

INTERRACIAL SCENE



Pastor Orders Black Jesus

Detroit — (RNS) — The pastor of an integrated Roman Catholic parish here has had a giant mural of a blond, fair-skinned Christ painted over and replaced with a black Jesus of Nazareth.

Father Raymond Ellis assigned artist DeVon Cunningham to paint the new Jesus inside the dome of St. Cecilia's Church, 75 feet above the altar.

Father Ellis said he has not as yet informed his superior, Archbishop John F. Dearden, about the change, but he anticipates no difficulty.

"He doesn't know it yet, but he soon will," Father Ellis said. "We hope to unveil it on Nov. 22, the Feast of St. Cecilia."

He said it is "not nearly as important to know the nationality or color of the historical Christ as it is to know the identity of Christ today."

Nun, Negro to Teach "Sunday School"

Barrington, R.I. — (RNS) — A Roman Catholic nun, a Negro Protestant minister, an elementary school principal and a college professor have been hired by two Protestant churches here to teach a Tuesday evening "Sunday school" class for 7th and 8th graders.

The class, for which a \$25 tuition will be charged, will open Oct. 24. Sessions will be held each Tuesday from 5 to 7:30 p.m.

About 100 students are expected from the two churches, according to the Rev. William T. Scott Jr., minister of the Congregational church. There will be no Sunday morning classes for the group whose members are expected to attend regular morning worship services.

Fight Bias, Jews Told

Philadelphia — (RNS) — The president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations has urged Jews not to quit the civil rights movement because of some anti-Semitic attitudes in the Negro community.

Rabbi Maurice Eisendrath said, "we should realize that Jews are safe only in a country that is safe for all races." He spoke at a meeting marking the 30th anniversary of the Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Philadelphia.

"It is true," the rabbi said, "that the whole of white America is shocked by looting, arson, and murder. And the insulting cries of 'Goldberg' and 'burn, baby burn,' hurt us."

"But let no Americans, no Jews, stop progress. Even the anti-Semitic slime of a Stokely Carmichael or a Rap Brown should not stop us."

The Apartment Dweller

Few Go to Church, Survey Claims

Park Ridge, Ill. — (RNS) — Churches and synagogues may be facing their greatest membership crisis because of mushrooming apartment houses, an associate editor of *Together* magazine has claimed.

Only 5 to 15 per cent of the apartment dwellers currently have church memberships and by 1975 half of the U.S. population is expected to live in "high-rises," Miss Martha Lane wrote in the October issue of the United Methodist publication.

Residents in better apartment houses are not joiners," according to the article. They insist upon privacy even to the point of not knowing their neighbors.

Miss Lane reported on the types of ministries which, with both success and failure, have been tried in apartment complexes. Her conclusion was that the problem to be tackled by the church is not clear cut and no single hopeful solution exists.

Hurdles which Miss Lane identified included:

- Tenants who view the church as a "proselytizing, fundraising body specializing in group meetings."

- Lack of interest in Bible study "because church and the Bible are no longer regarded as authorities."

- The church's image is "unclear to non-churchmen because churchmen themselves are confused."

- So many different age and ethnic groups with particular problems, attitudes and lifestyles.

Miss Lane said that the most encouraging experiments have

been in low-income housing complexes. There was response from the people to church programs in tutoring, counseling, music, after-school activities, adult education, dramatics, crafts and community service.

Ministries in apartments, Miss Lane said, require clearly defined, realistic purposes, adequate study, strong staffs, trained laymen and team approaches.

Ineffective efforts she listed were door-to-door calling, advertising, handbills, mailings, posted invitations, phone calls and radio appeals.

The author's investigations showed that ecumenical ventures are more desirable in apartments than unilateral denominational efforts. Protestant-Catholic cooperation and Christian-Jewish work were termed important.

'Supermarkets' Next?

Parish Schools Likened To Corner Groceries

New York — (RNS) — Father C. Albert Koob, executive secretary of the National Catholic Educational Association, told more than 2,000 teachers attending the annual meeting of the Dominican Education Society, that the parish school "resembles the corner grocery store which had to give way to the supermarkets."

However, he added, this was not to be construed as marking an end of "the need for a Catholic educational program" because the "Church's mission will always include an educational component."

Indeed, the priest-educator expressed his belief that "Catholic education has a bright and glorious future ahead" in which "a highly

elite kind of teacher (will be) catering not to an elite segment of society but to all of society."

This future, he said, depends on the outcome of changes that are "under way in Church governing policies, in religious life, and the role of the priest in modern society and in the structures of parish organization."

"To put it very bluntly," he said, "parish organizations today rarely reflect the needs of the community." In the Church of the future the establishment of non-territorial "floating parishes" seeking a meaningful liturgical experience "will require a rethinking of our thinking about the

whole thrust of Catholic education."

Among the characteristics of the future, according to Father Koob, will be a greater social consciousness affected by the efforts of the whole of society "to solve the problem of metropolitan areas."

"Beyond all doubt," he said, there will be "mergers and consolidations at every level of Catholic education," which in turn will mean a sharing of facilities. The rise of the educational specialist, centralized facilities, shared time and the use of the computer are all components in the future picture of Catholic schools, he said.

Bishop Installed In Ogdensburg

Ogdensburg — (NC) — Bishop Stanislaus J. Brzana, 51, has taken office as the 10th spiritual leader of the 99-year-old Ogdensburg diocese.

The bishop was installed at ceremonies in St. Mary's Cathedral here by Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York, who also is metropolitan of the statewide province of eight sees.

Twenty-five archbishops and bishops attended the ceremonies in the cathedral, packed to overflowing with clergy, religious and lay from the Ogdensburg diocese and the Buffalo diocese, where Bishop Brzana had served as auxiliary bishop since June 1964.

Archbishop Cooke and Bishop Brzana celebrated Mass at which three other prelates and seven priests representing the clergy of the Ogdensburg diocese were concelebrants.

The concelebrants included Archbishop Thomas A. Donnellan of Atlanta, Ga., who headed the Ogdensburg diocese from 1964 until last July when he became head of the Atlanta archdiocese.

Other concelebrants included Bishop Walter P. Kellenberg of Rockville Centre, N.Y., also a former bishop of Ogdensburg, and Bishop James A. McNulty of Buffalo.

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