

New York Has Great Cleanup

By DORIS REVERE PETERS (NC News Service)

New York — It was a great day for New York—one of hard work, constructive dialogue and happy celebration.

Along 45 streets in the Manhattan and Bronx boroughs (April 20) some 50,000 Negroes, Puerto Ricans, Italians, Jews, Slavs, Orientals and people of other nationalities were joined by some 5,000 guest volunteers from suburbia and other middle class areas.

They spent the day cleaning, renovating and decorating the inner city streets and alleys, buildings and residences. Men, women and children worked shoulder to shoulder with priests, nuns, laymen and women volunteers. They cleaned backyards and basements, did carpentry work, made plumbing repairs, painted doors, windows and building facades.

At the end of each block, a large and colorful mural was painted on a wall depicting the good things happening.

At the end of the day they sat down together at tables strung the length of streets to eat a meal of celebration, provided and prepared by people of the block.

Many said they felt the most important aspect of the whole project was not renovation, but relationship. It gave an opportunity at a time of alienation and fear, between black and white, rich and poor, inner city and suburbia, young and old, for people to meet as persons in an atmosphere of work, play and accomplishment.

It's one way to make real what Dr. Martin Luther King envisioned when he said "I have a dream," commented East Harlemite Valentine Haddock.

Cleaned out basements and backyards on streets are to be transformed later again by street residents and guest volunteers into vest pocket parks, basketball courts, little theaters, remedial schools and teenage neighborhood clubs.

This non-sectarian project was instituted by Msgr. Robert J. Fox, New York archdiocesan coordinator for Spanish community action, who four years ago originated a creative community action program, "Summer in the City," now operating out of 26 store fronts in eight areas of densest poverty in Manhattan and the Bronx.

Last summer, in its third year of successful operation, the project was threatened by outbreak of violence in East Harlem. To counteract riot threats Msgr. Fox organized East Harlem peace processions. For five nights more than 1,000 old and young Puerto Ricans walked through the streets with banners, flowers, singing songs, carrying candles and standing up for peace, hope and love. Largely through their efforts peace was restored to the area.

A similar relationship-renovation project was carried out on East 103rd Street last fall with the result that the street is still sparkling. Residents feel a whole new energy for personal and community development and their ties with middle class volunteers who came to help them have continued and deepened.



Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Father James F. Groppi, militant priest who has spearheaded the Negro drive for open housing in Milwaukee (left), addressed the American Society of Newspaper Editors. Shown with him at speakers' rostrum is Attorney General Ramsey Clark.

Priest Warns of 'Return Gunfire'

Washington — (NC) — A white Catholic priest told U.S. newspaper editors here that Mayor Richard J. Daley will "get some return gunfire" if Chicago police carry out his order to shoot arsonists and looters during riots.

Father James E. Groppi, whose civil rights activities in Milwaukee have kept him in constant battle with that city's police force, joined Atty. Gen. Ramsey Clark in criticizing Daley's order during a panel discussion before the American Society of Newspaper Editors.

"The more oppressive a police department becomes," Father Groppi said, "the greater is our desire to resist to the point where we don't care whether we live or die any longer."

In Milwaukee, he maintained, the police through constant harassment and intimidation had "dehumanized" the Negro. He said a double standard of justice exists in the city and under that harsh penalties are given Negroes and minor penalties given whites for the same offenses.

Atty. Gen. Clark also warned the newspaper editors that shooting of rioters by police could lead to "a very dangerous escalation" of racial violence in American cities.

Clark said it was clear from recent riots that "only a very tiny fraction of America's Negroes are prepared to resort to lawlessness and violence."

Excessive use of violence by police,

he said, could drive a larger portion of the black community to "terrorist and guerrilla tactics."

Clark noted that more than 100 cities had outbreaks of violence following the assassination of Dr. Martin Luther King. "But police generally acted with balance, and because of that there were fewer deaths and less property damage in all of these disorders than we had in one riot last year," he said.

'Bishop of the Bowery' Consecration July 2

Worcester, Mass. — (NC) — The "Bishop of the Bowery" will be consecrated in St. Paul's cathedral here on July 2. This was a tag given by a member of the press to Bishop-elect Timothy J. Harrington. He has been named titular bishop of Rusca and auxiliary to Bishop Bernard J. Flanagan of Worcester by Pope Paul VI.

As another reporter remarked: "You're probably the only bishop in America who lives in a flop-house."

This was a reference to the fact that Bishop-elect Harrington lives in a modest three-room apartment next to the chapel in the House of Our Lady of the Way, a diocesan hospice for homeless alcoholic men on Worcester's East Side. Seventy men live there.

