

# Bishop Challenges Farm Evictions

La Vega, Dominican Republic (NC)—The government has put a stop to the eviction of farm families by a rich landlord who, the local bishop says, should be in jail.

Bishop Juan Flores Santana of La Vega denounced the landlord in a letter to the Dominican daily newspapers, and said the evictions had been accomplished with the help of public authorities and military men. Those he singled out were fired or transferred.

The bishop's letter about Ramon Cordero, the landlord, said:

"For months we have tried to demand justice. Should this be a country where the law ruled impartially, this man would be in jail.

"These farmers testify that Cordero has set loose wild cows on their cultivated lands and their poor huts, bringing destruction and endangering their children."

Bishop Flores then banned Cordero and his men from Church functions and the sacraments.

President Joaquin Balaguer of the Dominican Republic ordered an investigation, promised that the farmers would be properly settled on government lands and transferred or fired the officials who helped Cordero.

The conservative daily El Caribe editorially protested the measures against Cordero, claiming that they were attacks on private property rights. Dr.

Manuel Garcia Lizardo, the attorney general, replied that the government is determined to defend the right of private property—but "within the limitations of its social function."

Cordero held title to large landholdings at Bateo where the evictions occurred. Dominican law says that those cultivating unused lands for five years build a claim to the tract. Although this was the case of the farmers, Cordero had accused them of trespassing.

The Baena incidents have rekindled the controversy between extreme conservative leaders and social-minded clergy and laymen.

Cordero's lawyer, Victor Garrido, accused Bishop Flores of joining those churchmen who want "to execute a land reform with state resources." He said the Agrarian Federation of Farm Unions is a "front following directives from the La Vega priests." The lawyer also charged that several Jesuit priests engaged in radio and television work "are bent on promoting social disorder."



## Pope Receives Jazzmen

Vatican City — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI accepts recordings from noted American jazz musicians, Louis Armstrong (second right) and Lionel Hampton, during a Vatican audience. The Pope, who welcomed the visitors warmly, gave them medals of his pontificate. Later, Mr. Armstrong told reporters he had the "greatest admiration" for the pontiff.

## Rector Quits Over 'Pot' and the 'Pill'

Edinburgh — (RNS)—Choosing a Presbyterian pulpit as his platform, one of Britain's best known personalities slashed here at students who demand "pot" and "the pill"—and then announced his resignation as rector of Edinburgh University.

Malcolm Muggeridge, writer, broadcaster, wit, interviewer of international personalities, and rector of the university since February, 1967, was the speaker. The pulpit of St. Giles' (Church of Scotland) Cathedral was his platform.

And the repercussions of what he said were still reverberating days afterwards on the campuses of Scotland and among student bodies in England.

Mr. Muggeridge was delivering a sermon to a congregation of more than 2,000 students and teachers at a Beginning-of-Term university service. He said:

"The students in this university are the ultimate beneficiaries in our welfare system. They are supposed to be the spearhead of progress, flattered and paid for by their admiring seniors, an elite who will happily and audaciously carry the torch of progress into the glorious future opening before them."

"How sad, how macabre and funny it is that all they put forward should be a demand for

pot (drugs) and pills (contraceptives)."

This, he added bitterly, was the "most tentrate" form of indulgence ever known. It was the resort of "any old slobbering debauchee anywhere in the world at any time — dope and bed. And he continued:

"The feeling raised in me is not so much disapproval as contempt. This as you may imagine, makes it difficult, indeed impossible, for me as rector to fulfill my function."

What had prompted Mr. Mug-

geridge's pulpit onslaught, and his unprecedented resignation as a Scottish university rector, was an earlier request by the Students' Representative Council that the Student Health Service should provide contraceptive pills to any student who wanted them.

Because of his opposition to the pill, students later called on Mr. Muggeridge to resign as rector. He announced his resignation from St. Giles' pulpit.

But it all did not end there. A publication disclosed that Dr.

Michael Swan, principal of Edinburgh University, supported Mr. Muggeridge in his opposition. "I believe this (resignation) is the only course open to you, and the one that I, too, would, I hope, have taken had I been in your position," Dr. Swan said.

