

AROUND THE COUNTRY



Site of Dr. King's Death

Mrs. Martin Luther King, Jr., and the Rev. A. D. King, brother of the slain civil rights leader, unveil a commemorative plaque on the balcony of the Lorraine Motel, Memphis, where Dr. King was shot. The Rev. Ralph D. Abernathy, head of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference is at right. (Religious News Service).

23 Finish 'Delayed Vocation' Training

Weston, Mass. — (RNS) — Pope Paul VI sent a message of "apostolic blessing" to the first group of men who completed studies for the priesthood here at Pope John XXIII National Seminary for Delayed Vocations.

The papal message hailed the 23 new priests, ranging in age from 62 to 33, as "worth of the highest confidence and trust."

Richard Cardinal Cushing, Archbishop of Boston, founded the seminary for the education of older men in 1963. It is housed here in a multi-million dollar contemporary building complex. Its faculty includes a Methodist minister and some outstanding Catholic theologians.

The 23 newly-ordained priests will serve in 16 U.S. dioceses and the Melbourne and Wagga Wagga, Australia. They are believed to be the best educated and most professionally skilled group ever ordained in the United States. Most of them hold advanced degrees.

Father Walter W. Flaherty, 42, was among those ordained for the Boston archdiocese. He is a former secretary to Speaker John W. McCormack of the House of Representatives.

The oldest of the new priests is 62-year-old Gunnar E. Haugh, a former Cambridge, Mass., public school educator.

Poverty Fund Set Up in Cincinnati

Cincinnati — (NC) — Archbishop Karl J. Aller has announced that the Cincinnati archdiocese will allocate \$1.25 million in the next five years for racial and poverty problems. He said \$250,000 would be set aside each year for five years "through stringent economy of our resources."

A new commission, composed of laymen and priests from the Pastoral Council, Priests' Senate, and other archdiocesan groups, will set up an office with a fulltime executive secretary and staff to evaluate projects and allocate funds.

Rarest Bibles Shown at Brandeis

Waltham, Mass. — (RNS) — One of the most extensive Bible exhibitions in U.S. history is on view here at Brandeis University. It traces the evolution of art and scholarship in the medieval and Renaissance Bible.

The exhibit is entitled "In Remembrance of Creation" and its 200 items were drawn from 35 libraries and collections in this country. Included are the first complete issue of the Gutenberg Bible, a Bible owned by the family of Massachusetts' Colonial Gov. John Winthrop, 32 Hebrew manuscript texts and a 3,600-year-old clay tablet in Babylonian cuneiform writing, the earliest known account of the Deluge. A Wycliffe English Bible from the 15th Century is the only complete copy of the text in the U.S.

Norwegian-Americans Hear King Olav

Minneapolis — (RNS) — King Olav of Norway spoke here of the "great faith and Word of God" that Norwegian immigrants brought to the heart of America.

This faith enabled them to endure the hardships of the frontier, he told the pioneers' descendants at a service in the Norwegian Lutheran Memorial Church.

King Olav was given a silver replica of the first Norwegian church in this country — Muskego Church, which has been moved from its original Wisconsin prairie site to the Lutheran Seminary at St. Paul.

Chicago Auxiliary Bishops Named

Washington, D.C. — (RNS) — Two native Chicagoans who were ordained to the priesthood together in 1943, have been appointed auxiliaries to John Cardinal Cody, Archbishop of Chicago.

Bishop-designate Michael R. Dempsey, 49, has been coordinator of the inner city apostolate for the Chicago archdiocese. He is pastor of Our Lady of Lourdes church, Chicago, and a vicar delegate of Cardinal Cody. From 1946 to 1959, he taught theology at Mundelein College for Women.

Bishop-designate Alfred Abramovicz, 49, is official of the Archdiocesan Marriage Tribunal and executive director of the Catholic League for Religious Assistance to Poland.

VA Expands Chaplain Program

Boston — (RNS) — The Chaplain Service of the Veterans Administration has announced a plan for clinical education and training programs for clergymen not specifically employed as VA chaplains.

