

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Nursing School Going Co-Ed

Worcester, Mass.—(NC)—'Co-ed fever' has hit the St. Vincent Hospital school of nursing and medical technology program. Men students may enroll.

Mrs. Mary T. Darcey, hospital public relations director, said: "Since so many men have shown an interest in these fields, St. Vincent Hospital wishes to make the community aware that its facilities are available to male students who wish to enter the freshman class in September." St. Vincent's, in its 75th year, is the second largest hospital in New England; Massachusetts General Hospital, Boston, is larger.

Administrator Elected For Atlanta

Atlanta, Ga.—(NC)—Auxiliary Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin has been elected by the archdiocesan board of consultants to serve as administrator of the Atlanta archdiocese until the installation of a successor to Archbishop Paul J. Hallinan, who died March 27. A native of Columbia, S.C., the administrator was ordained in 1952, and was consecrated to serve as auxiliary bishop of Atlanta on April 16, 1966.

Protestant Unity Plan Due By 1970

Dayton, Ohio — (NC) — The Consultation on Church Union has agreed to submit a plan for unity among ten Protestant denominations within the next two years.

The plan would be a blue print for uniting ten denominations with a total of 25.5 million members, nearly 40% of American Protestants.

Two of the denominations at COCU have already worked out a unity plan. The Methodist Church and the Evangelical United Brethren Church will become the United Methodist Church on April 23. The two have a membership of 11 million, nearly as large as the memberships of the other eight churches in COCU.

Detroit Students Elect Negro President

Detroit — (RNS) — A Negro has won for the first time the top elective student office at Jesuit sponsored, nearly all-white University of Detroit.

Harry Minor, 21, of Washington, D.C., conducted a low-key campaign for the student government presidency. He had so little confidence he could win that he didn't even show up for the vote count. He gained 783 of the record 1,800 votes cast. Only about 5 percent of the university's 10,000 registered students are Negroes.



Minor's platform included several novel propositions. He wants a "free" university established within U. of D. that would offer free, non-credit courses taught by volunteer students and faculty, and an all-campus club, "sort of a poor man's fraternity."

He also wants to see more qualified Negro students enter the school, but warns there needs to be a "change in the social atmosphere which will allow them to stay and study. They will have to be admitted to the entire university or else they will do poorly and leave."

Nun Earns Theology Degree in France

Champaign, Ill. — (RNS) — Sister St. Agnes Cunningham, chairman of religious education for the Newman Foundation at the University of Illinois here, has scored a theological first at a French university.

The nun was the first woman and the only American to be awarded a doctorate in sacred theology by the Facultes Catholiques at Lyons University. Her doctoral research, which she defended before a jury of seven faculty members, was entitled, "Towards a Theology of Christian Humanism: An Inquiry into the Life and Views of John Henry Newman."

Her primary responsibility at the Newman Foundation is directing religious courses accredited by the university.

Educators Design "Bridge" To Latin America

Washington — (NC) — A group of professors from Catholic University of America hope a new technical institute at the Catholic University of Guayaquil, Ecuador, may mark the opening of an international education bridge to Latin America.

The institute will be inaugurated early in April as a cooperative venture by the Center for Educational Research in Quito, Ecuador, and the Center for Community Development and Service at Catholic University here. It has the support of Vatican officials, Ecuatorian bishops and leaders of several South American governments.

Desegregation Moves Outlined For Long Island

Mineola, N.Y. — (RNS) — The Catholic Interracial Council of Long Island has offered a three-point program to confront the "extremely dangerous practice" of continued racial segregation.

In a policy statement, the CIC called for open housing in every town on Long Island, the closing of a school district to achieve school desegregation, and "vigorous steps" to achieve true integration in all volunteer fire departments.

"Continued segregation of the Negro is not only illegal and immoral, but it is now becoming clear that it is an extremely dangerous practice," the statement noted. "Modern communication, the effect of military service and other social phenomena have brought home to the black man the fact that he has an inherent dignity which must be respected."

"So long as the barrier of segregation remains in effect, his frustration will continue to rise, giving vent to a series of eruptions until the entire nation will become involved."

Parishes Vote to Close High School

Pierz, Minn. — (NC) — Members of four parishes in this area voted 835 to 100 for the closing of the Father Pierz Memorial High School in June.

The Pierz district has decided to build a public senior high school, which will be large enough to accommodate all high school students in the district. Further use of the Catholic high school facilities has not been determined.

The vote was taken in response to a suggestion of the St. Cloud diocesan school board.



Remember Her?

Saigon — (RNS) — This picture of a little Vietnamese girl got wide use in news media when it was learned that her father and two sisters were killed by the Viet Cong. Many Americans offered to adopt her but now authorities are unable to locate her.

Sisters Concerned Over Renewal Rule

Minnesota, Minn. (NC)—About a dozen Sisters from various Minnesota communities have signed a letter to Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops, expressing concern over the implications of the recent ruling by the Vatican Congregation for Religious on the renewal activities of the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary.

The letter has been circulating among 48 convents in southwestern Minnesota and more Sisters are expected to add their signatures, according to Sister Mary Adele Adrian, C.S.J., of St. Edward parish here.

The letter, which was written by seven Sisters in the New Ulm diocese, said: "We are gravely concerned and puzzled by the recent communication from the Congregation for Religious to the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, regarding their attempts at renewal."

"Many religious communities throughout the country are undergoing a process of updating not unlike that of the IHM's. This ruling makes us concerned, not only for the future of the IHM community, but for the future of religious life in the United States."

The letter said that, in the spirit of Vatican Council II, "communities have been attempting to renew from within," and noted that all changes have been made with reflective study on the Gospels and the decrees of Vatican II.

