

AROUND THE COUNTRY



A Centenary in Flowers

Brother Bertram Coleman, F.S.C., right, head of the Christian Brothers' Western Province, discusses the floral design in Golden Gate Park with its gardener, Daniel R. Claeys. The flower display commemorates the 100th anniversary of the arrival of the community in San Francisco. (RNS)

Protest Brings Confrontation

Lawrence, Mass. — (NC) — The Eastern U.S. provincial of the Augustinian Fathers has agreed to come here to talk with people dismayed at the transfer of a popular priest.

Central figure of the controversy is Father William Cleary, O.S.A., now teaching in Philadelphia. Formerly stationed at St. Mary's parish here, he became widely popular in the community through work in housing, with jail inmates and broken families, and in other problem areas.

Father Edward Daley, O.S.A., the provincial, of Villanova University, was told by a parish group that "it is a gross injustice to sacrifice a resourceful and zealous priest" because he was "making certain officials uneasy while they were whitewashing their own incompetence by getting rid of him."

C.U. To Honor Danny Thomas

Washington—(NC)—The Catholic University of America will award its highest honor, the Cardinal Gibbons Medal, to comedian Danny Thomas, at an award banquet during the university's annual Homecoming Weekend, Nov. 8-9.

"We are proud of what Danny Thomas represents, both as an entertainer and as a worker for the children and the deprived of all faiths and races," said Ed McMahon, national chairman of the university's alumni. "We think mankind is the better for having him bring into the spotlight not only his concerns as a funny man but also his concerns as a human being."

The Gibbons Award is named in memory of James Cardinal Gibbons, one of the American Church's foremost leaders at the time of the founding of Catholic University. Previous recipients include President Kennedy and R. Sargent Shriver.

Episcopal Church Lends Space

Lakeland, Fla. — (NC) — They're teaching Catholic doctrine in St. David's Episcopal church school. All the students are Catholics, anyway.

The Rev. Peter Fleming, Episcopal church rector, commented: "This age of ecumenism opens the door for Christians and other religious bodies to cooperate and share in ways that were unheard of in previous years." He invited the Catholics to his place.

Rabbi Hits Hypocrisy

'We Don't Listen to Our Kids'

Swampscott, Mass.—(RNS) —The "moral arrogance, hypocrisy and self-centeredness" of contemporary adult society were cited here as prime reasons for the generation-gap.

"We certainly don't listen to our kids," charged Rabbi Alexander M. Schindler, vice-president of the Union of American Hebrew Congregations in addressing the biennial convention of the New England Council of the UAHC here. He continued:

"If the truth be told, once we move from the particular to the general, we don't like the younger generation very much.

"We see in our children," the rabbi declared, "those values which we affirm with our lips, but fail to infuse into the fiber of our doing. Our children take most seriously those values which we taught them, in school, in synagogues, in home.

"Witness, if you will, their sensitivity to social causes, their interest in careers of social service and in the Peace Corps — but we confront them with a world which denies these values in actual life."

Citing the need for a religion which "demands and does," which will "awaken

attachments to blood and soil," Rabbi Schindler said that the "layer-intellectualism" of religious liberals has served only to accelerate "the process of de-humanization" in our society.

The younger generation "may be wrong in its remedies for righting matters," he stated, but it is "the most knowledgeable, the most thoughtful, the most idealistic the world has ever known."

"We ought not to fear our young people," Rabbi Schindler declared. "We ought to sustain them. They constitute our only hope."

Fordham to Remain Catholic

New York—(NC)—The board of trustees of Fordham University issued a statement here saying "Fordham has no intention of divesting itself of its character as an independent, Catholic and Jesuit institution of higher learning; it proposes to remain true to itself and to continue in the untrammelled pursuit of academic excellence."

The statement came in the wake of a recent study of the university which called on the institution to drop or radically alter any courses and activities related to the Catholic Church. The study suggested this might be the way for Fordham to offset the "great difficulties" it faces "in establishing eligibility for the general government aid upon which its survival may depend."

The State Constitution forbids government aid to church-related schools.

