

## Around The World

### All Who Aid Sicily Blessed

Vatican City—(RNS)—Pope Paul VI gave his blessing here to "the authorities, the institutions, the people—all who have done their utmost to give consolation and help" to the victims of earthquakes in Sicily.

Addressing a crowd in St. Peter's Square from the window of his study, the Pope recalled those who have suffered in the destruction of their land.

"We are thinking," he said, "of the dead, the unhappy survivors in their grief and desolation... those who lost everything... Let us put side by side with the terrible picture of devastated areas and desolate sufferers the comforting sight of all who have gone to give their aid."

### Cheers and Jeers for Unity

London—(NC)—When Anglican Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury arrived at Westminster's Catholic cathedral to pray with John Cardinal Heenan for Christian unity, some Protestants outside shouted "Traitor!" and "Blasphemy!" About 50 hymnsinging banner-waving people were kept at a distance by police.

When Cardinal Heenan received the archbishop at the foot of the sanctuary steps, a burst of spontaneous applause came from the packed congregation of several thousand.

### Aged Prelate Keeps Working

Valletta, Malta—(RNS)—Archbishop Michael Gonzi, 82, of Malta, was applauded by a congregation here when he denied rumors that he plans to retire.

He said that he had offered his resignation twice to Pope Paul. He quoted the Pope as saying, "You stay where you are and we will give you help if you want it."

### Urges Nigerian Peace Talks

Lagos, Nigeria—(NC)—Mgr. Dominic Conway, rector of Rome's Irish College and papal envoy to Nigeria, told a congregation here that the civil war raging in Nigeria since May, 1967, could be halted by negotiations.

"We are not here," Mgr. Conway said of the papal relief mission, "to say that one side or the other is right or wrong. What we do say is that this conflict can be resolved by honorable negotiations; that both sides must come together and talk; that both must concede a little."

### Pay War Victims, Bonn Asked

Bonn, Germany—(NC)—The International Concentration Camp Committee and the German branch of Pax Christi, international Catholic peace movement, have urged the government to give financial compensation to former inmates of German concentration camps.

### More India Missions Closed

Gwahati, Assam—(RNS)—Ten of the 13 foreign missionaries remaining in the Mizo Hills have been asked to leave the State of Assam within a month. Most of them are American Baptists and Welsh Presbyterians in teaching and hospital work, it was announced.

Government policy excludes foreigners from sensitive areas. They will be permitted to work in other parts of India. The Mizo Hills have been the scene of revolutionary activity by tribesmen seeking separation from India. Missionaries have frequently been accused of encouraging the rebels. A number of Roman Catholic missionaries have already been expelled.

### Family Planning Voluntary

New Delhi, India—(NC)—India's new health and family planning minister has ruled out the use of pressure in the government's birth control program.

At a family planning officers' seminar here, Satya Narain Sinha warned birth control propagandists against "force, compulsion or undesirable inducements" in implementing the program. Sinha said that proper education and motivation of the people would alone make family planning a mass movement.

### "Renewal" Welcome in Italy

Rome—(NC)—Italy's bishops have published a joint letter urging the nation's priests, laymen and theologians not to be afraid of the theological renewal of the post-conciliar Church.

The letter stressed that it is the duty of bishops, clergy and theologians to refer themselves constantly to the word of God "so that it can be incorporated in the living texture of new situations in which humanity continues to find itself."

# Sudan's Policy: Tighten State-Church (Moslem) Bonds

Nairobi, Kenya—(NC)—The 12-year gap between the founding of the Sudanese Republic and the adoption of a permanent constitution is due to disagreement among the Arab parties of the North, to the activities of a six-year-old military dictatorship, and to guerrilla disturbances in the South which have prevented regular general elections. However, the present constituent assembly, elected in 1965, is determined to adopt a constitution before being dissolved in February.

## Americans Aid Quake Victims

Rome—(NC)—Clothing shipments valued at \$795,000, money and other supplies, have been rushed by U.S. Catholics to help victims of Sicily's earthquakes.

Catholic Relief Services' office in Rome said that when disaster first struck in Sicily, a supply of clothing contributed in the American Thanksgiving drive was already here and is being distributed. The American Catholic organization also sent \$5,000 in cash and a plane load of blankets.

(At the same time, the CRS is helping to feed 3,000 earthquake victims in Koymanagar, India. In cooperation with a local organization, the U.S. group has set up 20 kitchens and is studying the possibility of rebuilding roads and houses in a volunteer "food for work" program.)

Pope Paul VI sent his personal representative to direct papal relief efforts in Sicily.

Msgr. Abramo Freschi, president of the Pontifical Relief Organization (POA) went immediately to the disaster area between Trapani and Agrigento.

Meanwhile, dioceses all over Italy issued appeals for the collection of funds, medicines, food, clothing and blankets to help out the thousands of persons who have fled their homes. Caritas Internationalis, international Catholic relief organization, also immediately issued appeals for assistance, and national organizations of Caritas in France, Switzerland and Germany have begun dispatching shipments to the disaster area.

## Poll Relates Class to Mass

London—(NC)—Only 42% of Catholic men of working age attend Mass regularly in this country, according to a professional survey. Sunday Mass attendance is 80.5% for men in the top professional classes, but drops to 38% of those in unskilled occupations.

This shows the importance of class influence on social behavior, the Parish Census Services concluded.

Commenting in the Clergy Review, Father Leon de Saint Moulin, S.J., said that it shows the marked distance between the Church and the poorest social classes. He said it called for a courageous rethinking of ecclesiastical structures and organizations.

For example, the draft constitution specifies that:

"The Constitution of the Sudan shall be derived from the principles and spirit of Islam... (article 1).

