

Housing for Poor Churches' Task?

Washington (NC)—The Catholic Church in the United States has been called an "institutional church." The label is often employed in a disparaging way as the antithesis of a "charitable church." A top spokesman for the "charitable church" has suggested, however, that the label could become a complimentary one. Catholics in the United States have shown real building talents, and he said they might well be put to use in the work of housing those in need.

Msgr. Lawrence J. Corcoran is a man who knows the needy well. For close to 20 years he has been active in charity work. Since September he has been secretary to the National Conference of Catholic Charities.

During an interview here he discussed the housing proposal he made in a recent speech. He described his idea with the professional competence and calm compassion that have become the hallmarks of the social profession in the modern world. With a knowledgeable manner he spoke of the innovations in the field of housing which have followed enactment of govern-

ment loan and grant programs of recent years.

"For some reason or other we just haven't looked at these programs enough. We have not investigated them enough," he mused, referring to the relatively minor participation to date of Catholic groups in sponsoring housing developments for the elderly and needy.

Msgr. Corcoran thinks this is regrettable and hopes to start some thinking on the subject.

"Catholic Charities, as a non-profit organization, could sponsor a housing for the elderly project for which federal financing is available," he points out. "This would further the aging programs already in existence under the auspices of Catholic Charities."

"Similar sponsorship is desirable for projects benefiting families with low incomes, thus providing shelter for many persons who do not have this now," he continued.

Piazza Named For Pope John

Venice (RNS)—Many Catholic religious and government dignitaries were among the congregation in the Basilica of St. Mark here as a Solemn Requiem Mass was celebrated to commemorate the third anniversary of the death of Pope John XXIII.

Following the Mass, two plaques were unveiled in Piazza Leoncini, the square outside the basilica. One marked the change of the square's name to John XXIII, and the other recorded the gratitude of the Venetian people for Pope John's services as Patriarch and Pope.

The Mass was said by Giovanni Cardinal Urbani, Patriarch of Venice. Pope John, as Angelo Cardinal Roncalli, had served as Patriarch of Venice for more than five years when he was elected pontiff in 1958.

Preaching the sermon at the Mass was Msgr. Loris Capovilla, private secretary to Pope John, who recalled moving some of the late pontiff's works and life.

Pope a Pilgrim By Radio

Vatican City (NC)—Speaking by shortwave to crowds gathered at the shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe in Mexico City, Pope Paul characterized himself as a "spiritual pilgrim on the wings of radio waves."

The occasion was the presentation of the papal award of the Golden Rose to the Mexican shrine by papal legate, Cardinal Carlo Confalonieri.

"Before the altar of this sanctuary," the Pope said, "our most worthy cardinal legate is offering the Golden Rose, a sign of papal homage sent often in the past to earthly rulers in recognition by the Holy See of their religious merits. With this sign of homage, as we said when we blessed this rose in the Sistine chapel, we have desired to do honor to the basilica of Our Lady of Guadalupe and pay recognition to the faith and devotion shown Mary by the Mexican people."



United for Welfare of Community

Yonkers (RNS)—The concern of the Church for the modern world is locally typified by the formation of the Yonkers Conference of Catholic Churches to work for the solution of civic, social, cultural and religious community problems. With some 160 clergy, religious and lay members, the organization has various sub-committees on human rights, youth, education, and social and health issues.

Civil Rights Meeting

Just Talk When Action is Needed?

Washington (RNS)—Many of the delegates to the White House Conference on Civil Rights repeatedly complained here that "it's just a lot of talk."

"The answer is that in an honest and accurate sense, they (the 12 panels) are talk," NAACP's Roy Wilkins said. "But so was the Sermon on the Mount."

Skeptic and optimist alike honestly do not know what will be the overall outcome of the conference called by President Johnson, and even many of the most optimistic, President Johnson among them, agree that miracles just won't happen.

At midpoint the President told delegates: "Do not expect us, even together, to put right in one year or four all that took centuries to wrong."

Notwithstanding rumbblings from even such groups as the National Council of Churches' Commission on Religion and Race the conference is sure to produce more than just talk—something that its planners had made clear was their intent from the start.

This is evidenced foremost by a call issued by the powerful Leadership Conference on Civil Rights, an organization composed of a score or more of religious agencies and some 80 civic, labor and rights groups across the nation.

The Leadership Conference, whose spokesman was Mr. Wil-

kins, pledged itself to fight for new civil rights legislation initiated by the Johnson Administration, including a fair housing measure. The agency, which played an important part in securing support for earlier bills, will push for passage of such other measures as getting protection for civil rights workers and corrections in the jury system, particularly as it applies to Southern Negroes.

Mr. Wilkins, chairman of the coalition and executive secretary of NAACP, said the purpose will not be to sponsor marches or other "spectaculars," but to encourage voters to impress their desires on their respective Congressmen.

The West End Brewing Co. of Utica, N. Y. © 1966

Anglicans Plan Council

London (NC)—The Anglican Church is planning a month-long "Vatican Council" of its own in London in two years' time. Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury, spiritual leader of the Church of England, will be attended by some 500 Anglican bishops from all over the world.

The conference at Lambeth Palace, London headquarters of the Anglican Church, will be held on Friday, June 10, 1966.



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Facing Life with a Smile

Cincinnati (RNS)—These kindergarten pupils at the Academy of the Sacred Heart, Cincinnati, Ohio, face the future and the photographer with a smile. The children are Muriel Vrba, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert J. Vrba; and Teresa Kinney, daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Sherman Kinney.



Honored MARY ELLEN FINK

An award-winning senior at Good Counsel College in White Plains, N.Y., included Miss Mary Ellen Fink of Rochester. Miss Fink, daughter of Mrs. Howard Fink and the late Mr. Fink of 114 Village Lane, Rochester, received four awards in Class Day ceremonies. She received service keys from the Glee Club and Confraternity of Christian Doctrine and was selected for "Who's Who Among College Students." President of the class, she was presented a leadership service award from the Council of Organization Presidents.

Secular World In Need of New Theology

St. Paul (NC)—A Catholic newspaper publisher advocated development of a "theology for the secular world."

Donald Thorman, publisher of the National Catholic Reporter, Kansas City, Mo., chided members of the National Conference of Christian Employers and Managers (NCCEM) here for failing to "communicate a theology that gets to the heart of our human, workday world."

At a dinner meeting of four area NCCEM chapters (May 28) Thorman said the idea that God didn't do such a bad job in creating the world seems to be coming into its own.

"The concept of the world as a vale of tears which we must endure patiently and stoically until our death has been slowly but surely changing in our lifetime," Thorman asserted.

"The entire tenor of the Second Vatican Council and its pastoral Constitution on the Church in the Modern World is an explicit acknowledgment of this reality," he said.

NCCEM is a four-year-old Midwest-centered institution, which aims to relate Christian social doctrine to concrete business situations.

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