

Duties as also Rights

Bishop Sheen made two points emphatically clear in his talk to the Rochester Catholic Interracial Council Sunday afternoon —

Concerning Father P. David Finks, articulate and controversial Vicar of Urban Ministry, the Bishop said, "I am behind him" and spoke in high praise of the young priest's deep concern for the poor of the Diocese.

And it's time, he said, for "good people" to be "organized" to carry out their duties to the poor.

He stressed his conviction that "we must begin to speak of the duties of good people in addition to the rights of people submerged by poverty and the other ills of our society."

He also stated it's time to move "from talk to action."

He announced he had organized a "10-24-70 Club" — to be headed by Fathers Gennaro Ventura, David Finks and Robert Kreckel.

The Club's name, he explained, means he's looking for 70 people who will contribute \$10 a week for 24 months to provide a working fund to relieve critical housing needs of poor families.

He repeated his Chamber of Commerce appeal to civic and industrial leaders "to unite and coordinate their energies" to heal the wounds of poverty.

He admitted the Church has also failed to meet the needs of the poor.

"We have built a Maginot Line of our own — huge churches, schools, rectories — as if they were impregnable fortresses against the forces of evil and now we wonder how we are to use them," Bishop Sheen said in commenting on eleven inner-city parishes whose Catholic congregations have moved to the suburbs.

The plight of the poor, he said, "it worries me — it may worry you too!"

Better Religious Education

Three Agencies Pool Strengths

Washington — (RNS) — The leading national educational agencies of the Roman Catholic Church in the United States have formed a joint working committee to explore avenues of mutual cooperation.

The aim of the new unit, according to a joint statement issued by officials for the agencies, will be to discover means of bringing Christian formation to more Catholics — adults as well as children — and to improve their quality.

THE AGENCIES which are forming the cooperative unit are the National Catholic Education Association, the National Center of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine, and the Education Department of the U.S. Catholic Conference, the secretariat of the Catholic bishops.

"Greater cooperation among those engaged in Christian formation means a major step forward in meeting and solving our problems," a joint statement issued by officials of the three agencies said. "Catholic educators have a responsibility for the education of all Catholics."

The three officials issuing the statement were Msgr. James C. Donohue, director of the USCC Education Department; Msgr. Russell J. Neighbor, associate director of the CCD National Center; and Father C. Albert Koob, O. Praem., executive secretary of the NCEA.

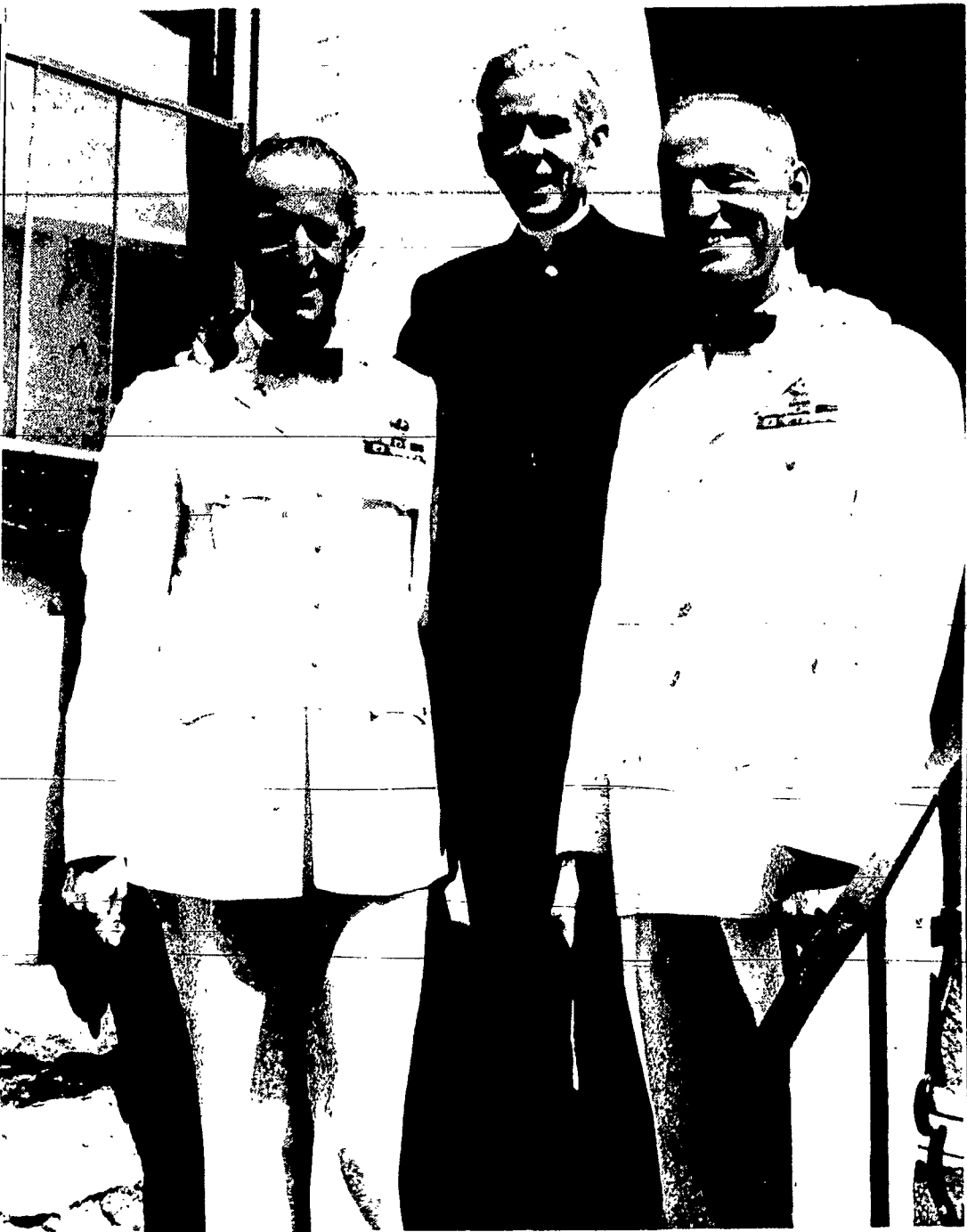
"We cannot afford to devote all our attention and resources to the education of only some Catholics," the statement insisted. "Nor can we afford fragmentation and duplication of effort."

