

Massive Battle against Bias

Chicago — (RNS)—A sweeping, six-month study and action program on interracial problems has been handed down to the 459 parishes of the Roman Catholic Archdiocese of Chicago by Archbishop John P. Cody.

United Presbyterians here also have been given their Church's program for implementing last summer's "summit agreement" on open housing.

The Catholic campaign, called "A Parish Program for Community Life," is designed to involve the 2 million Catholics of Cook and Lake Counties in such areas as open housing, education and fair employment.

It is divided into three phases: will begin in January, and relies heavily on a lay "parish committee on community life" to be established in each parish.

Parishes are urged to work with Protestant and Jewish congregations in the program which Archbishop Cody said is designed "to have an ecumenical dimension."

The program's goal—by May and June—according to the archbishop, is "to act together."

In those months, all parishes are asked "to support and participate" in a "program of actions for achieving understanding and harmony among all races."

Suggested actions for each parish committee include:

Visits to all realtors in the area to discuss the policy of open occupancy;

Visits to all local banks and savings and loan associations to discuss non-discriminatory lending policies;

Meetings with principals and PTA officers "of all the schools in the neighborhood" to discuss the achievement of quality integrated education;

Visits to firms in the area to discuss fair employment practices; and

Contacts with "fellow parishioners in executive positions," such as personnel directors, "to discuss fair employment practices in their companies and corporations."

Archbishop Cody's announcement suggests that local "interfaith committees on community life," set up in cooperation with Protestants and Jews, could undertake similar actions.

The action phase of the program also calls for inter-parish Communion breakfasts and home visits and Bible vigils bringing together members of white and Negro parishes.

In a letter to all parishes the archbishop referred to the city's racial strife of the last year and to problems of poverty.

"As Catholics and Americans, we cannot, we dare not pretend that all of this is no concern of ours," he said. "As long as any of our brothers and sisters in Christ suffer injustice and indignity in our midst, we are involved, and we must become involved."

The program outlined by the archbishop is not mandatory, nor is it a Church directive. But spokesmen indicated plainly that the "suggestions" from the archbishop would carry as much weight as an actual order.

"A pastor would not be free to ignore this," commented Father Egan.

The program was prepared by a 12-member committee of the Archdiocesan Commission on Human Relations and Ecumenism, named last June by Archbishop Cody.

The United Presbyterian program was explained in letters sent to 150 Presbyterian churches that have about 90,000 members.

The eight-point program was adopted by the Presbytery of Chicago, according to Donald E. Zimmerman, Church executive.

Mr. Zimmerman said similar programs also are being undertaken by other denominations, including Episcopalians, Methodists, Lutherans and the United Church of Christ.



Missionaries Fight Latin Slums

Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic — (RNS) — Maryknoll missionaries are playing principal roles in community projects to help eliminate slum areas in Santo Domingo and other cities of the Dominican Republic. Father Francis B. O'Hara, M.M., of West Newton, Mass. (right), is shown consulting with members of the Citizens Committee for Social Development which has been spearheading the anti-poverty campaign. Father O'Hara was released from his missionary work in Bolivia to take part in the community effort. The other priest is Father Rene P. Archambault of West Warwick, R.I., who was given leave from his post in Peru. Both missionaries have extensive experience in socio-economic and community work.

Sudan Refugees Get New Priests

Kinshasa, The Congo — (NC) — The fact that in December nine Sudanese were ordained to the priesthood is testimony that the faith is very much alive among the Sudanese. Msgr. Linus Tibot, apostolic administrator of the Rumbek vicariate, said in an interview.

Archbishop Pietro Sigismondi, secretary of the Sacred Congregation for the Propagation of the Faith, ordained two Sudanese in Rome on Dec. 16. Six others were to be ordained in Uganda and one in the Sudan.

Msgr. Tibot, who is residing in exile in Aba in the northeastern Congo, said that, although the newly ordained priests would not be able to return to the Sudan in the near future, they could work among refugees in various countries bordering the Sudan.

Since the Sudan became an independent nation on Jan. 1, 1956, the government has sought to unify the Arab north with the predominantly Negro south by imposing Arabic as the national language and by promoting the Moslem religion.

Guerilla warfare between Arab northerners and Negro southerners on racial and religious grounds became widespread and troops from the north massacred thousands of southerners. Thousands of southerners fled the Sudan. Some 35,000, according to a U.N. report, sought refuge in the northeastern region of the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

One of the problems of the exiled Sudanese is the education of their children. They have opened three primary

No Christmas In Red China

Hong Kong — (RNS)—There are 200,000 Christians left in Peking, the capital of Red China. This year they had no Christmas.

Catholic and Protestant churches, desecrated by the marauding Red Guard, were closed. Closure of houses of worship was reported to be total on Christmas Eve and Christmas Day.

The situation was so critical that diplomats and staff aides of the foreign embassies in Peking, representing many Christian bodies, joined in an ecumenical Christmas service. It was held in the British Embassy's Anglican chapel.

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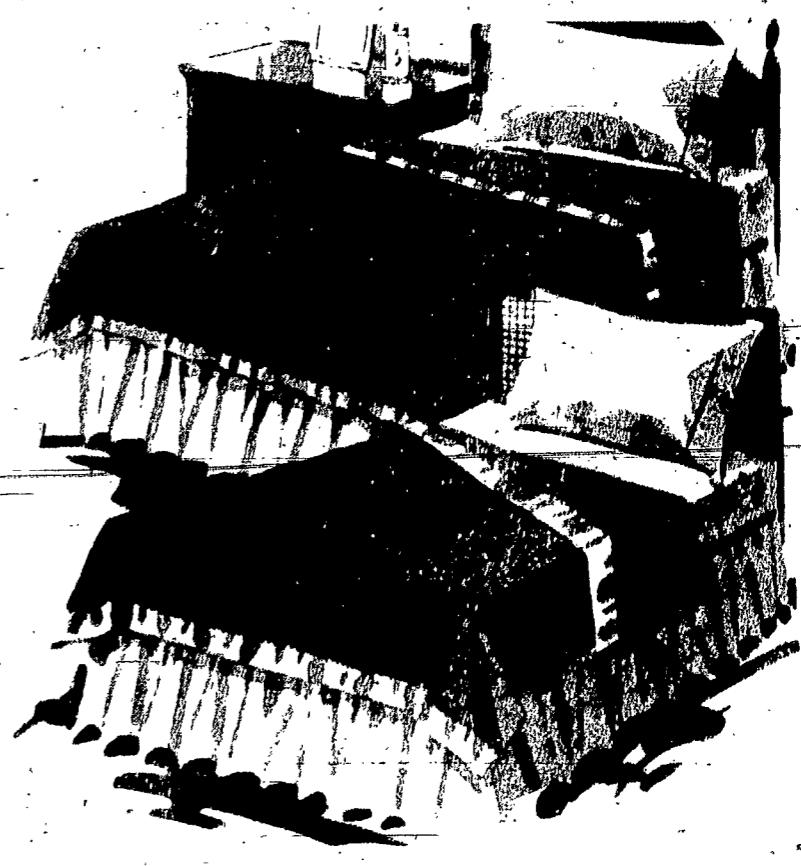
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