

Compassionate Society

(Continued from Page 1)

self-evaluation has weakened the community of the church and suggested that the outlook of youth might be a cure for what he called the church's ineffectiveness in dealing with problems and also the dangers of individual judgments.

Dr. Callahan's opinion was underscored by economist Robert Theobald who told the same Catholic federation meeting that students "can find the time, the resources and the models to become the sources of new ideals for the compassionate society we so urgently need."

Pragmatically, the freedom to be thoroughly ecumenical in working toward a "compassionate society" which might be identified with Christian "community" is evident in the University Christian Movement. Established in part as replacement and enlargement of the National Student Christian Federation, an affiliate of the National Council of Churches, UCM encompasses a wide range of Protestant groups as well as the NFCCS, the National Newman Student Federation and the Campus Commission of the Standing Conference of the Orthodox Bishops in the Americas.

According to a statement by its General Committee, "The organizing principle of the University Christian Movement is to bring about social change through the reformulation of the university."

The group does not, however, conceive of any reformulation of the centers of higher education as resting completely on the shoulders of students. UCM — without focusing on "the generation gap" — has already

included the ideal of a larger Christian community in its aims. Its Articles of Operation declared that "the UCM shall include and be concerned with all segments of the academic community — not students alone."

Nor does the association expect to effect social changes solely through an inclusive, national-level structure, its leaders say. Emphasis is placed on the local campus and area student programs which can touch the lives of persons in their familiar environments.

It is significant that three national student groups took action during the Summer which follows the model of decentralization. The National Council of the Methodist Student Movement (MSM) voted to petition the General Conference of the denomination to allow the "phasing out" of the national organization in favor of new possibilities for "missional tasks for service in the world" through the University Christian Movement.

Such action, if approved by the General Conference, will not disband local, state and regional Methodist student bodies but it will place greater stress on grassroots implementation of the purposes set forth by UCM. The National Federation of Catholic College Students is likewise moving toward changes in its program which will bring it into a closer relation to the thrust of the ecumenical agency. At the national conference, it announced that it will work toward becoming a student-faculty-administration oriented body dedicated to the establishment of Christian intellectual communities on Catholic college campuses. For 20 years it acted

as a student government service organization.

The National Newman Student Federation, a Catholic unit, adopted plans which call for a decentralization of its structure, with greater emphasis on diocesan organization.

Meeting concurrently with the Newman congress, though in a different city, was the Council of the Lutheran Student Association of America. An exchange of resolutions dramatized the initiative which student groups are taking in the area of ecumenical relations.

The Lutheran council, representing an autonomous group composed of students from the Lutheran Church in America and the American Lutheran Church, asked the parent denominations "to undertake a strenuous study of Lutheran ecclesiology and to explore the possibility that Lutheranism and Roman Catholicism need not regard themselves as separate churches or denominations, but merely as different points of view within the Western, or Roman Catholic Church."