New Bible 'Cheapest'

London — (RNS) — What some believe to be the cheapest Bible in the world — a paperback Roman Catholic edition of the Revised Standard Version — is now on sale in Britain for \$1.18, a copy.

The Bible is being issued by the Catholic Truth Society. It replaces the society's Douay version, which sold more than 500,000 copies since it was first published in 1898 in a bid to make available to Catholics a Bible comparable in price to the least expensive Protestant versions.

The new paperback is 7 1/2 inches by 5 1/2 inches and contains 1,296 pages.



Twin Monsignors

First two priests of the Rochester Diocese to be made Monsignors by Bishop Sheen are twin U.S. Army chaplains Fathers Gerard and Joseph Gefell. The Bishop gave them the red robes of their new rank at a Mass at their home parish, St. Michael's, Rochester, Sunday morning. The two are Lieutenant Colonels in the chaplains corps.

U.S. Bishops Plan Study Of Laity

Washington — (RNS) — A thorough study of the mission of the U.S. Roman Catholic laity is planned by the U.S. Catholic Conference.

The study will be conducted "in close cooperation with all lay organizations and movements, official and unofficial," according to Archbishop Joseph T. McGuiken of San Francisco, chairman of USCC's Department of Lay Organizations.

A joint committee of the National Councils of Catholic Men, Women, and Youth will conduct the study. Its aim, Archbishop McGuiken said, will be "to review the present national plan for the coordination and development of lay apostolate structures in this country and to make recommendations for any changes that may be required as a result of the Vatican Council, or new situations in the Church and world."

The study will be staged in cooperation with bishops, priests, religious and laity and "would hope to benefit from consultation with other religious denominations," the archbishop said.

The study was prepared by the National Council of Catholic Men at its convention in April. It received the endorsement of the 40 bishops who make up the administrative board of the Catholic Conference.

New Provincial Washington — (NC) — Father Francis Trotter, C.S.Sp., has been named head of the Holy Ghost Fathers' eastern province of the United States by Father Marcel Lefebvre, C.S.Sp., superior general of the order.

Rochester's Father Meng

A Year in Africa

Lions, Embassy fires and responsive congregations have become just a part of everyday life for Father Robert Meng, a diocesan priest who has called the village of Akpakap in northern Africa home for the past year. Father Meng who is working with the Catholic Relief Services, United States Catholic Conference in the Republic of Congo relates a bit of the life in Africa in these excerpts from his letters.

"In a land where political unrest often runs rampant, all are affected by the governmental goings on, reports Father Meng.

"I learned someone had set fire to the Portuguese Embassy. It is about three blocks from our office and next to the American Embassy. I took a look on my way to lunch and saw lots of windows broken, and office equipment and papers lying about. No one knows where the ambassador is; some of the gang were reported to have spirited him and some of the staff away during the attack and there is speculation that they may be in the river. But life and business go on as usual and everybody seems to take it in stride.

"But perhaps it is the religious fervor of the people that sustains them in such troubled times. And well it might if the congregation of St. Cecilia's is any indication.

"One cannot help admire the religious spirit of this congregation — of about 1,000. All the children sat in the middle aisle and were much better behaved than any congregation of children I saw in the States. And the singing truly surpassed anything back home in both quality and volume. Row upon row of communicants just added another impression of what one French priest has done since founding the parish five years ago. The Church is large, airy and simple; no side walls, just the concrete pillars holding up the roof which is made of metal and arched very high reminding one of the Quonset hut construction. The altar, of course, faces the people and they participate with great interest and devotion.