Msgr. Harrington, who has been diocesan director of social services since 1960, helped found the hospice in 1957 when he was an assistant in the Catholic Charities bureau. He has lived there since, except for a brief period when he was a chaplain for and lived at St. Agnes Guild Day Care Center here.

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47.4 Million Catholics In US, Survey Shows

New York — (RNS) — There were 47,488,383 Roman Catholics in the United States as of Jan. 1 — representing an increase of 603,423 over the previous year and accounting for 23.7 per cent of the total population.

These and other Catholic statistics are reported in the 1968 Official Catholic Directory.

According to the latest statistics, Catholic membership in this country during the last ten years has grown 11,444,356 or 31.7 per cent over the 1958 total of 36.02 million.

As in previous years, the directory indicates decreases in the number of convert and infant baptisms, priests, Brothers and Sisters, and elementary and high school enrollments.

There are seven archdioceses with more than one million Catholics. These are Chicago, 2,342,000; Boston, 1,871,408; New York, 1,870,000; Los Angeles, 1,662,242; Newark, 1,637,634; Detroit, 1,548,394; and Philadelphia, 1,343,024.

The yearbook shows a total of 59,803 ordained priests, a drop of 89 from last year. There are 37,453 diocesan or secular clergy, up 582; and 22,350 religious order priests, down 671.

Full-time teachers number a record 206,959, a gain of 1,272, and include 11,915 priests, 841 scholastics, 5,532 Brothers, 98,605 Sisters and 90,066 lay men and women. During the last ten years, lay teachers have increased by 46,321 or 106 per cent, while the religious have increased by 4,823 or 4 per cent.

For 15 consecutive years, the number of Catholic college and university students has continued to grow. The 305 colleges and universities reported 433,980 students, a gain of 2,890 over the previous year.

Meanwhile elementary and high school enrollment declined. The 1,407 parish and diocesan high schools had 694,996 students, a decrease of 2,838; while the 888 private high schools had 394,276, down by 11,851.

Catholic Education To Aim for Heights

(Continued from Page 1)

Catholic involvement in the cities, according to Howe. And he concluded his speech:

"In urging that Catholic educators take upon themselves a part of the burden of educating the urban poor, I recognize that I advocate a course which — from the economic standpoint — is dubious. But if our churches ever test their efforts against the single standard of fiscal prudence, they will work themselves out of existence."

"Christianity is supposed to offer something more. Let us be fools for

Christ's sake," said St. Paul. This was the kind of statement that Dr. Martin Luther King understood, and — by rejecting an easy prudence and espousing a life of uncontented idealism — he built a majestic dream.

"He is gone, and both the American reality and the American dream are poorer in consequence. We badly need high-minded visionaries who can help the poorest of our children see a new dream and fashion a better reality. For our nation's sake, Catholic education must join the rest of education to give them a new horizon."

Catholic Educators Succumb

Escanaba, Mich. — (NC) — Charles A. Salata of Escanaba, Mich., celebrated requiem Mass at St. Charles Church here (April 22) for the late Monsignor O'Neil C. D'Amour, one of the nation's leading spokesmen for Catholic education. Msgr. D'Amour (April 18) in San Francisco was attending the annual Catholic Educational Association (NCEA) convention, an organization which he served for nearly 20 years.

Msgr. D'Amour was secretary of the NCEA superintending department from 1967 to 1968. He was named Marquette superintendent of schools in 1965. A member, he was given a lifetime membership in the Marquette chapter of the NCEA staff as assistant on boards of education.

Msgr. D'Amour was a member of the National Board of Education, which in recent years has become a prominent feature of the educational scene. The board sent an attempt to unify aspects of Catholic education including the parochial schools, the Confraternity of Christian Education and the Newman Apostolate coordinated and more educational endeavor.

They also strive to involve parents and all members of the community in the work of education. Msgr. D'Amour often stated that the business of education was the business of people, not just of the clergy.

\$100,000 Loaned For Ghetto Housing

New York — (RNS) — The Board of Missions in the Diocese of Pittsburgh has loaned \$100,000 to the Interfaith Housing Corporation for investment in ghetto housing.

A loan of \$100,000 from the investment portfolio went to the Interfaith Housing Corporation to help the conference of the Interfaith Housing Corporation.

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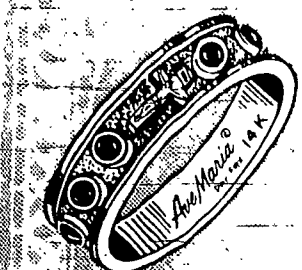
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