

Around The Country

Church Pickets Turned Away

Minneapolis—A Lutheran pastor who broke up a peace demonstration outside his suburban church has called upon clergymen and congregations to voice support of the U.S. stand in Viet Nam.

The Rev. Thomas Basich of Mt. Olivet Church, Roseville, declared in a sermon that "for too long a few dissenters have laid unwarranted claim to the Christian conscience and to the public voice of the church."

Such demonstrations have been occurring frequently of late at Mt. Olivet, Minneapolis, the largest Lutheran church in the nation.

Pastor Declines to Quit

Saginaw, Mich.—Father Robert A. Keller, known in Michigan for his work in the civil rights and curial movements, has turned down his bishop's request that he resign as pastor of Sacred Heart parish.

Father Keller, whose parish contains some 800 Negro, Mexican and white Catholics, is an exponent of the view that the cost of maintaining poor parishes should be shared by the richer parishes.

Sacred Heart has been in financial difficulty for some time, and Bishop Stephen S. Woznicki recently asked the pastor to resign so that another could step in and straighten out the finances.

Father Keller refused. The bishop has invited him to a meeting at which the diocesan consultants will discuss not only Sacred Heart's finances, but those of all inner-city parishes.

The bishop issued a statement that Father Keller "is and continues to be the pastor of Sacred Heart parish."

Church Accused in Will Suit

Covington, La.—A suit charging that the Roman Catholic Church swapped a special dispensation for a valuable gift of land has come to trial here.

The heirs of Joseph L. Ruhl seek to negate his bequest of millions of dollars worth of property to the New Orleans Archdiocesan Society for the Propagation of the Faith.

Archbishop Philip M. Hannan testified that there was no record of a dispensation for Ruhl, who was killed in an accident in 1952.

Inside WASHINGTON

MARCH OF EVENTS

MCCARTHY'S CANDIDACY: THE REASONING BEHIND IT

ADJUSTING U.S. POLICY TO WHAT PUBLIC DESIRES

By HENRY CATHCART
Central Press Washington Correspondent

WASHINGTON—The challenge by Sen. Eugene McCarthy of Minnesota against President Johnson in a number of state primaries next spring naturally raises the question "why?"

It is apparent that McCarthy shares the opinion of political observers that he stands virtually no chance of unhorsing the President.

What is not so apparent is that if McCarthy should succeed in undermining the President by seriously splitting the Democratic Party he will have brought about the very thing he opposes, a probable intensification of the fighting in Vietnam.

McCarthy is a dove, and as such stands as an advocate of U.S. disengagement in Vietnam. The Republican Party, on the other hand, is more hawk-like, and undoubtedly would seek disengagement, not by withdrawal as McCarthy advocates, but by seeking a swifter solution in the war arena.

On domestic policies, McCarthy has been identified with the more liberal wing of the Democratic Party, and opposed to the conservatives of the South. Yet, here too, the philosophy he opposes would benefit from a Democratic Party split that he is trying to bring about.

Having made these observations, it is necessary to emphasize that McCarthy is not a "spoiler," or an individual who is vindictive or excessively strong willed. He is not of the "rule or ruin" mold.

If anything, the senator is a man of principle, an individual who believes strongly in the democratic process; one who thinks the public and this includes the various shades of convictions that make up the Democratic Party majority in the nation should have some way of expressing their preferences, not only as between black and white, but among the infinite gray shadings that lie between these extremes.

McCarthy does not hope to win, but he does hope to influence his own party by demonstrating at the polls the need to adjust policy to public desires.

RETROACTIVE DESEGREGATION—U.S. Army policy is not to designate race on the current records of its soldiers.

An enlisted man who was discharged after World War II recently requested a copy of his retroactive record. When the document arrived, the racial classification box had been obliterated, even though it had been marked properly on the original document.

It was the first known example of retroactive desegregation, and, incidentally, was the first time that the Army's policy of desegregation extended to revising records of former soldiers.

Vatican Official Praises Meeting

Vatican City —(RNS)—The working session of the Pontifical Commission for Justice and Peace in Brussels is "an important step" toward promoting development in emerging nations and peace in the world, Archbishop Giovanni Benelli, Vatican under-secretary of State for Ordinary Affairs, said here.

Archbishop Benelli made his statement for Vatican Radio before leaving for Brussels as the Pope's personal representative at the meeting.

The commission, he said, "hopes to awaken in the People of God a more vivid awareness of their mission in the world today, above all with regard to Arab Catholics of the Byzantine Rite at a synod of Melkite Bishops at Beirut.

Psychiatrists, Clergy Urged To Combine Forces

New Canaan, Conn.—(RNS)—Psychiatrists and clergymen were urged here to "harness" the forces each represent for the good of humanity.

The Rev. George C. Anderson, founder and honorary president of the Academy of Religion and Mental Health, spoke to a medical-and-religious-symposium at the Silver Hill Foundation.

He said that while the "cold war" which existed between physicians and clergymen in the early years of this century was dissolving, there are "still areas of misunderstanding" requiring clarification.

Some 100 leaders in medicine and religion met to discuss the areas of conflict and cooperation between the two disciplines. They agreed that "considerably more dialogue" must develop if each group is to fulfill its traditional role of responsibility to people in need of guidance.

The symposium was sponsored by the Silver Hill Foundation, a residential psychiatric treatment and rehabilitation center, in conjunction with the Academy of Religion and Mental Health.