In England, Trevor Fisk, secretary of Britain's National Union of Students, said Mr. Muggeridge had "not done a service to students" by adopting a "highly emotional and excessively moralistic attitude" to the problem of birth control among young people.

"We don't believe that the present student generation is any more immoral than any previous generation, nor are students, as a class, promiscuous," he added.

Later, here—in Edinburgh, university students at a meeting voted 479 to 414, to support Mr. Muggeridge in his opposition. One-third of the students at the two-hour debate were girls.

Mr. Muggeridge, 64, later expressed his gratification at the outcome of this debate, but stuck to his resignation.

In expressing this opposition to the "pill" being made available to students, he said it could be "as disastrous to society as the bomb."

## World's Largest Parish

Godthaab, Greenland — (NC) — Greenland, with an area of 840,000 square miles, is the world's largest parish with one of the world's smallest congregations.

The priests for the 58 Catholic parishioners out of a population of 34,000 are members of the United States Central Province of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate.

The team of three priests serving this Danish island includes Greenland's first native Catholic, Father Finn Lyng. The pastor of this large parish is Father Alex Kons, who is also auxiliary chaplain at the two U.S. air bases in the island. The third member of the team is Father Paul Marx.

The cost of transportation for maintaining contact with the scattered Catholics is a principal problem of the priest's work here. The good commercial helicopter service is expensive; the Oblate Fathers' boat, the Gardar, is too slow for great distances, and their airplane, Queen of the Snows, was damaged in an accident last year and its pilot, Father Tom Kilteen, hospitalized.

## Protestant Chaplain For Catholic School

Ponce, P.R. — (NC) — Msgr. Theodore E. McCarrick, president of the Catholic University of Puerto Rico here, has announced appointment of a Protestant chaplain to the university's non-Catholic students.

He is the Rev. Alfredo Santago, a minister of the United Evangelical Church. Msgr. McCarrick said: "An important part of the total education of the lay student is his spiritual formation, and every university true to its name must offer to all its students the opportunity for this formation, which is so important for the fullness of their lives."

"We have non-Catholic students at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico, and therefore, we must offer them too the opportunity for that formation according to their own consciences."

DEADLINE FOR NEWS  
MONDAY NOON

## Probing the Word

By FATHER ALBERT J. SHAMON

### Parable of the Sower (Sexagesima Sunday)

The first parable Jesus told was of the sower who went out to sow seed. Originally, Jesus spoke this parable to uplift His disciples. Taking His cue perhaps from a farmer seeding a Galilean hillside, Jesus said, as the farmer was not discouraged from sowing because some of the seed was lost, so neither must they be in preaching the Kingdom, for despite some losses a rich harvest is sure.

Later on, early Christians allegorized the parable to explain why some rejected God's word and others defected. Not the seed but the soil, not the word of God but the hearers—these were at fault!

A seed is a wonder of the world. How tiny! Thirty-five million orchid seeds weigh only an ounce. Yet how full of life! In a miracle of packaging a tiny seed can contain the concentrated vitality of the mighty sequoia. And how hardy! A seed found in specimens of Manchurian peat was identified as 1,000 years old. The Washington, D.C., Conservatory succeeded in germinating it.

God's word is like the seed. Tiny, for the Bible is but one book. Hardy, for heaven and earth will pass away; it will not. Vital, for "the words I have spoken are spirit and life" (Jn. 6.63).

But all seed is not good seed. The enemy sows darnel — small, but potent. Satan made hardly more than a suggestion to Eve. To Macbeth the witches merely whispered, "Hail, King of Scotland." Cassius simply hinted about Caesar's ambition. It was enough.

He who would make a mighty fire begins with a tiny straw. Psychological warfare is built on this principle. Simply sow a suggestion in the mass media: police brutality, unilateral disarmament, non-intervention, nuclear annihilation. It is enough. The sower, like Marc Antony after his inflammatory funeral oration, can sit back and say, "Now let it work. Mischief thou art afoot."

Christ, however, sowed good seed: love, not hate; ideas that would bless the land, as good seed transforms the desert into a garden.

