

INTERVIEW SCENE



Archdiocese Backs Black Studies

Detroit — (RNS) — The Catholic Archdiocese of Detroit has given \$33,956 to Wayne State University for the establishment of a College of Black Studies.

Direct recipient of the grant from the Archdiocesan Development Fund was the Association of Black Students at the inner-city state university.

Lonnie Peck, chairman of the black student group, said he hoped the college would be established by September 1969; he added that 12 professors throughout the nation are committed to teach at the college.

The Archdiocesan Development Fund is based on a collection taken up each year in the parishes of the archdiocese. The use of the funds, however, is in the hands of an inter-denominational board on which Protestants make up the majority.

Meet Black Issue, Bishop Urges

Kansas City, Mo. — (RNS) — A United Methodist bishop urged an evangelistic effort here to meet the challenges of black power, "hopeless ghetto living and cynical political wheeling."

Bishop James Armstrong of South Dakota in addressing the National Evangelistic Association, a Disciples auxiliary, said:

"Only when our evangelism is willing to eagerly and confidently meet the challenges of black power, hopeless ghetto living and cynical political wheeling will the church be faithful in the fulfillment of its evangelistic task."

If evangelists are interested in "little old ladies, weak-kneed males and people who think, talk and look like the rest of us, then God help us all," the bishop added.

Disciples Endorse Merger

Kansas City, Mo.—(RNS)—The International Convention of Christian Churches (Disciples of Christ) approved a merger plan with the Disciples' predominantly Negro National Christian Missionary Convention (NCMC).

The vote by the predominantly white organization which represents about 1.5 million Disciples in the U.S. and Canada, opened the way for an actual union of the two bodies in 1969. The NCMC had taken a similar vote in August.

Some of the Negro Disciples had expressed concern that their 500-church convention would be swallowed up by the 6,000-congregation International Convention, and before the vote was taken at the meeting here, some black delegates caucused and established a committee to study Disciples' actions affecting Negroes.

But Raymond E. Brown, NCMC president and a member of the caucus, said the all-black meeting was not an indication of "unhappiness" with the merger proposal, and when the vote was taken on the convention floor there was a standing, emotional ovation by blacks and whites together.

LCA Opens Account in Black Bank

New York — (RNS) — The Board of Social Ministry of the Lutheran Church in America has a working checking account in the Freedom National Bank, the first Negro-operated commercial bank in Harlem.

The LCA agency's initial deposit in the Freedom Bank, organized in 1965 by former baseball star Jackie Robinson, was understood to be several thousand dollars.

Arthur Midboe, an assistant to the LCA treasurer, said the Church also has some of its funds in the Harlem bank, and that collectively boards and agencies have invested more than \$100,000 in Negro-owned banks around the country.

Among those banks are the Seaway National Bank of Chicago, the Independence State Bank of Chicago, the Douglas State Bank of Kansas City, Kans., the Swope Parkway National Bank of Kansas City, Mo., and Berean Savings and Loan Association of Philadelphia.

Black History Plan Okayed

Lansing, Mich. — (NC) — A program aimed at incorporating Afro-American history in the curriculum of all subjects taught in Catholic schools in Michigan has been approved by the state's Catholic school superintendents.

The plan was developed by an Afro-American History Committee appointed by the five superintendents last May.

The superintendents, who form a subcommittee of the Michigan Catholic Conference Education Department, said it is hoped the plan will be fully implemented by the start of the 1969-70 school year.



Representatives of the Taos Pueblo tribe appeared before a Senate subcommittee on Indian Affairs to ask the return of 48,000 acres known as the Blue Lake area in northern New Mexico. Left to right, Quirino Romero, governor of Taos Pueblo; Severino Martinez, 80-year-old spokesman for the Tribal Council; and Paul J. Bernal, council secretary. The lands were seized in 1906 and made a part of the National Forest Preserve. The House has already passed a bill which would return the lands to the Indians. (RNS)

24 Korea Martyrs Beatified

Vatican City — (RNS) — Twenty-four persons martyred in 1866 and in 1867 in Korea were declared blessed here in colorful, multilingual ceremonies.

The martyrs—seven French missionaries and 17 Korean converts—are now one step removed from formal sainthood and as such may receive public veneration in the Church.

A number of descendants of the Korean martyrs were among the 200 Koreans and thousands of French pilgrims attending the beatification service in St. Peter's Basilica.

Archbishop Stephan Kim Sou Hwan of Seoul celebrated the pontifical Mass attended by Pope Paul and numerous cardinals and prelates.

Known as the Martyrs of 1866, the 24 were executed during the violent persecutions of that decade which were systematically organized for the complete destruction of Christianity in Korea. It was a legal persecution based on royal decrees of the Korean government against what it called the "perverse religion."

The 24 martyrs included two bishops and five priests of the Paris Foreign Missions (Paris Foreign Missions) and 17 Korean Catholics. Before the bloody purge began there was an estimated 23,000 Christians in Korea. Within 10 years the number was reduced to 13,000.