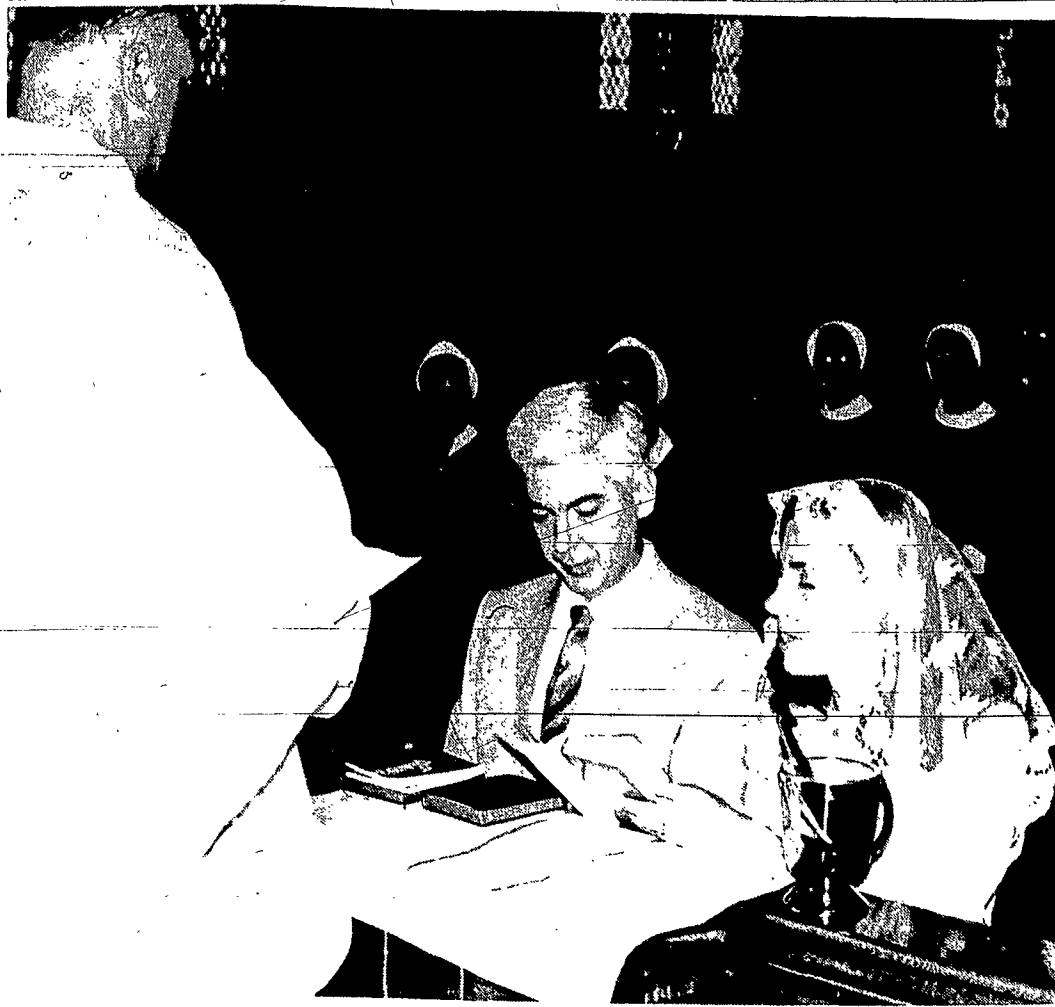
A copy of the resolution was forwarded to the Newman congress which responded with a statement asking the Catholic bishops of America and the Bishops' Committee on Ecumenism "to seriously consider the recommendation of the Lutheran Student Association of America." The Catholic congress also urged joint planning and cooperation by local Newman and Lutheran campus groups.

The organic unity of Churches emerges as a concern of students but it does not stand as an essential plank in the expression of freedom or in the assertion of student strengths. The weight of ecumenical concern — especially as it is seen in the University Christian Movement — is on unity in mission rather than on a sign single organization structure.

This was specifically stated by Charlotte Bunch Weeks, past president of UCM at the agency's second Assembly. Mrs. Week's pointed to the themes of freedom and "community" in listing a four-fold ecumenical imperative.

Attention to social change, an understanding of the university as a place where self-definition can take place, accountability for power and effective communication within power structures were the elements of the student generation's imperative which she cited.

The concern for mission is asserted in the international consciousness which the student movement is fostering. "Internationalization is basically a way of looking at life," Mr. Clough said. "Without denying our own inheritance as American Christians, we must try to face the many problems of higher education and of the church as 'internationalized men.'"



They're Off to the Missions!

DEPARTURE CEREMONY for Mr. and Mrs. Robert Smett, leaving to teach in a mission school in American Samoa in the South Seas, is conducted by Father Paul Chaisson, Marist priest, who was stationed in the mission to which the Smetts are headed. Both were received into the Third Order of the Society of Mary during the ceremony. Smett was News Editor of the Courier-Journal for 15 years. Ceremony took place at the Motherhouse of the Sisters of St. Joseph.

43 Former Glenmary Nuns Fashion New Apostolate

Fayetteville, Ohio — (NC) — Forty-three former members of the Glenmary Sisters promised continued "commitment to live, to love, to work" for Christ during the first general meeting of their newly formed Federation of Communities in Service. The meeting was held (Aug. 19) at Christ the King convent.

The former nuns recited their promise at the Offertory of a Mass celebrated in the convent chapel. Each promised to con-

tinue to work in those areas where Christian influence is minimal" and to "give and accept in mutual sharing, remaining unmarried so that I will be more available for our communal service."

Elected president of the new federation, which is not a Church affiliated organization, was Monica Kelly, formerly Sister Monica and coordinator of personnel for the Glenmary Sisters in the Virginia region.

Miss Kelly, a native of Chicago, had worked for the past eight years at Big Stone Gap in southwestern Virginia where she was engaged in community development work. She also served as field coordinator for the Wheeling diocese's office of Appalachian ministry.