As each generation draws new secrets from nature to meet its needs, so from God's word each succeeding generation discovers things both old and new, suited for its times.

Each Sunday how many thousands of sermons are preached! Yet what spiritual revival do we see in the land? Can it be we hear only with our ears and not our hearts? In vain is the planting unless the heart be ploughed by prayer and penance and become "a noble and generous heart."

## Catholic College Forced to Close

Omaha, Neb. — (RNS) — costs and decreased enrollment, now at 336 students. Duchesne Academy, a high school on the same campus, will be continued with expanded and more flexible educational facilities because of increased operating

## Happy Problem In Ecuador

The current shortage of vocations to the priesthood reported from various parts of the world is not felt in Ecuador, according to the Salesian Fathers.

A recruiting campaign has brought forth more "good, deserving, qualified boys" than the order can take care of, Father John Porter, S.D.B., wrote recently from Quito. Five dollars a month will enable the donor to "adopt" a boy and will provide for his training at Don Bosco College in Quito, Father Porter said.

Interested persons can send contributions to Father Porter, c/o Salesian Mission Office, Box 30, New Rochelle, N.Y.

## Australian Host Makers Note Communion Increase

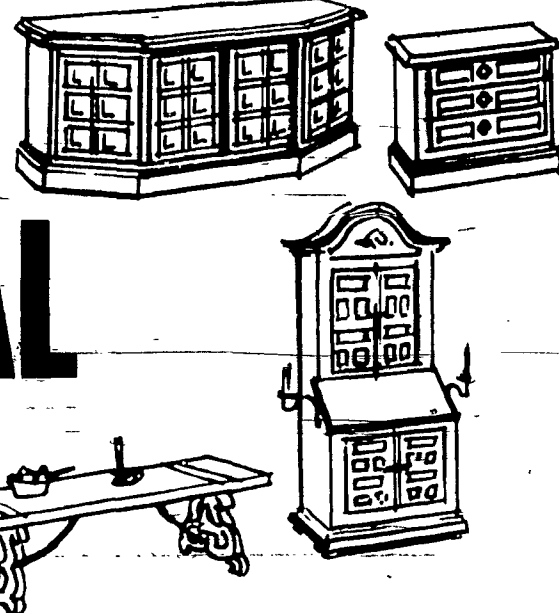
Adelaide, Australia — (NC) — The most authoritative evidence for the dramatic increase in the reception of Communion throughout Australia in the past few years can be found in a convent located in suburban Kensington.

It is at St. Joseph's convent where, the head nurse of the Sisters of St. Joseph of the Sacred Heart, that the altar breads used by the Church in major portion of Australia are made.

The convent's records of altar bread-baking and distribution reveal that at least three times as many persons in Australia are receiving Communion as four years ago, when the easing of Eucharistic fast regulations began.

Three of the 80 Sisters at St. Joseph's convent work full time making the unleavened altar breads. They supply hosts for most of South Australia, all of the Northern Territory, and Wentworth in New South Wales.

ALL BEDROOM, DINING ROOM,  
UPHOLSTERED AND OCCASIONAL  
FURNITURE SALE PRICED!



Traditional, Modern,  
Early American, Colonial,  
French and Italian Provincial,  
Mediterranean styles

Two inspired Drexel Traditional groupings sale priced. Esperanto . . . a blend of Mediterranean moods and styles. Reflecting 17th and 18th Century Romance opulence and artistry; Moorish influence in Spanish art. Available in warm, brown, pecan Moreno finish, and Hispania, a dark contrast. Adano . . . impressively scaled Italian Provincial. A classic design, never out of style. Will enhance every room. The luxurious finish, perfect scaling and special Drexel touch make this a truly beautiful value. Sibley's Furniture, Fifth Floor, Downtown; selection at Irondequoit, Southtown, Greece.

## SIBLEY'S FEBRUARY FURNITURE SALE

SIBLEY'S DOWNTOWN STORE OPEN TUESDAY AND THURSDAY TR. 9 P.M. ALL SIBLEY SUBURBAN STORES NOW OPEN MONDAY THRU FRIDAY UNTIL 9:30 P.M.