Missionaries and Christian lay persons were put to death, although there were differences in the indictments against them. Missionaries were not condemned as political agitators, but as preachers of the "perverse religion." They were not asked to renounce their religion because the very fact that they preached an outlawed religion made them liable to be executed.

The spark that touched off the persecutions was an incident involving expeditions and violations to the royal tombs of Tek San. The Christians as a whole were held responsible for the incidents and were thereafter treated as common criminals. Even renunciation of Christianity often was not enough to escape the death sentence.

In his address to the assembled throng Pope Paul praised the courageous faith of the martyrs and likened the mystery of their death to that of Christ.

Modern Martyrs Cardinal's Topic

Ushaw, England — More Christians have been martyred in the last 100 years than in the bloodiest persecutions of Elizabethan times, John Cardinal Heenan declared in his Douai Anniversary address.

And "thousands alive today were once victims of imprisonment and torture because of their faith or their priesthood," he said.

The cardinal, leader of the Church in England and Wales, commemorated the 400th anniversary of the English seminary that was founded at Douai, France, to harden Catholic resistance to the Reformation. He spoke at Ushaw Seminary, one of the schools developed here after the French Revolution forced the closing of the continental college.

"The last 100 years have produced more Christian martyrs and confessors for the faith than the whole of the 16th Century," he said.

"Uganda, Russia, Mexico, China, Poland, the Ukraine, the Balkans, the Baltic have all been centers of persecution."

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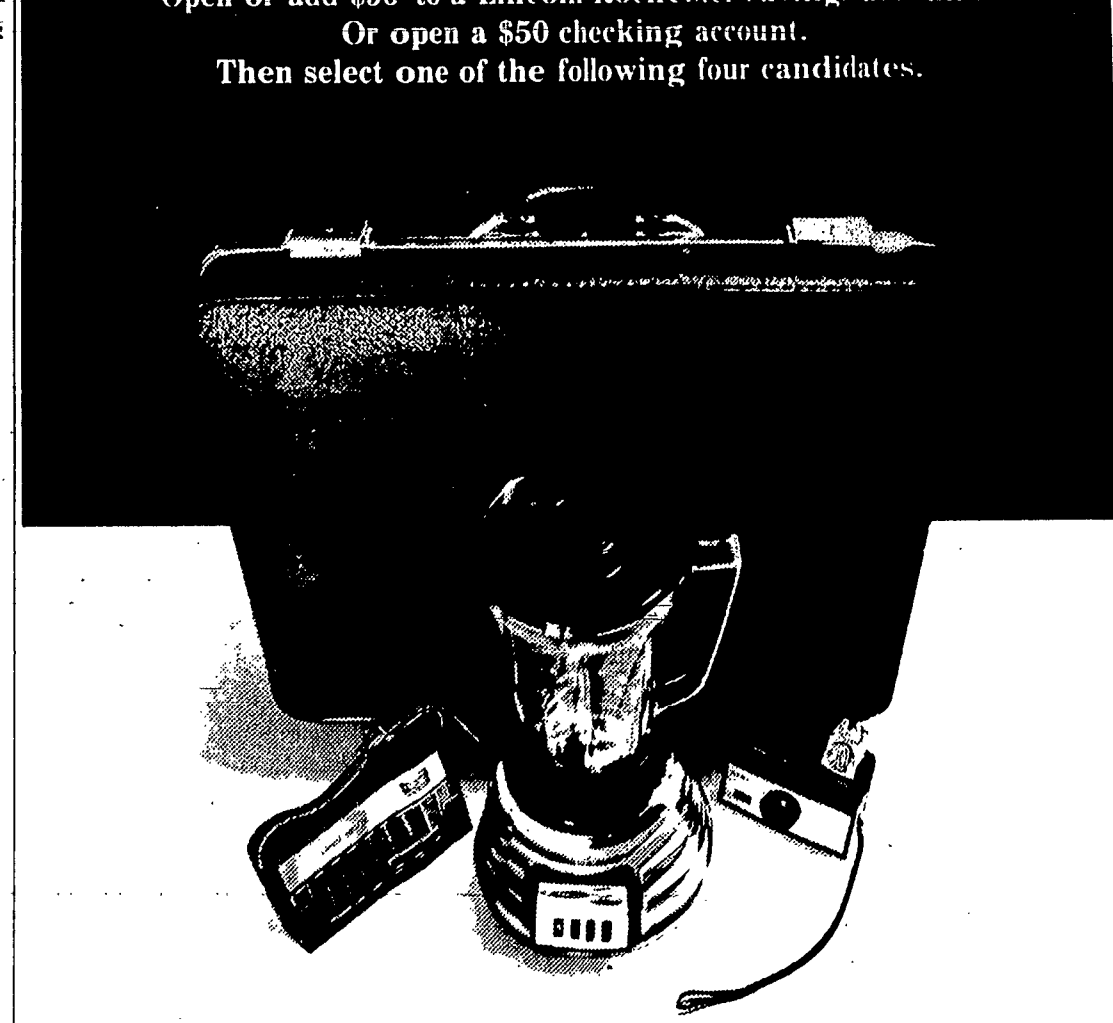
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