The study recommended, among other things, that the university's theology department avoid denominational preferences, such as Catholicism, and take steps to reduce the "heavy preponderance" of Catholic teachers there.

It also called on Fordham to drop the graduate division for religious education, which trains religion teachers for Catholic schools, to cease sponsoring workshops and institutes on Christian doctrine, to sell the campus church of Our Lady, and to stop identifying itself in religious terms in its publications.

Father Leo McLaughlin, Fordham president, released the study without either endorsing or rejecting any of its conclusions.

In its statement, the board of trustees said:

"Fordham has no intention of altering its firm commitment to the maintenance of an outstanding department of theology within the university, or of abandoning any of its objectives as a Catholic and Jesuit university operating within the American educational tradition."

Priest Quits Post

Over Draft Issue

Grand Forks, N.D.—(RNS)—A priest whose plans to conduct a Veterans' Day draft card-burning ran into opposition from his Bishop, has resigned as pastor of St. Thomas Aquinas Chapel here and as director of the University of North Dakota Newman Foundation.

The resignation of Father Robert L. Branconier, long active as an opponent to compulsory military service, was accepted by Bishop Leo P. Dworschak of Fargo. The action was taken with the recommendation of the priests' personnel board of the diocese, which reviewed the matter.

Bishop Dworschak asked Father Branconier to refrain from carrying out the plans because of "what the bishop termed the 'impropriety of conducting such a ceremony in a house of worship,' and because such action would be in violation of federal law.

The bishop emphasized that acceptance of the resignation "in no way represents a punitive action. He will be assigned to another pastorate in this diocese upon expiration of a brief leave of absence which he has requested."

Protestant Failure In Renewal Cited

By PATRICK HUNT

New York—(RNS)—Father Hans Kueng, the internationally known Swiss Catholic theologian, has taken Protestant Churches to task for failure to continue their reform.

In his latest book, "Truthfulness, the Future of the Church," to be published Nov. 13 by Sheed & Ward, Father Kueng devotes a chapter to the failures of Protestants and urges them "not to remain passive on their side" in the works of church renewal.

"Certainly," he says, "we do not need a uniform church, still less a uniform theology but what kind of church is it in which the one believes what another regards as su-

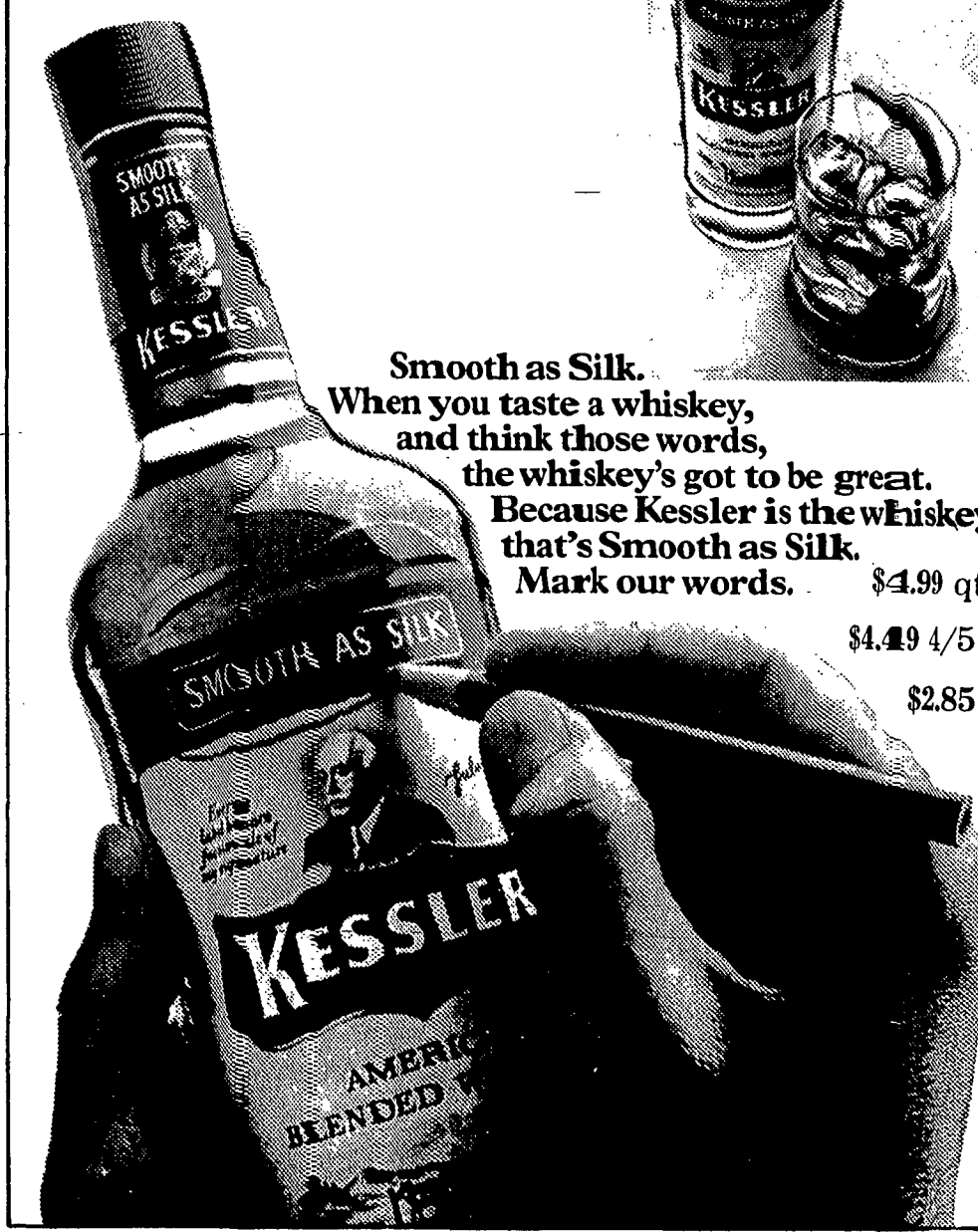
perstition, heresy or even unbelief?"

