

### Father Meng

## Relief Money Hitting Target

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weaken their general stamina, so that even milder diseases, like measles, can be fatal.

Largely an agricultural nation, Dahomey has not yet been able to raise enough food to feed its own people. "Many people eat once a day, very few eat three meals," noted Father Meng.

Parents are loath to let their children go to school, because as soon as they are able to work in the fields, they can be a help.

One of the strongest incentives the mission schools can offer parents is free lunch for the children at school. In the north, many of the children stay at the mission centers, of necessity, since they live too far away to travel to school each day. These are the luckiest students, because they are on a three-meals-a-day program.

Catholic Relief Services last year handled distribution of four million pounds of food. This was parceled out through some 250 centers, including Catholic and Protestant missions, government hospitals and social centers.

"We recently received 22 tons of medical supplies from the Catholic Medical Mission Board," Father



FATHER MENG

Meng told the Courier-Journal, "and this was worth \$95,000."

The Rochester priest had an encouraging word about the value of the Thanksgiving Clothing Collection too, which in the Rochester Diocese annually brings in more than

500,000 pounds of usable wearing apparel.

"Many people go barefoot, not because they prefer it, but because they simply lack shoes," he said of the Dahomese. "Others get pneumonia because they aren't dressed warmly enough, and with their frail health, often die of it."

The CRS program tries to reach beyond immediate needs, he pointed out, in an effort to help the infant nation develop its resources. "We try to utilize the supplies we have as incentives for local initiative," he explained.

"If we know a town is planning a craft school, for example, we will offer to provide lunches for the students," he continued. This way, the CRS help moves away from the "dole" principal, in the direction of building a self-supporting Dahomey economy.

Father Meng, whose last home assignment was assistant pastor at Corpus Christi Church, is staying at his old parish during his leave. Next Sunday, he'll be heading for Africa again. He plans to stay until he has completed two years in the assignment, which will be in June. Then he'll be homeward bound for re-assignment in the diocese.



### Survey Seeks Riot Roots

Newark, N.J.—(RNS)—A door-to-door survey was undertaken in Newark, N.J., designed to get at the roots of race riots and to prevent future violence on city streets. The campaign was organized by the Rev. James Wade, pastor of Greater First Timothy Baptist church, Newark. Here Negroes are interviewed.

## Defends Church Fight For Racial Justice

St. Paul, Minn.—(RNS)—John Cardinal Cody of Chicago defended church involvement in the struggle for racial justice in a lecture here.

The cardinal, noting that over the years he has been beaten, threatened with bombs and bombarded with mail because of his integration stand, said he and other bishops frequently had been exhorted by Catholics to remain silent about human rights.

These exhortations, he said, reminded him of a similar situation 80 years ago when immigrants—largely Roman Catholics—were "exploited in the most cruel fashion by a system of 'laissez-faire' capitalism that demanded hours of back-breaking labor but provided little financial recompense."

The Chicago prelate implied that accusations made against Catholics 80 years ago were similar to those now being made against Negroes, noting that outbursts of violence accompanied the strikes in which Catholics had then demanded their rights.

Negro Americans, in growing numbers, he said, are "tired of being victimized," "tired of being reviled," and "tired of waiting for America to learn about their plight and permit social institutions to do the task that needs to be done."

"They feel that the Church has long been hesitant regarding the issue of race. They feel that their needs have not been understood. They feel that their voice has not been heard."

It is not sufficient, he said, for religious leaders to speak out. Local parishes and congregations must "make their contribution to removing the stain of racial discrimination from our nation's honor."

In a question and answer period following a lecture at St. Thomas College, the cardinal said some Chicago families "have moved twice to avoid the invasion."

Cardinal Cody said busing of Negro children to largely white public and parochial schools is "a step in the right direction, but won't solve all our problems."

He said the Chicago archdiocese had been transporting Negro children to Chicago Catholic schools for the last two years "because we want to keep the schools integrated."

The archdiocese "has too many empty schools," particularly in its ethnic parishes, the archbishop said. He said it would be difficult for some of these parishes to accept Negro children but said it can be done with goodwill and a Christian attitude.

## 2 Units Pledge Teamwork on Joint Projects

Bethesda, Md.—(NC)—"We have pledged that we will never undertake a major project in religious education without first consulting the other to see if it can become an ecumenical project valuable to both."

The comment by Msgr. Russell J. Neighbor, director of the National Center of the Confraternity of Christian Doctrine (CCD), summed up the results of a consultation of Christian Education jointly sponsored here by CCD and the Department of Educational Development of the National Council of Churches (NCC).

