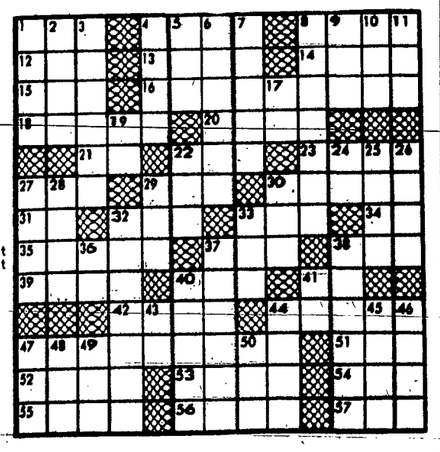
CROSSWORD PUZZLE

ACROSS
1-Fondle
4-Girl's nickname
8-Chestnut, speckled with white
12-Man's name
13-Site of Taj Mahal
14-Great Lake
15-Drink slowly
16-26th President
18-Tremulous
20-Man's name
21-Man's nickname
22-Similar
23-Be defeated
27-Possessed
29-Bitter vetch
30-Parts of stoves
31-Conjunction
32-Stroke
33-Poem
34-Preposition
35-Boundary
37-Mournful
38-Imitate
39-Arrow
40-Deface
41-Man's nickname
42-Sense
44-Measured duration of
47-Leave-taking
51-Be in debt
52-Sacred image
53-Solar disk
54-Unit of Japanese currency
55-Skin of fruit
56-For fear that
57-Attempt

DOWN
1-City in Italy
2-Goddess of discord
3-Hit lightly
4-Farm building
5-The self
6-Bodies of soldiers
7-Speed
8-Turn
9-Native metal
10-Be ill
11-Openwork fabric
17-Latin conjunction
19-Man's nickname
22-Skill
24-Faroe Islands whirlwind
25-Cut
26-Slave
27-Retain
28-Solo
29-Consume
30-Unusual
32-Trap
33-Paddle
36-Title of respect (abbr.)
37-Hail
38-Nearly
40-Substance
41-Three-toed sloth
43-Teutonic deity
44-Temporary shelter
45-Pitcher
46-Negate
47-Plunge
48-Dutch town
49-American essayist
50-Things, in law

SOLUTION





March 31 is the deadline!
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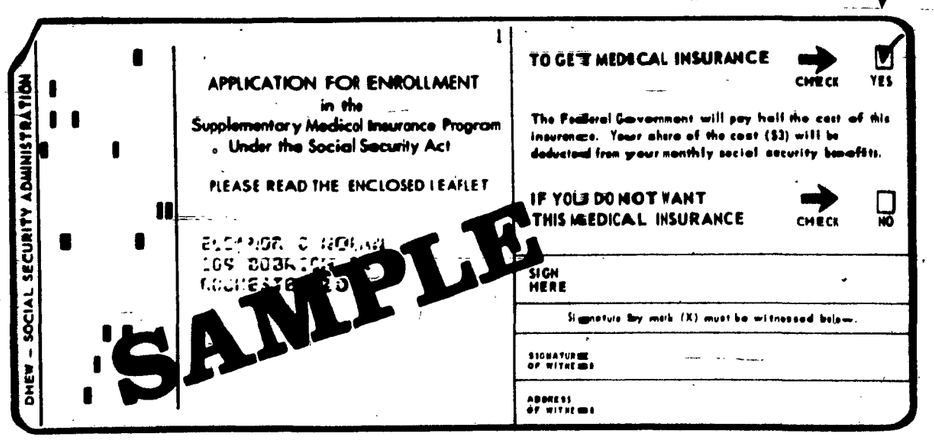

Supplementary Medical Insurance—Medicare "B"—will help pay your doctor bills. There's only one catch.

You must apply for this coverage before March 31, 1966. Otherwise you will be forced to wait another two years. Not only will you miss more than a year of coverage, but you will also pay a *higher rate* for your benefits.

If you do not have one of these application forms, get one at your Social Security office. If you have already sent in this card marked "no," you can still change your mind. Just ask for a new card and check "yes." But do it today.

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