Mr. Anderson spoke at a luncheon session. Participants in a panel discussion included Father William C. Bier, S.J., chairman of the department of psychology at Fordham University, New York; Dr. Frank Fremont-Smith, director of the New York Academy of Sciences, and Dr. John M. Cotton, professor of clinical psychiatry at Columbia University's College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Father Bier said he felt the historic conflict between psychiatry and religion was influenced by three factors: 1) Sigmund Freud, the father of modern psychiatry who had no religious belief; 2) the attitude of psychiatrists who felt religion should be brought into line with clinical findings; and 3) the popularizers of psychiatry in the lay press who created false images of the profession.

He added that religionists reacted to such factors by forming a united front against psychiatry. He asked for further clarification about the neutrality of psychiatry toward religion, the idea that psychiatric treatment may be a danger to faith and free will versus determinism.

Dr. Fremont-Smith stressed the importance of communication between religion and psychiatry. "We must find common areas to work together, and then work together," he said.

Priests Ask Home Masses

Chicago — (RNS) — The Association of Chicago Priests acted on a series of measures looking toward far-reaching changes in Roman Catholic liturgy parish life and institutions.

Members of the ACP, meeting in their fourth plenary session, adopted resolutions:

1. Urging John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago, to allow Masses to be offered in private homes.

2. Establishing an ACP committee to study and make recommendations on "parochial experimentation," including possible non-geographic experimental parishes.

3. Recommending that "any prospective closing or moving of Catholic institutions, be they high schools or parishes or other institutions, should be considered by and worked on by people at the local level.

4. Proposing the collegial principle that authority in the parish be shared by the pastor, associate pastors and lay people.

5. Asking that priest retirement be "automatic at age 70," beginning in 1970.

6. Backing "principles of academic freedom" for priest-scholars.

The resolution concerning home Masses, unanimously adopted, was simple and direct: "The priests of the archdiocese urgently request permission to celebrate the home liturgy."

Such permission, granted locally in several parts of the country, has not yet been issued in the Chicago archdiocese, except for Masses for the infirm.

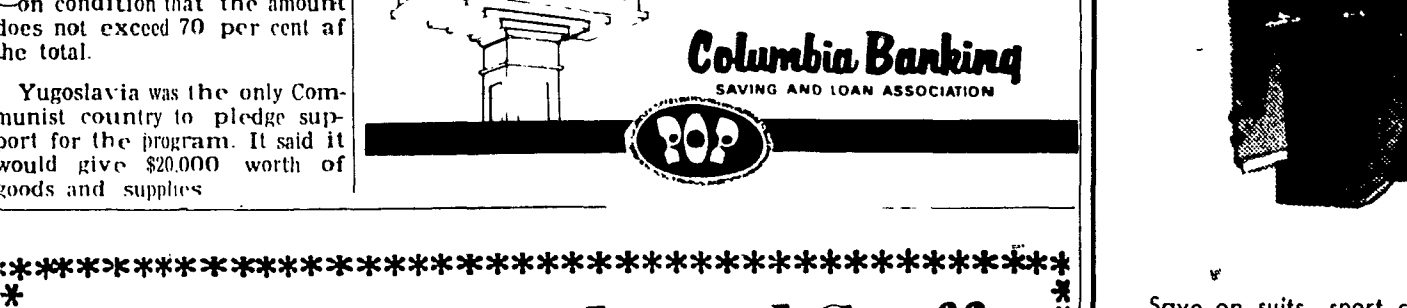
Nations Pledge \$26 Million For Near East

United Nations, N.Y.—(RNS) — Thirty-three governments pledged a total of \$26,270,340 to the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East (UNRWA) for 1968.

This figure includes a projected U.S. contribution of \$22 million — the same as last year — on condition that the amount does not exceed 70 per cent of the total.

Yugoslavia was the only Communist country to pledge support for the program. It said it would give \$20,000 worth of goods and supplies.

The Blanchards and Staff

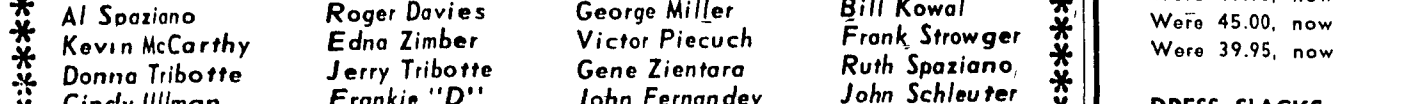


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NEW ORLEANS
of "Bethlehem,
religious servic
Directing the
Dominican nun
from left: Dr.
Presbytery (Fr.
Burkett, pastor
man; and Mrs.
(RNS Photo)

'House Needy

New Orleans—(RNS) Terriligious service called "Bethlehem" of Bread," received 100,000 copies of Christmas.

It will open in Feb provide food and clothi poor of the New Orleans, particularly women s dren.

One of its first prog be to serve breakfa "school morning" for a students of McDonoug School nearby. Childre ing the daily breakfas screened by a visiting at the school. The morn will consist of cerec cocoa and milk.

One substantial me provided from 9 a.m. t every weekday. The ce have clothing for thos and will offer referal s selling services.

The building in w center is located was by the Holy Land Mt. Baptist church next formerly was used for center and restaurant.

Sister Mary David, a can nun in the social s of the New Orleans archdiocese who works in the Central City i an organizer of the " Bread."

The building housin ter will be renovated

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