



More Signs of the Times

Jamaica, N.Y. — (RNS) — The renewal of the Catholic Sisterhood was strikingly apparent at an all-day meeting of some 1,200 nuns from the Brooklyn diocese gathered in the Passionist Monastery of Jamaica, N.Y. Many of the nuns at the "Day of Renewal" wore their new modernized religious garb.

Theology of Violence Needed, Bishop Says

Santiago de Veraguas, Panama (NC) — A better theology of violence and a better knowledge of its political and economic aspects, has been called for by Bishop Marcos G. McGrath, C.S.C.

Interviewed at his home here, Bishop McGrath said that a Christian cannot justify violence "except as a last resort and as a proportionate means. This requires a concrete judgment of a specific situation."

"Romanticism in this area," he went on, "can be both wrong and dangerous, especially if it were simply to divert energies and attention from the positive tasks of development."

"There is real heroism in those who stick to the hard, progressive task of grass-root development in building men and social structures. I think they and the men they build are the wave of the future."

"I am wrongly quoted as saying that whether revolution in Latin America be violent or nonviolent is not so much a problem of ethics but a problem of tactics."

"This would be a monstrous kind of statement. I actually stated that some few Christians hold that in their specific countries the oppressive situation justifies resistance. Thus they conclude that violence is no longer an ethical but a tactical problem for them. I added that I myself do not know any situation I could judge in this way."

Bishop McGrath also claimed that it is "moral nonsense to talk about the Latin American revolution — if we mean a violent revolution."

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Curia Updates Work Rules

Vatican City — (NC) — A new series of regulations governing working conditions in the offices of the Roman Curia, the Church's central administrative offices, have fixed retirement ages, working hours and other matters. The new regulations consist of 130 articles and went into effect on March 1. Personnel policies designed to improve rank and file morale and efficiency occupy the chief part of the new rules.

Among guiding principles of the reorganizations, said Msgr. Giovanni Pinna, former secretary of the cardinals commission, at a press conference, was the internationalization of the Curia and close links with the bishops of the world.

The newly-enacted procedures established grades, norms of promotion, hours of work and vacations and retirement for the priests, religious and laymen belonging to the Vatican service.

The general norms aim at establishing common levels of equality among the higher officials of each office and equality of salaries throughout the Curia, depending on the grade of the persons involved.

Retirement age for higher superiors such as secretaries and undersecretaries, is set at the 74th year, while officials of lower grades are to retire at 70.

Cardinal prefects of Curia offices, however, have no retirement age. It has already been established that in the future they will hold their offices only for a five-year period, renewable at the will of the Pope.

The regulations require that all priests employed in the Curia be associated with a church or religious institute where they can do pastoral work as a supplement to their work for the Holy See.

A 33-hour work week has been established, a slight reduction from past schedules. However, in addition to being open in the mornings, all Curia offices are now required to keep part of the staff on duty for two hours in the evening.

All curial priests are guaranteed six days off to take part in spiritual retreats as well as 30 days annual vacation with travel time allowed for non-Italians.

Missionary Nuns Study Latin Church Tensions

Ponce, P.R. — (NC) — North American Religious preparing for apostolic service in Latin America must realize that they are entering "a church in revolution."

That is one conclusion of a week-long meeting called to discuss the role of North American religious women in Latin America.

Superiors and other representatives of 49 religious communities met at the Catholic University of Puerto Rico with specialists in Latin American affairs.

A closing document, describing the Church in Latin America as "a Church in revolution," concludes that "this tension, if understood correctly, can lead to a purified servant Church."

The conference covered theological, sociological, cultural and linguistic problems. Its report urges the mission committee of the U.S. Conference of Major Superiors of Women to play "an essential role of coordination" with the mission committees of the Major Superiors of Men and the U.S. bishops.

"The principle of cooperative planning should be recognized from the beginning," it says.

The document outlines personal characteristics required for successful apostolic service in Latin America. It says the type of person needed is one who is "spiritually and emotionally mature, qualified and with some experience, integrat-

Housing Planned For Riot Area

Newark — (NC) — A massive housing development will be built under Church auspices in the heart of the ghetto area where rioting took place last summer.

The project will be located on a 45-acre site near City Hospital, an area where the New Jersey College of Medicine and Dentistry will be located.

The new development will be sponsored by the Newark Archdiocese through Queen of Angels parish. Priority will be given to residents being displaced by college construction. The land involved is part of urban renewal parcels originally earmarked for the medical school, which dropped its land demands from 150 acres to 57 acres.

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