Cooperating in the venture will be seminaries of the Graduate Theological Institute of Boston, the Institute of Religion at Houston, and the Graduate Theological Union, Berkeley, Calif.

Three "chaplain resident" openings are available at each of the three centers. Residents will receive a stipend of approximately \$4,500. The "chaplain resident" will gain experience in ministering to the needs of mentally and physically ill patients while he is under the close supervision of an experienced VA chaplain. The clergyman will take this experience back to the parish or into a hospital setting.

Jobs Bill Backed by 3 Faiths

Washington, D. C. — (RNS) — Protestant, Catholic and Jewish spokesmen urged Congress to pass the Guaranteed Employment Act of 1968 providing one million new public sector jobs for the unemployed.

Joint testimony was given the House subcommittee considering the bill by Father John McCarthy for the U.S. Catholic Conference, Dr. Grover Bagby for the National Council of Churches, and Rabbi Richard G. Hirsch, representing the Synagogue Council of America.

"Our opposition to poverty," the statement declared, "is rooted deep in our Judeo-Christian heritage, which affirms that obedience to the will of God demands that the hungry be fed, the naked be clothed, and justice be established in the land."

The statement further noted that in U.S. society, "a job not only tends to determine an individual's acceptance by society, but it also affects one's attitude about oneself."

Only by securing "meaningful and creative" jobs will the poor achieve "security, dignity and a sense of freedom and self-determination."

To those who ask if the country can afford the proposed legislation, the statement continued, "the question must be posed, 'Can we afford not to pass this legislation?'"

"Our society has already paid the high price of unemployment in the toll of riots, racial tension, frustration and despair. These are social costs, which should not be measured only in dollars spent, but in spent human lives."

If unemployment continues unabated, the statement warned, the result will be "even more devastating — human stultification" and the "ultimate destruction of the American Dream."

The churchmen called for:

- Support for an Office of Guaranteed Employment Opportunity which would provide "useful employment opportunities" for all those willing and able to work.

- Support for the bill's emphasis on education and training.

- Support for the involvement of private non-profit organizations, but a caution that those organizations not spend government funds on "sectarian programs."

Detroit See Opens Drive To Aid Poor

Detroit — (RNS) — The Archdiocese of Detroit has launched a fund-raising drive for \$1.5 million which will be used in part to aid those in city ghettos.

A major portion of the money from the drive will be applied to urban problems. The archdiocese will first meet its commitments to the care of the aged and the sick, to programs of catechetics, and to other established projects supported by the Archdiocesan Development Fund.

Father John R. Hogan, chairman of the fund drive, explained that there will be no hand-outs, and the soup kitchen approach will be avoided.

Besides broad educational programs to root out prejudice, he said emphasis will be placed on self-liquidating programs, permitting constructive use of "seed" money over and over again.

Despite these assurances, there were reported rumblings from outlying parishes, and suburban and ethnic groups that contributions will be cut drastically.

"We're in trouble," a lay leader in an suburban parish said. "Our pastor can't even recruit parish members to work on the drive."

Volunteers were easy to get when the funds were to be used for nursing homes, seminaries and schools for retarded children, "but nobody seems interested in helping the inner city," one lay leader said.

Law Assisting Private School Pupils Tested

Columbus, Ohio — (RNS) — Nineteen Ohio taxpayers have filed suit here in the Court of Common Pleas challenging the constitutionality of a state law which provides funds for students in private schools to cover certain services and materials.

The petition to the court claims that the statute violates the church-state separation and religious liberty guarantees of the U.S. Constitution's First Amendment and the State Constitution's establishment of religion provisions.

The statute under challenge was passed by the Ohio legislature last August and went into effect in January. It provides \$15 million over an 18-month period for materials and services for nearly 800,000 non-public school children, mostly Roman Catholics.

Among the services provided are guidance, testing and counseling, programs for the deaf, blind, emotionally disturbed, crippled, and physically handicapped; audio-visual aids; speech and hearing services; remedial reading programs; educational television services; and programs to improve and enrich the educational and cultural status of disadvantaged pupils.

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