

Radio Helps Church

Washington — (NC) — The often-heard charge that the Church in Latin America does not show enough concern for the poor and the working classes is not true, said Auxiliary Bishop Gennaro Prata of La Paz, Bolivia.

Perhaps at times it paid undue attention to those who were wealthy, he said, but through the years it continually strived to provide education and opportunity for everyone through its schools and colleges, and especially its vocational schools.

The Church in Bolivia is now planning a vast literacy program using radio programs. German Catholics will help provide support for this program.

Bishop Prata is in the U.S. seeking more diocesan priests and "Papal Volunteers for Latin America" to serve in Bolivia. He is also here to gain support for Our Lady of Wisdom College in Cochabamba.

The college was started in 1956 by Augustinian Fathers from The Netherlands and the Theresian Institute of Spain. In 1961 it received a grant of \$500,000 from Richard Cardinal Cushing of Boston.

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Priest in Vietnam

In the midst of a Vietnam battle zone, Father Thomas J. Conroy prepares to offer Holy Mass. This photograph which appears in an article in the current issue of Look magazine, was taken just after he had visited a dying soldier. The picture article in Look follows Father Conroy through his daily rounds, encouraging the troops and comforting the wounded in the Vietnam front lines.

A Jesuit, Husband of Carmelite Nun

And Church Says It's A-OK

Washington — (RNS) — For nearly 40 years now "Brother Ozzie" has called his wife in Baltimore to see if she is home before announcing he will be over to see her. This is an odd arrangement for a couple married 53 years come Dec. 14.

But what makes it even a bit more strange is the fact that "Brother Ozzie" has been a Jesuit Brother for nearly 40 of the 53 years of their married life.

"Mimma" (little girl), as he calls his wife, is a Carmelite nun, living in seclusion from the world at a Baltimore monastery 40 miles away.

Brother Alfredo Oswald, now 82, met Beatrice Bacelli, now Sister Beatrice, during World War I on the Mediterranean and they fell in love and married.

About 14 years after their marriage, and at the same time, in different parts of the world, the pair felt the "call of God" to go into the religious life. Alfredo, was teaching music at Peabody Institute in Baltimore and had become a musician of some fame.

It took four years for the Catholic Church to approve of their plans, but finally it consented.

"I remember the day I took her to the monastery," the witty piano teacher at Georgetown Preparatory School (and its chess champion) reminisced. "I said goodbye and then I left for my Jesuit novitiate. I arrived there much too late, around 11 at night, and I made too much noise. They asked me to put out my cigarette; I did; and to please be quiet; I was; and before I went to bed that night, I shaved off my mustache."

The fact Brother Oswald calls his wife to see if she is home before he comes to visit is indicative of his brand of humor. The only way a Carmelite nun can leave a monastery is through sickness or death.

When he goes to the monastery they talk for hours—"until she kicks me out." He is not permitted to enter the monastery and she must remain inside, so they talk—as they have for 40 years—through an iron grate.

At first, he said, he was permitted to see her only once a year, then once a month, and now as often as he pleases. "With her 72 and me 82, I guess they figure there's not much chance of us eloping. Before, I guess, they were afraid."

"Sister Ozzie," as other nuns sometimes refer to Sister Beatrice, "likes to talk politics," her husband said, "but I hate it." He also hates television, he

says, but rather likes modern music, looking at it as a "developing form."

His formula is simple: "I love all good music; I hate all bad music."

HIS WIFE has seen television only once. That was when Pope Paul VI visited New York last October. "And that night we stayed up until 11 o'clock. But that was a very special occasion."

Brother Oswald was taught to play the piano when he was 4, and by the time he was 17, was playing in his first concert. He was born in Rio de Janeiro and retains Brazilian citizenship.

He is very popular at Georgetown Prep where he has been since 1934. In 1943 and 1965, the school yearbook was dedicated to him.

Here he spoke of taking another Jesuit with him to the monastery to visit his wife: "I went once with an old Father who had never been to the convent. He was kind of scared."

"I said to him, 'Father, don't you think this is the right way to keep a wife—like a tiger, caged up?'"

But deeper than the wit Brother Oswald exudes is the certainty that it was a dear

sacrifice for both of them. "We needed courage in the beginning," he said.

In Baltimore, the story of Sister Beatrice and "Brother Ozzie" has been well known for years.

In 1931 the archdiocesan newspaper carried a full-length story of the unusual case.

Editors of the Baltimore Review noted that Archbishop Michael J. Curley, then Archbishop of Baltimore, accompanied Brother Oswald to the Carmelite monastery when the Jesuit's wife was accepted into the order.