"Does the communication from the Congregation for Religious indicate that our efforts have been in vain, particularly in the areas concerning (1) the nature of our apostolate, (2) the kind of religious habit we wear, (3) manner of common prayer, and finally, (4) relations with local Ordinaries?" the letter continued.

It also asked whether the ruling implies that what has been directed to the IHM community will be applicable to other communities and inquired about the extent to which general chapters have the power to determine their own internal affairs.

The letter remarked that "the time has come when religious women should share in all the decisions regarding religious life."

Episcopal Bishop to Retire

Portland, Maine (RSN)—Episcopal Bishop Oliver I. Loring of Maine, has resigned, effective May 13, due to "seriously impaired health and on the advice of my physician."

Bishop Loring, 64, has been on convalescent leave since Jan. 9 to recover from hypertension and restricted circulation.

He has been Bishop of Maine for 27 years. At the time of his consecration he was the youngest bishop in the Episcopal Church.

A native of Newtonville, Mass., Bishop Loring was graduated from Harvard and the Episcopal Theological School at Cambridge. He was ordained in 1931 by Bishop Henry Knox Sherrill. A brother, the late Rt. Rev. Richard G. Loring, was Bishop of Springfield, Ill.

The Very Rev. Charles O. Brown, dean of the Cathedral Church of St. Luke, also announced his resignation to permit the new bishop to select his own senior dean and canon.

Glenmary Mission Praised

Cincinnati—(NC)—The work of the Glenmary Home Missioners is "in total accord with the ideals of missionary work" spelled out by the Second Vatican Council.

Msgr. Edward T. O'Meara, national director of the Society for the Propagation of the Faith, paid this tribute to the Glenmary Fathers at the 24th annual dinner of the Cincinnati Glenmary Guild.

Reporting on the progress of the Glenmary Home Missioners, Father Robert C. Berson, superior general, said the society now has 111 men fully engaged in "this very specialized apostolate." He also noted that 60 more are preparing for careers with Glenmary.

"Our men are working in 37 areas in 13 dioceses," Father Berson continued. "These are in the Appalachian region, the deep South, western Kentucky, and the Ozark mountains of Arkansas. We work from approximately 100 churches and chapels among some 1,250,000 people, of whom less than half of one per cent are Catholics."

Jesuit Move

Milwaukee — (RNS) — Ten Jesuit priests on the faculty of Marquette University have obtained approval from superiors to move out of the Jesuit community in Johnston Hall on campus and establish a university house providing closer contact with students. If the plan is successful it might lead to establishing Jesuit-student community houses in the inner core of Milwaukee.

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Worcester Changes Mass Rules

Worcester, Mass. (RNS)—Priests in the Roman Catholic Diocese of Worcester may now celebrate Masses in homes on any day of the year at any time of the day or evening.

The change in the regulations was announced by Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan. Previously, a priest was permitted to say a Mass in a home after he had obtained permission from diocesan officials. This procedure has now been eliminated.

Bishop Flanagan said these privileges are also given to priests from the five neighboring dioceses and the Archdiocese of Hartford when they are in the Worcester diocese.

The guidelines for home Masses, prepared by the Diocesan Liturgical Commission, specifies that all participants in such home Masses may receive Communion under both species (bread and wine).

Prior to the current announcement, Mass in the home was allowed for specific groups or circumstances; for example, meetings of diocesan or parish councils, Cursillo groups, Family Life units or family celebrations, such as an anniversary.

The guidelines offer one word of caution: "Care should be taken that every area of the parish has the opportunity for Mass in the home without partiality." Also, while Masses in the home may be celebrated "on any day of the year," care should be taken that "there is no conflict with the Sunday or holiday parish schedule of Masses."

Other changes in regulations announced by Bishop Flanagan were:

—Any priest may hear the confessions of women religious (Sisters and novices). Until now, the confessions of women religious normally could only be heard by "ordinary confessors" appointed by the bishop to several convents in the diocese. While this practice will continue "for the sake of convenience," the bishop explained that under the new rule any priest may hear the confession of a religious at any time.

—Priests may celebrate two Masses on weekdays and three Masses on Sunday. Prior to this, the celebration of one Mass on a weekday and two on a Sunday was allowed.

Ecumenism Said On Move in U.S.

St. Louis—(NC)—Archbishop John J. Carberry does not believe the ecumenical movement in the United States is in any way at a "standstill."

The ecumenical movement has uncovered differences among Christians but it has also uncovered bonds, and "these bonds are tremendous," declared the new archbishop of St. Louis, who is chairman of the U.S. Bishops' Committee on Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

Among the "bonds" he listed "the existence of God, Sac-

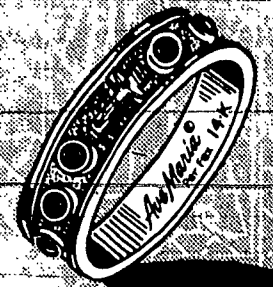
red Scripture, in many instances the divinity of Christ, the Holy Spirit, the sacramental systems."

These things, he said in an interview, "give us much to think about, to work on together. Of course, there is the whole field of human rights, the whole field of inner-city work and sociological questions."

He stressed the importance of dialogue in developing understanding among churches but said the aim was not to create "a combined form of religion."

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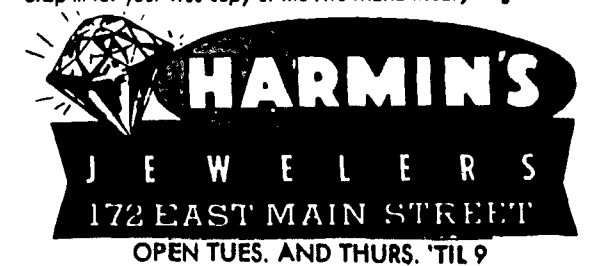
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