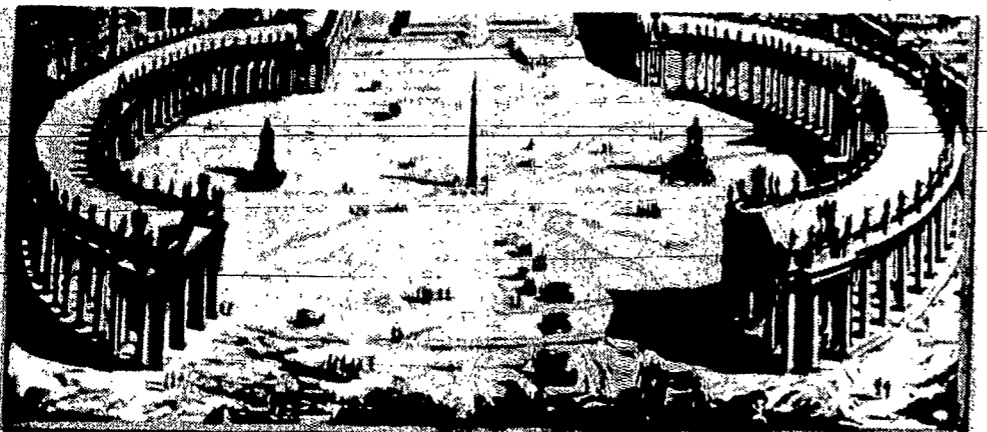


**Masses Outside**  
Onabruock — (NC) — Bishop Helmut Hermann Wittler of Onabruock, in a pastoral letter, pointed out that in the 961 Catholic parishes in communist-ruled East Germany, 2,500 Sunday Masses must be said outside churches — in private homes and other buildings.

# A Conscience Lobby for the Poor

Rome — (NC) — The new development of the have-not nations of the world. In a press conference at the conclusion of the meeting, Msgr. Joseph B. Grenallion, commission secretary, stressed that it was the hope of the commission that the entire problem of the



**Peace Unit's First Meeting**

Vatican City — (RNS) — The Pontifical Commission for the Study of Justice and Peace, established by the Pope in January, holds first meeting at the Vatican. Members include, from left: Vittorino Veronesi, president of the First and Second World Congresses of the Lay Apostolate and former director general of UNESCO, who is commission auditor; James J. Norris, head of the International Catholic Migration Commission; Lady Jackson (Barbara Ward), British author and economist, only woman member of the commission; Mill Hill Father Arthur McCormack, assistant to the commission's secretary; and Maurice Carle, Archbishop of Quebec, commission president.

## Pope Terms New Agencies 'Great Hopes of Church'

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI received members and advisors of the new Pontifical Study Commission on Justice and Peace and exhorted them to exercise "zeal and perseverance" in pursuing the complex and formidable problems facing them in their work.

He observed that the commission, which was holding its first meeting, and the Council on the Laity represented the "great hopes of the Church and the world."

The commission, in outlining its work, emphasized that it would seek cooperation with all non-Catholic and secular groups concerned with aiding underprivileged people.

In this connection, specifically mentioned was collaboration with the World Council of Churches.

Speaking in French, Pope Paul said of the peace commission: "In our eyes you represent the hour of the Council. Once upon a time and even today, a cockerel is placed on the roof of the church steeple as a symbol of vigilance regarding the faith and Christian life."

"So this commission has been put on a spiritual edifice of the Council with the specific function of keeping a sharp eye, a sensitive heart and a ready hand of the Church for the charity which it is called upon to carry out in the world, thereby promoting the progress of the poorest people and favoring social justice among nations."

## Clergy Celibacy An Act of Faith

Vatican City — (RNS) — Archbishop Gabriele Garrone, prefect of the Sacred Congregation of Seminaries and Universities, told the press here that, in his personal belief, the Roman Catholic Church should continue to require celibacy of its priests.

He gave his opinion at a press conference called in preparation for the World Day of Prayer for Vocations, Sunday, April 9.

Celibacy "is certainly one of the most delicate problems to solve in the Church," Archbishop Garrone said. "Some see in the loss of vocations a problem which can be solved by removing this obligation from the priesthood."

"I believe the Church will maintain celibacy as an act of faith, made in the belief that, if we lose certain vocations, those that remain will be of greater quality and dedication and that this very quality will ultimately attract the quantity."

Figures released by Archbishop Garrone showed that, while the Catholic population of the world increased by 11.2 percent in the five-year period 1959-64, vocations to the priesthood increased by only 4 percent.

## Priests Resign 'White Only' Club

San Francisco — (RNS) — Three Roman Catholic priests announced they have resigned from the San Francisco Olympic Club because of its racial segregation policies.



## 'Impact Teacher' at Seminar

Saginaw, Mich. — (RNS) — Mrs. June Niedzielski, who teaches the 7th grade at St. Stanislaus parochial school, Bay City, Mich., is one of 40 teachers to be named winners of the "Impact Teacher" program of the National Catholic Educational Association. The selected teachers will work together and with outside consultants at a seminar on the Georgetown University campus, Washington, D.C., in May to draft a profile of an "Impact Teacher." This will serve as a guide to other educators. Mrs. Niedzielski, mother of six children, has been teaching for four years.

## Peace Corps, Vista Ban Thought Temporary

Portland — (RNS) — Although his plan to recruit seminarians in the work of two government volunteer agencies has been "temporarily sidetracked," a Jesuit priest is continuing with social action programs here.

Father John J. Kelley, S.J., provincial of the Jesuits' Portland (Ore.) Province already is taking his pick of about 30 laymen volunteers for VISTA and Peace Corps programs.

A recent Vatican letter discouraged participation of Roman Catholic seminarians in the Peace Corps and VISTA. Chief reason for the Vatican's disapproval was believed to be the Church's reluctance to become involved in an activity that might have international political overtones.

Reason for extending the Peace Corps ban to VISTA, a domestic program in the U.S., was that the daily life of a VISTA volunteer is not compatible with the religious discipline and exercises required of priests and seminarians.

Father Kelley called the Vatican decision "just a temporary setback." The ruling, he said, "just means that some others think differently than I do."

The Jesuit said that at the beginning of his programs, "nobody wanted to be first. I have no regrets, everything will work out for the best."

He said he intends to have four laymen workers in Alaska Indian villages this summer, and four more will work with Caritas in Seattle. Others will

## Together At Confession

Paris — (NC) — France's bishops, responding to repeated requests from priests and lay leaders, have published a series of guidelines governing the use of common celebrations of the sacrament of Penance.

The new guidelines discuss a group liturgical ceremony revolving around the confession of sins and their absolution by the priest. However, the bishops emphasized that they were not permitting group absolution or doing away with the necessity for private and personal confession of sins.

According to the bishops' statement, "The common celebrations of the sacrament of Penance present certain pastoral advantages and are in accord with the directions of the Second Vatican Council concerning the liturgy."

**Vocation Crisis**  
Montevideo — (NC) — Uruguay faces "an alarming crisis in vocations," Archbishop Alfredo Bruniera the apostolic nuncio to this country said.

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