Communions Reported Up

St. Louis — (NC) — People aren't going to confession as often as they used to, but there has been an increase in the number of Communions and a generally healthy spiritual attitude, a check-up in several parishes in the St. Louis archdiocese disclosed. The pastors said they were not overly concerned by the decrease in the number of confessions. Their parishes, and others, reported an upsurge in the number of Communions.



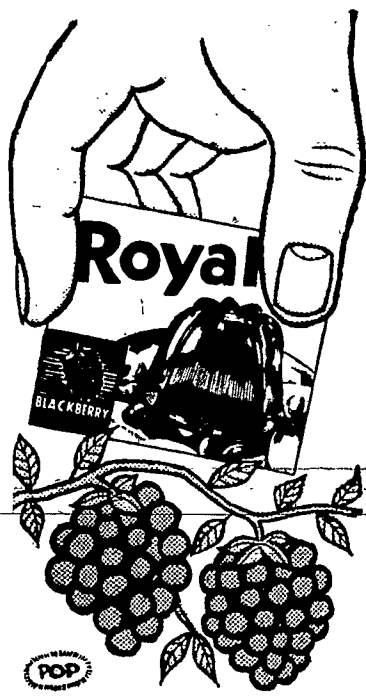
Keeping Cool in Vietnam

South Vietnam — (RNS) — His father's hat protecting him from the sun, a boy plays with a canteen of water near a sandbagged bunker at a South Vietnamese camp. Children at the camp are accustomed to playing with war materials.

Sacred Heart Congress in Oct.

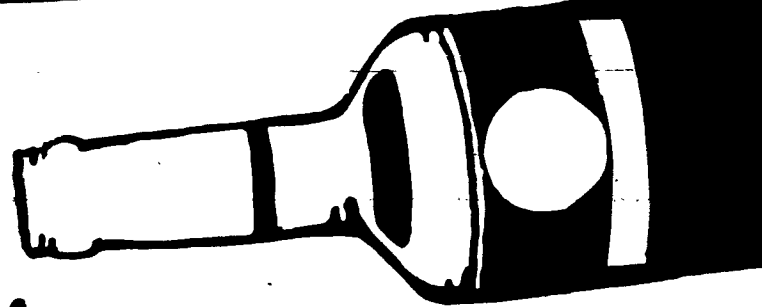
Kansas City — (NC) — A National Sacred Heart Congress will be held Oct. 2-6 here in Kansas City's Municipal Auditorium.

Theme of the congress will be "Renewal in the Heart of Christ." Its aim is to direct renewal in the Church through the Sacred Heart.



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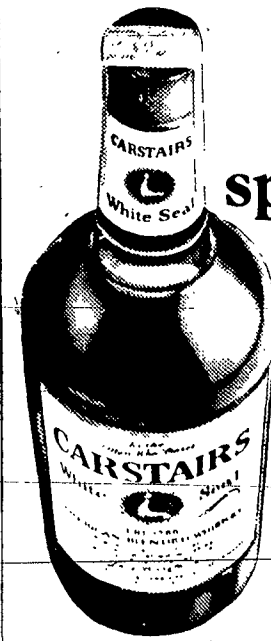
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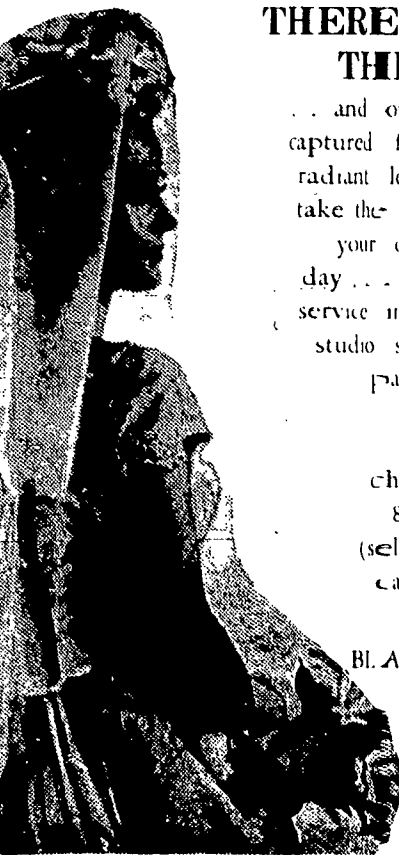
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