The consultation, the first of its kind, marked an initial step by the Catholic and NCC agencies to work together on a variety of educational projects, ranging from joint training of religious educators and preparation of curriculum materials to a pooling of efforts to overcome white racism and help meet the urban crisis.

Catholic agencies represented included the Youth Department of the United States Catholic Conference, the National Council of Catholic Men, the National Council of Catholic Women, the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, and the National Catholic Educational Association.

Following are the chief cooperative ventures agreed on at the meeting:

—Joint preparation of curriculum materials for use by local church groups. One first step will be the participation of Catholic educators in the preparation of the Audio-Visual Research Guide published by NCC, and the inclusion of Catholic materials in the guide.

—Sharing of research findings through joint meetings of Protestant and Catholic experts in religious education and the behavioral sciences.

—Catholic co-sponsorship of the Laboratory on Sensibility Leadership Training which the NCC plans to hold in Green Lake, Wis., next year.

—Catholic participation in two forthcoming NCC consultations—one on leisure time and another on curriculum needs and the needs of minority groups.

—A major educational campaign to help reduce the potential of riots in the nation's cities.

Eli F. Wismer, executive director of NCC's Department of Educational Development commented at the conclusion of the NCC-CCD meeting that the "pledge of intention is what is important."

"For the first time we see emerging a clear picture of how to structure relationships between the two bodies," he said. "This is a mandate to keep the lines of communication open."

### For Catholics

## Mason Membership Still Banned

Vatican City—(RNS)—No change has been made in Roman Catholic Canon Law banning membership in Masonry societies at the risk of excommunication, according to official Vatican sources.

They said earlier press reports that the Vatican has quietly informed bishops that Catholics could become Masons without being excommunicated were "without foundation."

"No document of this kind has been issued by the Sacred Congregation for the Doctrine of the Faith," the Vatican spokesman said.

According to some Canon Law experts here, withdrawal of the excommunication penalty for joining the Masons is not the same thing as abolishing the prohibition against membership.

However, reports that some changes will be made in the Church's official position on Masonry are regarded in some circles—as very possible—but premature for the present. Withdrawal of the excommunication, they say, would be in line with other Church relaxations in accordance with Vatican Council reforms.

It has been pointed out, also, that

the Catholic Church is now revising its Code of Canon Law and there will probably be some modification of the Catholic Church stand regarding Masonry in the new laws.

The Catholic prohibition against Mason societies has been in existence since 1739 when Pope Clement XII condemned Freemasonry. This forbade Catholics to join the Freemasons under pain of excommunication. This condemnation and prohibition were repeated by Benedict XIV and by

later Popes.

In some countries, especially the United States, there has been a growing increase in contacts between Catholics and Masons. These improved relations have seen bishops and priests address meetings of Masonic societies.

Last February national leaders of the Scottish Rite Masons and the Knights of Columbus issued, from South Bend, Ind., a joint plea for social and fraternal cooperation of their organizations.

### Priest Urges New Confession Procedures

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of Penance was celebrated "publicly, joyfully and in a Biblical framework." He referred to the Lenten practice of the early Christians, when public sinners alone received ashes

In other comments about confession for children, Father Corrigan added:

● Frequency of confession should be an individual matter — "I would leave a lot of latitude for individual preference here."