"Islam is the official religion of the state... (article 3).

"All laws which contravene the Kitab and the Sunna, that is, the Koran and Islamic tradition, shall be gradually repealed and amended... (article 5).

According to the draft constitution, the Sudan is simultaneously an Arab and African country, because both Arabs and Negroes are found within the borders. However, the constitution reinforces Arab determination to consolidate the country's ties with the Arab world and to establish an Islamic brotherhood.

A key passage in the draft constitution emphasizes that "the state should fight with all

its forces to consolidate the unity of the Arab nation...

It should support the movement for emancipation from colonialism, oppression and political suppression." A later article describes Sudanese foreign policy as devoted to "combating old and neo-colonialism."

On occasion, "neo-colonialism" has been used by Sudanese Arab politicians to mean Christianity.

The use of "neo-colonialism" is an indication of the permanent future of Christian schools, now closed down or nationalized by the government. The draft constitution urges that "the state should direct all educational programs and curricula in all government and non-government schools," despite earlier promises that religious groups would be free to maintain their own educational institutions.

Sidestepping the difficult problem of providing for na-

tional unity in a nation made up of many racial groups, the draft constitution decrees that all people shall be united and that the state "shall liquidate all racial tendencies" among its citizens. In the past, this has meant the eradication of Negro African customs and languages and of everything else, including Christianity, that interferes with Islam.

Nationalization of Christian schools, another step in the government's efforts to impose Islam, began in 1957 and culminated in 1964 with the expulsion of all Christian missionaries from the southern part of the country.

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**PAPAL AUDIENCE**  
An audience with His Holiness, Pope Paul VI, is expected, as well as a comprehensive tour of Vatican City.

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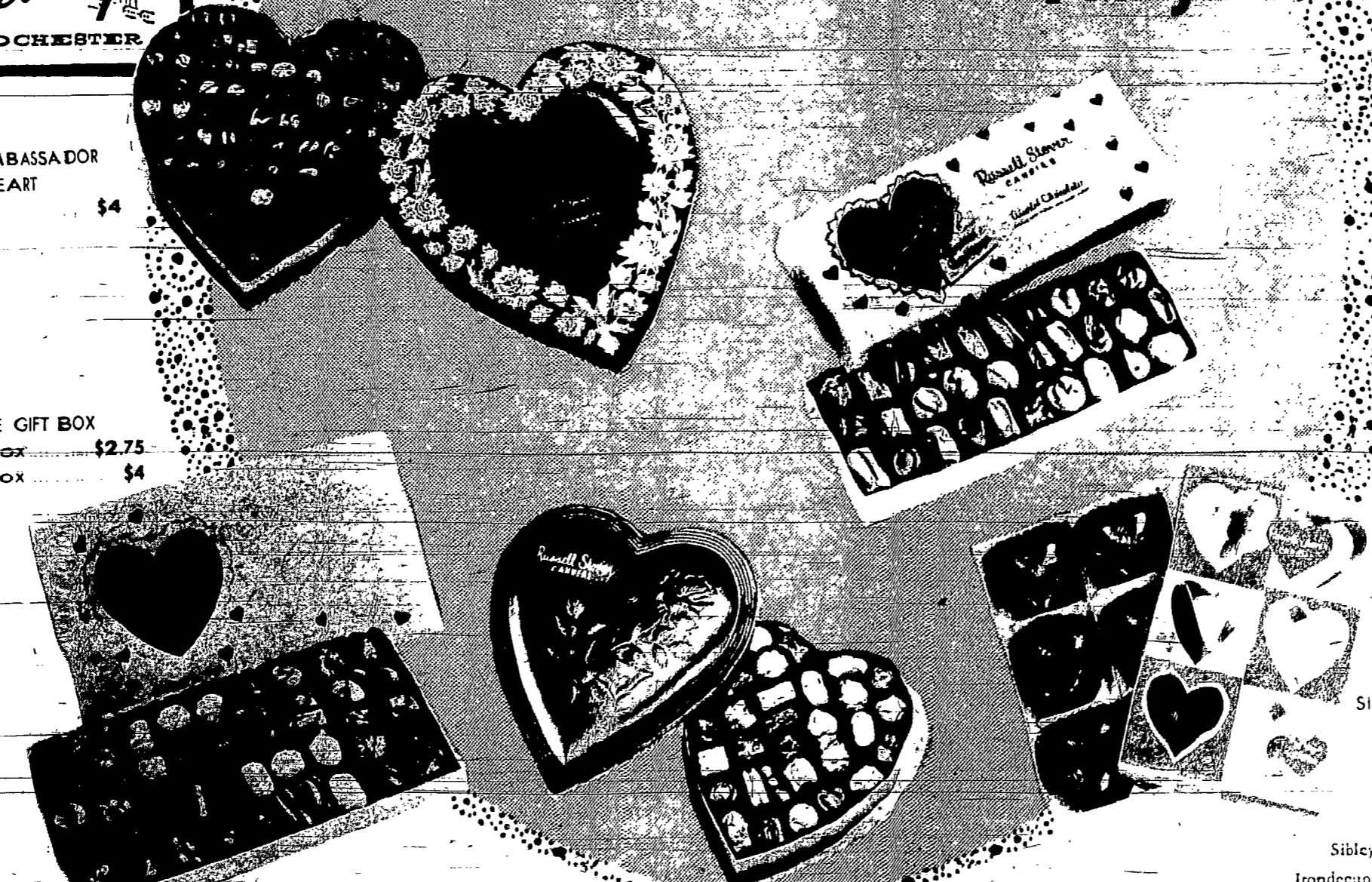
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