Protestant divisions cannot be justified by an appeal to the New Testament, he maintains, because "the New Testament testifies to a basic unity of the church and her faith."

"Division arises," he adds, "not from the New Testament itself but as the result of a quiet definite selection of certain elements opposed in the balanced unity of the Scriptures which are turned into absolutes."

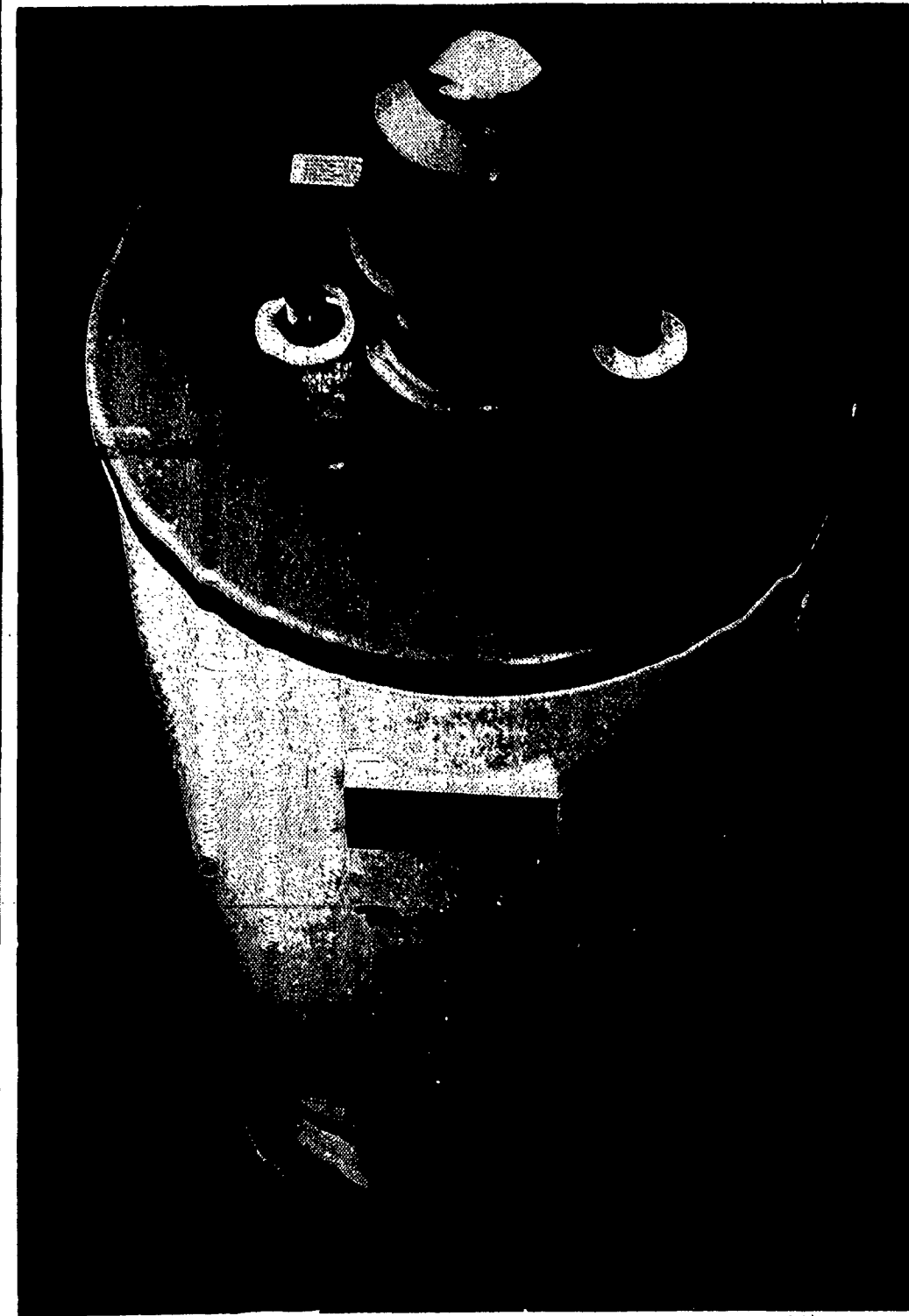