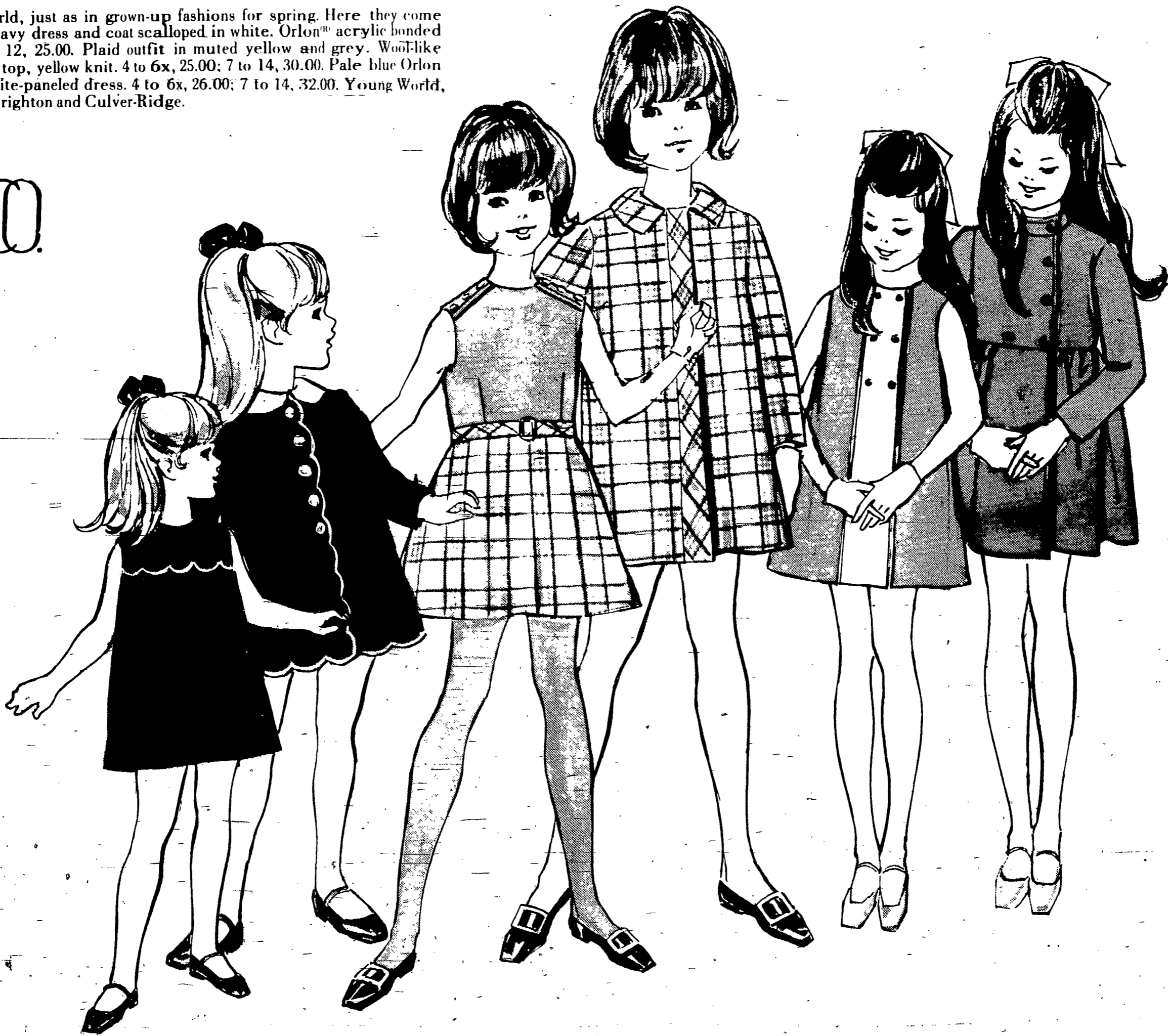
● The practice of having children go en masse to confession every month (e.g. in preparation for First Friday Communions) can "diminish the value" of confession. "It can become too automatic that way," he explained.

He also suggested that children be given the option of going to confession either via the regular confessional booth—or simply in a lighted room in a "face to face" situation with the priest. "Many children have found this a more natural and relaxed situation," he noted.

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Beirut — (RNS) — A student strikes a similar pose was an outing for pupils

## Education

## Model Code For Teachers

Washington — (NC) — School officials should work with representatives of teachers' unions to create a model code to guide collective bargaining for Catholic systems, a group of Catholic superintendents were told here.

E. Riley Casey, general counsel of the National School Boards Association, told the superintendents all parts of the country to meet the problem of teacher unions "head on."

The creation of a model bargaining code would be desirable for several reasons, he said, because it would:

- Serve to regularize the presently confused dealings of school superintendents with teacher organizations.
  - Help to make clear the status of members of religious orders in their organizations.
  - Help prepare superintendents psychologically by giving them the tool with which to work and lines to work under.
  - Avoid animosity and feuding by recognizing the right of organizations to represent teachers.
- Casey spoke at the Conference on Collective Bargaining sponsored by the education department of the Catholic Conference.
- It was called at a time when the number of teachers — Re

### Jesuit Tells Symposium

## Theology

Pittsburgh — (NC) — Father Loneragan, Jesuit theologian speaking in a symposium on "The Future of Belief," sponsored by the North American affiliate of the International Catholic Students' organization, sounded a theme that adaptation in the modern world is required in the confused. But religion must steer clear of "trash" in contemporary thought.

Father Loneragan, now at Regensburg in Ontario, shared the platform with Father Martin D'Arcy, S.J., philosopher and author.

Father Loneragan said that in a world of great social and cultural change, "beliefs" are changing and are not only beliefs, but they are not personally acknowledged knowledge, such change leaves them at a loss.

"They are disoriented. They do not know which way to turn. They feel that all they have taken for granted is menaced. They are tempted to unbelief as a liberator, or, again, they may dread the structure of truly human living."

He spoke of the stability of the modern world, which he said, "I think of itself as the one and only culture for all time. But modern culture is culture on the move."

Father Loneragan said Catholics suffering more keenly from the fusion of change because "at Vatican II they were sheltered in the modern world and since V