"And although in some respects it is a land rapidly closing the gap between its civilization and that of the rest of the world (There is a modern university with features equal to those of some campuses in the States and in Kinshasa there are no wires above ground, making this town in Africa more progressive than Rochester) there are always those events reminiscent of the continents' ties to untamed nature.

"After the Consecration at 9 o'clock Mass at St. Cecilia's a girl fainted near the back of the church. All of a sudden there was a real panic. Everyone ran for the exits in a mad rush. In a matter of seconds the church was cleared as I stood there wondering what was going on. It was really a terrifying experience but I didn't know until after Mass what had taken place. It seemed that a lion of snake had driven everyone out of the church."

Canada Reds Invite Priest

Toronto — (RNS) — Father Edward Bader, director of the Catholic Information Center here, stood, by invitation, in front of Canada's Communist Party leaders and wondered what to say first.

"Finally, I started by saying: 'If only my Republican aunt in Boston could see me now,'" the priest said. "That broke the ice and they all laughed."

For two hours he spoke, listened to Communist opinions and answered "friendly" questions.

As a result, Father Bader has arranged, with the approval of Coadjutor Archbishop Philip P. Pocock of Toronto, to have Communist speakers at a series of Fall lectures in the Information Center.



Amman, Jordan, children wait for aid, many of a temporary nature.

Jews, Arabs

Deep H

New Orleans — (RNS) — "Fighting in the Middle East will break out again in another ten years or so," Carmelite Bishop Ubaldo Teofano Stella, missionary bishop of Kuwait, Arabia, predicted here.

Speaking a day before the cease-fire was effected in the Arab-Israeli conflict, Bishop Stella said the war would end soon. "Too many nations of the world have an interest in the Middle East — the cradle of Christianity and of civilization."

But he was pessimistic about permanent peace. "This fighting is endemic," he declared. "The Arabs and the Israelis will continue to fight until the old anger and hatreds die down, perhaps in future generations."

Here to raise funds for Displaced Carmelite missions in Japan, Bishop Stella is a native of Milan, Italy who served in India before being assigned to Kuwait in 1948.

"If the Arabs hated the Jews as much as they hate the Jews, we would have countries full of saints," the Bishop said. Israel was "fighting for its life," he said.

Peace in B

Jews Admitted

By GABRIEL Special Correspondent

Bethlehem — (RNS) — the church bells rang so the towers and steeples of had trouble imagining the here a week earlier, when western Jordan.

Only a few, slight shell fortress-like Basilica of the dramatic events of the pro

Israeli soldiers strolled ling with the Arab young p ed out in their Sunday bes doing a brisk business and when the expected waves of

Sunday services as us all the Christian churches of Old City of Jerusalem.

I also visited Hebron, stronghold of Moslem fanat ly quiet calm under Israel

In Hebron is the world ham, built upon the Cave tombs of the patriarchs Ab

These tombs have been Moslems but, until now, J to enter the mosque only a Now, Jews are free to ente of their ancestors.

Shareef, the local Mosl smiled as he let me in.

"Why not?" he said, " ancestor by Isaac and Ishm

Parents Given On First Com

Stow, Ohio — (RNS) — Parents were given three options this year in deciding how their children were to receive First Communion in Holy Family Church here.

The results were these: Two groups of about 30 children each received as in the previous years, wearing traditional First Communion clothes.

Another group of about 20 received a week earlier in the "Sunday best" clothing.

The others — 122 in all — received with their parents, three at the Easter Vigil Mass, 25 on Easter Sunday and the remainder at Sunday Masses, in May.

Teachers commented that the parent-child Communion at the Easter Mass seemed to bring the spirit of Easter to everyone.

Father John H. Archibald, pastor, and Sister Marie Pierre of the Sisters of Charity of St. Augustine, principal, arranged the three options for the parents after they were proposed at a parish council meeting.

Stifling Thought Harms Church

Atlanta — (RNS) — The Roman Catholic Church faces a great loss in membership if the arch-conservatives in the Church continue their efforts to stifle thought engendered by the Second Vatican Council, according to Redemptorist Father Bernard Haering.

The noted German theologian, pastoral sociology at the Academy of St. Thomas in Rome in an interview here, warned of a "drama Alfonsiana in Rome." "If these men continue to use the apparatus and their power to stifle thought, I am afraid we will have to pay a big bill in slow or too quickly toward great losses. These men do tremendous harm in the Church."

Father Haering added, "During the interview, Father Haering was asked if he thought to stifle thought, I am afraid we will have to pay a big bill in slow or too quickly toward great losses. These men do tremendous harm in the Church."

The German Redemptorist priest was one of the authors of the Council's Document on great hope for the Synod of the Church in the Modern World, which will meet in Rome in September.

During this academic year he was a visiting professor at Yale Divinity School. Next year, if it fails to outbalance the Father Haering will be visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary in New York City. From 1965 to 1966 he was a visiting professor at Brown University.

His permanent post is as professor of moral theology and In discussing the structure

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