

Catholics to Learn of Judaism

New York City—An order of knowledge of Judaism and Catholic sisters and a Reform Jewish group will join forces this summer to create a series of institutes on Judaism for Catholic educators. The Sisters of Notre Dame de Sion, and the Commission on Interfaith Activities of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations have formed a national Joint Steering Committee to provide Catholic educators, and eventually laymen, with an opportunity to increase their

knowledge of Judaism and Jews. Mother Marion, provincial superior of Notre Dame de Sion, said "American Catholics, particularly our educators, are seriously influenced by the new openness of our interreligious society. . . . We realize that we have to learn a great deal more about the Jews and Judaism."

A two-week institute is planned for this June at Marymount College, Tarrytown, New York, under the guidance of Dr. Michael Ziek, chairman of the Department of History of the college. The institute will have a faculty of outstanding Jewish scholars and participating well-known Catholic leaders.

Catholic Conference Names 5 Laymen

Washington—(NC)—Five laymen have been named to serve on the new Public Information Board of the United States Catholic Conference here.

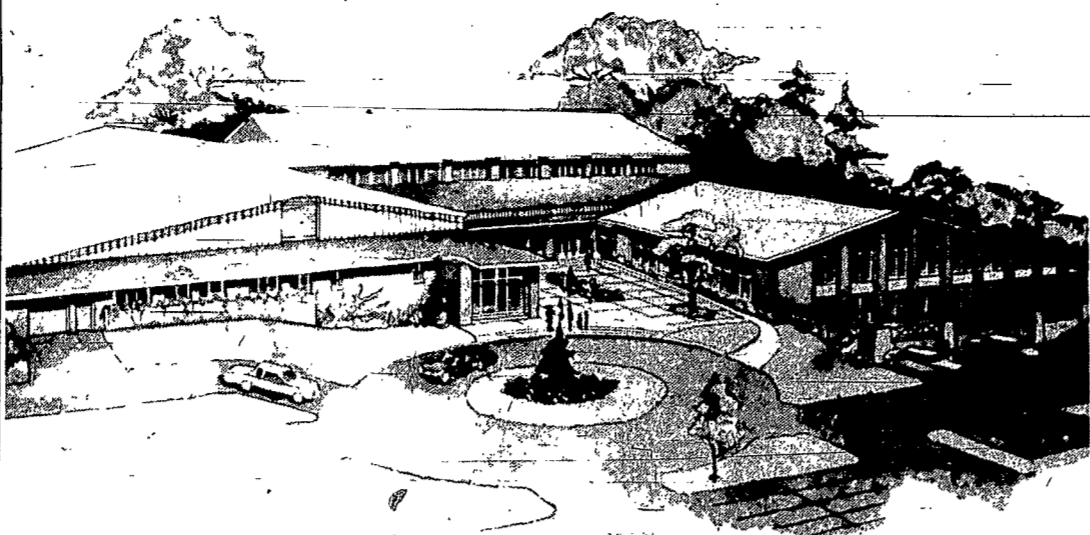
Appointed to the board were: Stephen McCormick, vice president, Mutual Broadcasting Company; Robert J. McCloskey, deputy assistant secretary for public affairs and director of the office of news, U.S. State Department; Marvin Arrow-smith, assistant bureau chief, Associate Press; David Waters, special assistant in the office of public affairs, State Department; and Walter Belson, retired chief of public relations, American Trucking Association.

The board will provide counsel to the NCCB and USCC general secretary and to the director of the USCC office of public information in matters of public interest.

Czechs Seek More Religious Freedom

Bonn — (NC) — Catholics throughout Czechoslovakia signed petitions addressed to Communist party head Alexander Dubcek demanding "rehabilitation" of unjustly censured priests and bishops, negotiations on religious freedom, abolition of the government-backed Peace Priests movement and the return of the exiled Joseph Cardinal Beran of Prague from Rome.

(In Rome, confidants of the exiled cardinal said he would go back to Prague if he could gain the permission of the Czechoslovakian government and Pope Paul VI.)



Proposed Irondequoit Center

A vote is scheduled Saturday, April 6 on the proposed \$1.5 million community center for the Town of Irondequoit. If approved it will be on town-owned property to the northwest of the Town Hall. It would include a gym with stage, indoor ice skating rink and indoor-outdoor swimming pool as well as a snack bar canteen, meeting and activity rooms. More than 5,000 parochial school children would be able to use the facility.

Buffalo Inner City Apostolate Formed

Buffalo, N.Y.—(NC)—Fourteen inner-city parishes—12 in Buffalo and two in Lackawanna—have been incorporated into an "inner-city apostolate." Twelve of the parishes have elementary schools.

Father Anthony Caliguri, pastor of St. Columba's Church, announced the new plan. He said the two main efforts of the program were upgrading of the schools and intensification and coordination of parish activities.

Youngest Abbot Blessed

Gethsemani, Ky.—(NC)—The youngest abbot in the history of the monastery of Our Lady of Gethsemani was formally blessed by Archbishop Thomas J. McDonough of Louisville.

Father M. Flavin Burns, O.C.S.O., 38, is the seventh abbot in the 120-year history of the monastery. He was elected by members of the community last January to succeed Abbot M. James Fox, O.C.S.O.

There are some 120 monks at Gethsemani abbey, a decline from past years. Abbot Burns attributes the decline at least in part to "the attitude of the times."

Changes in discipline have been made, liturgy is now in English and the strict vow of silence has been relaxed somewhat. On an experimental basis the monks are allowed to use brief oral instructions instead of sign language as in the past.

Priests' Trial Delay Denied

Baltimore—(NC)—A Federal judge here turned down the request of a Baltimore Catholic priest and three other peace protesters who asked that their trial for pouring blood in Selective Service files be postponed until the Vietnam war is over.

Judge Edward S. Northrup did agree, to however, to postpone the trial if the defendants show that an impartial jury cannot be chosen. He also agreed to allow the four, including Father Philip Berrigan, S.S.J., a Jesuit priest, to question prospective jurors about their opinions on the war.

Accused of violating Selective Service laws and destroying government property, the four had claimed that public prejudice supporting the war precluded a fair trial. Four college professors and a public opinion pollster supported their claim.

Canadians Plan Aid

Ottawa — (NC) — Canada's Catholic bishops have formed a nationwide organization of leading Catholic laymen to finance aid projects in underdeveloped countries. The new organization, called the Canadian Catholic Organization for Development and Peace, will administer a national fund. The organization will pay no attention to "the religious beliefs or ideologies of the people to whom the aid is given."

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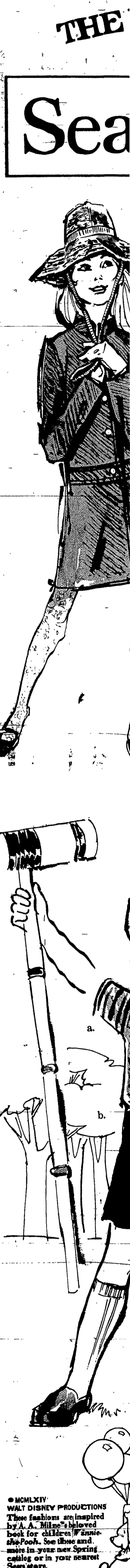
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