Archbishop Curley and Brother Oswald watched the convent ceremony through an iron grate. Each addressed Sister Beatrice, after the ceremony, as the "Bride of Christ." Brother Oswald was then a Jesuit novice of one month.

The archbishop had been instrumental in securing Vatican permission for the couple to enter the service of the Church.

In the late 1920s and until 1931, the Oswalds were quite well known in Baltimore and active in the city's social life. Alfredo was a 47-year-old pianist, fast winning worldwide fame. His wife was equally gifted in knowledge of the arts.

School Buses To Integrate Pittsburgh Summer Classes

Pittsburgh — (RNS) — The busing of children is planned as part of the Head Start program which the Catholic Diocese of Pittsburgh will conduct this summer.

An avowed purpose of busing is to promote integration, although the primary purpose, it is also said, is to make use of the best parochial school facilities available.

The diocesan plan stands in contrast to that of the Pittsburgh Board of Public Education, which has announced a policy of busing children only if necessary to relieve overcrowding in schools. The public school board policy is being protested by civil rights groups.

The diocese will operate 70 classroom centers in 42 different locations, with 14 classes planned in parochial schools outside Pittsburgh's eight designated anti-poverty neighborhoods.

The program is being financed by a \$289,844 Federal grant through the Mayor's Committee on Human Resources, the city's anti-poverty implementing agency.



An Honor from Italy

Monsignor J. Patrick Carroll-Abbing presented Maurice Forman a memorial plate to thank him for last autumn's Italian Fair which benefited the Boys Towns of Italy. Joseph Anzalone, who heads the Rochester unit of benefactors of the Towns, said contributions from this area last year totalled \$29,000. He holds the prelate's book, "There But for the Grace of God," which is on sale at Forman's and book stores and tells the Boys Towns story.

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Inner-city Clergy Preach to Suburbanites

Cleveland — (RNS) — Five priests from inner-city churches of the Roman Catholic Diocese of Cleveland have initiated a pulpit exchange program to end the isolation of inner-city parishes from those elsewhere in the city and the suburbs.

They preached at all Masses of parishes they visited Sunday, April 24, in the first step of a new interracial program sponsored by the Bishop's Committee on Urban Affairs.

Leaders from the visited parishes will evaluate the talks and open programs suggested by them.

The pulpit exchange program, dubbed PEP, will begin with a three-month pilot program that will move to other parishes at least once a month during May and June. It is hoped by July that 60 priests will be involved.

PEP will seek to help all Catholics understand that they have a moral obligation in race relations, whether or not Negroes live in their neighborhood.

Eventually it is hoped that joint spiritual and cultural activities will be organized.

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Interfaith Colloquium

Cambridge — (NC) — Catholic, Orthodox, Protestant Jewish scholars will meet in a four-day colloquium on Judaism and Christianity at Harvard University.

The conference, co-sponsored by the American Jewish Archives and the Harvard School of Divinity, will parallel the Catholic-Protestant colloquium held at the university according to Dean S. Miller of the divinity school.

"In this ecumenical age, conferences are organized throughout the world, especially in the United States," he said.



Catholic

The Catholic Church has honored degree recipient Fred P. Corson from the nation's largest Catholic organization, the National Council of Catholic Bishops.

Old World Ban on Masons Questioned

French Lick, Ind. — A priest-professor at the University of Notre Dame has questioned the long-standing ban on Masonic lodges in the Catholic Church. He said the ban is "anachronistic" and "unjustified."

Father John A. O'Brien, a professor of history at the university, said that the day is "long overdue" when officials of the Church will re-examine the ban against Catholics in Masonic lodges.

In some countries, notably in France and Italy, lodges had become centers of atheism and irreligion, deeply involved in politics.

On the other hand, O'Brien said, Freemasonry in North America and Britain requires belief in God and a dedication of membership to a Masonic organization in the United States, he said, "from being the enemy of religion, is a mighty and ally of religion."

"It would seem that the Church's attitude toward Masonry here should be correspondingly different from some of the countries," he said.

Dutch Prelate

'S Hertogenbosch — Bishop Willem M. Bekkers died in St. Elizabeth's at Tilburg.

Bishop Bekkers, called Pope John of the Netherlands because of his pastoral concern for his priests and faithful, never recovered from an operation on March 29 removal of a brain tumor.



Radio

Royal Oak, Mich. — The golden jubilee of the radio in one-time "radio town" Archdiocese of Detroit was celebrated during the evening of the radio at the Flower at Royal Oak.