



**NEW ORLEANS**—A huge loaf of French bread hanging in the front window of "Bethlehem, the House of Bread," symbolizes the aim of the new inter-religious service center — to feed and clothe the poor in New Orleans, La. Directing the placing of the name sign and bread is Sister M. David, a Dominican nun who was the prime organizer of the center. With her are, from left: Dr. T. Russell Numan, executive secretary of the New Orleans Presbytery (Presbyterian), chairman of the center's board; the Rev. John Burkett, pastor of Gloryland-Mt. Gillion Baptist church, the board's co-chairman; and Mrs. Lillie Mae Wainie, city social worker and board member. (RNS Photo)

## 'House of Bread' Aids Needy in New Orleans

New Orleans—(RNS)—An inter-religious service center here, called "Bethlehem, the House of Bread," received its incorporation papers just before Christmas.

It will open in February to provide food and clothing to the poor of the New Orleans area, particularly women and children. One of its first programs will be to serve breakfast every "school morning" for about 125 students of McDonough Public School nearby. Children receiving the daily breakfast will be screened by a visiting teacher at the school. The morning meal will consist of cereal, rolls, cocoa and milk.

One substantial meal will be provided from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. every weekday. The center will have clothing for those in need, and will offer referral and counseling services. The building in which the center is located was donated by the Gloryland-Mt. Gillion Baptist church next door. It formerly was used for a youth center and restaurant. Sister Mary David, a Dominican nun in the social apostolate of the New Orleans Catholic archdiocese who works full time in the Central City area, was an organizer of the "House of Bread."

The building housing the center will be renovated by volunteer labor using donated materials. The City of New Orleans is donating the services of two case workers to help in screening and counseling clients. They are already engaged in the poverty program of the Central City area. In citing the need for the "House of Bread," Mrs. Lillie Mae Wainie, a city social worker, said "There are many hospices and service centers for men in New Orleans, but only the Salvation Army works with women and children. With the 'House of Bread' we hope to be able to provide at least one full meal a day to some of the many who live at the just-existing stage."

### Chanukah Celebrates Jews' Treatment

New York—(RNS)—Chanukah candle-lighting ceremonies calling upon the Soviet Union to stop its slow strangulation of Jewish spiritual and cultural life" were expected to draw 25,000 persons to meetings in 18 major American cities and counties this week.

Coordinating the rallies is the American Jewish Conference on Soviet Jewry, an organization representing 25 national Jewish organizations.

Rabbi Israel Miller, president of the Conference, commented that "Chanukah, as a festival commemorating resistance to forced assimilation, gives special emphasis to our demand of the Soviet Union that it grant full equality to Russian Jews."

## Episcopalians Crash Program For Ghetoes

Greenwich, Conn.—(RNS)—At least 80 per cent of the funds allocated by the Episcopal Church for a crash program in the nation's ghettos will go "directly into the hands of the poor," the program's acting director told the Church's Executive Council here.

The Episcopal Church, at its triennial General Convention meeting in September, approved expenditure of at least \$2 million annually for "programs directly related to the urban crisis."

Leon E. Modeste, acting director of the General Convention Special Program (GCSP), said the agency "intends to place 80 per cent of its budget directly into the hands of the poor, and provide whatever other assistance possible as the people determine their own priorities."

He did "not anticipate any difficulty" in receiving adequate financial accounting of how the money would be used, since "part of a good project is having a sound fiscal component."

Modeste stressed need to work with other religious and secular groups in attacking ghetto problems. "No one person, one group or one Church can solve the problems of the poor and the powerless."

## Church Protects Indian Tribe

Aguarico, Ecuador—(NC)—An Ecuadorean priest whose ministry includes an isolated Indian tribe, the Auca, has lodged a strong protest against the possibility that petroleum-seekers operating in the Indians' territory may wipe out the tribe.

Pointing to an article in Quito's El Tiempo, Father Alejandro Labaca Ugarte, Aguarico's perfect apostolic, said the Church must intervene to protect the tribe. According to Father Labaca, the best way to do this is with a helicopter that can airlift supplies, medical aid and teachers into the Indians' otherwise inaccessible territory.

Father Labaca, emphasizing that the Church is vitally concerned for the poor of Ecuador, said that these Auca Indians are most in need of help. "These pitiable people are unaware of the sword swinging over their heads. We hope to help them survive and to become civilized Christians," the priest said.

Pope Thanked Vatican City—(NC)—President Zakir Hussain of India has sent a telegram of thanks to Pope Paul VI for his "prayers, heartfelt sympathy and generous assistance for those affected by the recent earthquake in western India."

## Cathedral Critics Said Unrealistic

San Francisco—(RNS)—The construction of a new Roman Catholic cathedral here has spurred protests from some clergy and laity that the funds would be better spent on housing for the poor.

But Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken of San Francisco has called the critics of his new \$8.5 million edifice "young and out of touch with reality."

The protestors, after attempting to have the archbishop change his mind, have taken their appeal to the Apostolic Delegate to the United States, Archbishop Luigi Raimondi.

"They say we should invest in low-cost housing," said Archbishop McGucken, "but that is an immensely complicated procedure of which these critics have no knowledge. Besides, there is difficulty in getting land in San Francisco for such housing."

"It is simply not an either-or proposition. We spend in two years as much on charity in this archdiocese as this cathedral, which will last for hundreds, will cost," he added.

The prelate discounted the significance of the protest which he said involved mainly young people. He added:

"They think we are out of touch with the people, but we are really in touch. These young people are not involved in and just don't realize how much we are doing. Part of this is just the spirit of the times. They are just having fun protesting."

Archbishop McGucken made his comments at a press conference which preceded the blessing of the cornerstone of the new St. Mary's Cathedral. Officially at the ceremony was Archbishop Raimondi.

Before his visit to San Francisco, the Ad Hoc Committee had sent a lengthy letter of protest to Archbishop Raimondi. He has been on a tour of dioceses in the southwest and on the Pacific Coast and has not seen the letter, according to a spokesman for the committee.

In the letter to Archbishop Raimondi, the committee made the following requests:

- Stop construction of the cathedral.
- Re-evaluate the Christian priorities of the human needs in San Francisco.
- Give a full accounting of the funds expended on St. Mary's Cathedral.

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