There is too much Catholic untruthfulness, according to Father Kueng, who maintains that truth has been made subservient to the institution and the protection of authority.

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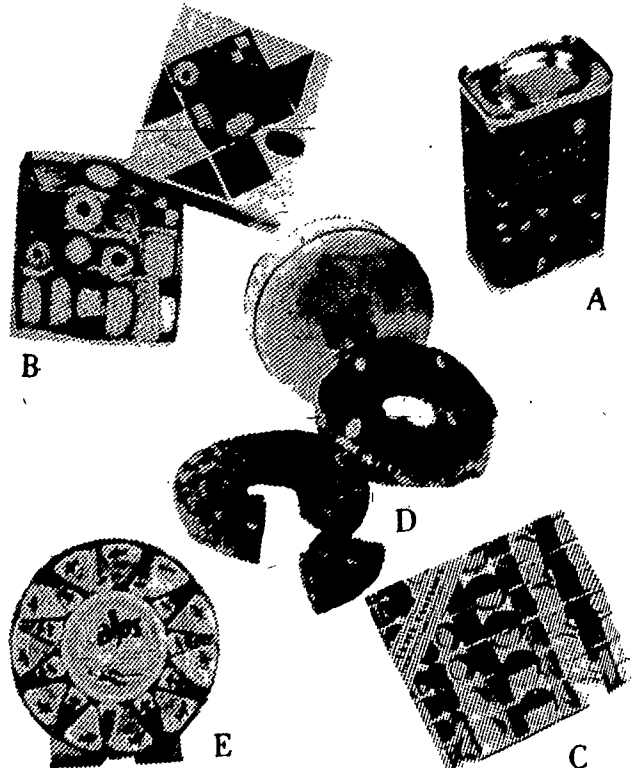
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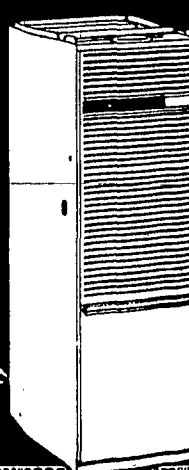
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