

AROUND THE COUNTRY

Lutherans Called To Prayer

New York — (RNS) — The president of the Lutheran Church in America called upon the 6,242 LCA congregations in the U.S., Canada and the Caribbean to observe Nov. 17 as a day of humiliation and prayer.

Dr. Robert J. Marshall observed:

"This has been a year of horrendous events and major decisions.

"Assassinations and deaths, elections in the church and in the nation, crises at home and abroad, Vietnam, Nigeria, Czechoslovakia; these and much besides would direct our continual repentance toward specific confessions and our constant faith toward special works."

CCD Teachers Fired

Livingston, N.J. — (NC) — Twenty-seven of 30 Confraternity of Christian Doctrine teachers have been dropped for agitating for a parish council. They were teaching in St. Philomena's parish high school program.

Among those barred is Don Jacobsen, president of a regional CCD board and as such, a member of the archdiocesan CCD executive committee.

He charged that the parish's model CCD program had been junked by the pastor, Msgr. William A. McCann.

He said the volunteer teachers had learned during the summer they would not be welcome if they were associated with the parish council movement. But he said changes made in the program did not become known until CCD classes opened in September.

Msgr. McCann declined to comment.

Dr. Farrell, Historian, Dies

Washington — (NC) — Dr. John T. Farrell, 57, former president of the American Catholic Historical Association, died here Nov. 6 after a lengthy illness.

He was a history professor at the Catholic University of America. He had taught at Yale and at the College of New Rochelle, N.Y.

Mormons Win; Drinkers Lose

Salt Lake City — (RNS) — Utah voters have defeated a proposal to legalize sale of liquor by the drink.

The proposal had drawn opposition from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints (Mormon), whose members comprise 70 per cent of the state's population. Utah liquor laws forbid sale by the drink of beverages having more than 3.2 per cent alcohol.

Tax Abated on Housing Project

Englewood, N.J. — (NC) — The Englewood Common Council has agreed to a tax abatement for a housing for the poor project to be erected on donated land in a poverty area by the Mount Carmel Guild, Newark archdiocesan social welfare agency.

Approval of the tax abatement was a major condition set by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development to qualify for a mortgage guarantee so the guild could borrow construction funds.

In granting the tax concession — the guild will pay taxes on only 15 per cent of gross rentals under the agreement — the Common Council stipulated rents be scaled low enough for poor families. Plans call for construction of up to 100 units.



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Abbreviated School Plan to Be Tried

St. Louis — (NC) — A pilot project which would eliminate two years of the usual 8-4-4 arrangement in education will be tried here next September by St. Louis University and six Catholic high schools.

The project—called the "1-8-1-8 Plan"—hopes to avoid unnecessary duplication in the traditional education structure by dropping one of the eight elementary school years (the eighth grade) and one of the post-elementary years (freshman year college).

Midnight Mass after Date

New York — (RNS) — A midnight Mass for students returning from dates (or for students and their dates) is one of the innovations at Manhattan College here.

The school operated by the Christian Brothers has given its approval of the service to Father Joseph McNamara, a 33-year-old priest from Boston who is Manhattan's assistant chaplain.

A member of the missionary order of the Oblates of Mary Immaculate and a former Boston College basketball star, Father McNamara also offers weekday Masses in various campus buildings and hears confessions in the dormitories.

Two Clerics Teach 'Reality of Politics'

Detroit — (RNS) — Two Episcopal priests have spent the last two years in a unique interdenominational ministry, teaching Christians the reality of the political game.

The Rev. Charles W. Millar and the Rev. Robert H. Richardson left their parishes in Flushing and Jackson two years ago to form Ecumenical Associates.

They were disturbed by the fact that many times public officers went begging for candidates because of public apathy and thought that the people shied away from political involvement.

Backed by the United Church of Christ, the Presbyterian, Episcopal and Methodist Churches, and with financial support from a private donor in St. Paul, Minn., the two clergymen spent a year in Lansing learning the ins and outs of state government.

From there, they traveled throughout the state, visiting with various churches and church groups, helping them "get their feet wet" in politics.

Although Mr. Millar and Mr. Richardson said they do not discount the traditional role of the church in getting its points across in the political arena, they offered some areas for new growth in such witnessing.

Churchmen must get a broad understanding of controversy, they explained. "To shy away from controversy is to forfeit participation in the decisions which matter most to people."

They also argued that hasty organization of "social action bucket brigades" to meet the crisis of the moment is inadequate.

The Churches should also use their laymen more, the two clergymen said, and recognize that "ecumenical participation is a prerequisite to effectiveness," and recog-

By avoiding repetition, the "1-8-1-8 Plan" would enable a college-bound youngster to get a bachelor's degree by age 19 to 20.

The plan was developed after nearly two years of discussion and planning, and was announced by Father Paul C. Reinert, S.J., president of St. Louis University, and Msgr. James T. Curtin, superintendent of schools for the St. Louis archdiocese.

Under the pilot program, approximately 120 seventh-

grade students in a number of Catholic elementary schools here will enroll as freshmen next September in six Catholic high schools: two archdiocesan high schools, two Jesuit college prep schools and two all-girls' schools.

The students will remain with their high school classes for the full four years, officials explained, because the high school years are when group identity is important for total personality development.

At the same time, however, the student will take part in the university's advanced credit program, wherein high school faculty teach selected college-level courses, using college texts, and with exams and grades coming from the appropriate university department. College credit is guaranteed by St. Louis University or could be transferred to most other colleges and universities.

Over the four-year high school period, the student could earn up to 30 college credits—equal to two semesters—and would thus be able to enroll at the university as a sophomore.

5.8 Million Jews Live in U.S.A.

New York — (RNS) — More than half of the world's Jewish population of 13,628,000 live in the Americas, according to the 1968 "American Jewish Year Book." Statistics cited in the annual publication, issued here by the American Jewish Committee and the Jewish Publication Society, represent population as of Dec. 31, 1967.

Of the total, 5.8 million Jews live in the U.S., making it the nation with the largest Jewish constituency. The Soviet Union is listed as second with 2,568,000. Israel has 2,365,000 Jews; France, 535,000; Great Britain and Argentina, 450,000.

New York State is the home of 2,520,155 Jews; of this number 2,381,000 live in New York City and its immediate suburbs.

"Service is my concept of the priesthood," he explained. "You have to bring religion to the congregation. At a college this means making yourself, and—more importantly—making the sacraments available to the students."

The priest, who was assistant director of the Newman apostolate at Syracuse University for five years before coming to Manhattan College, said, "The conviction that God counts on and needs men should be the guiding thought for every college-based priest."

"We felt the chapel was not conducive to the kind of service the Mass has become," he said, "and instead of moving

the Mass outside, as many have done, we changed the seating." Now the altar is surrounded by the pews in the body of the church, rather than being off by itself in a sanctuary.

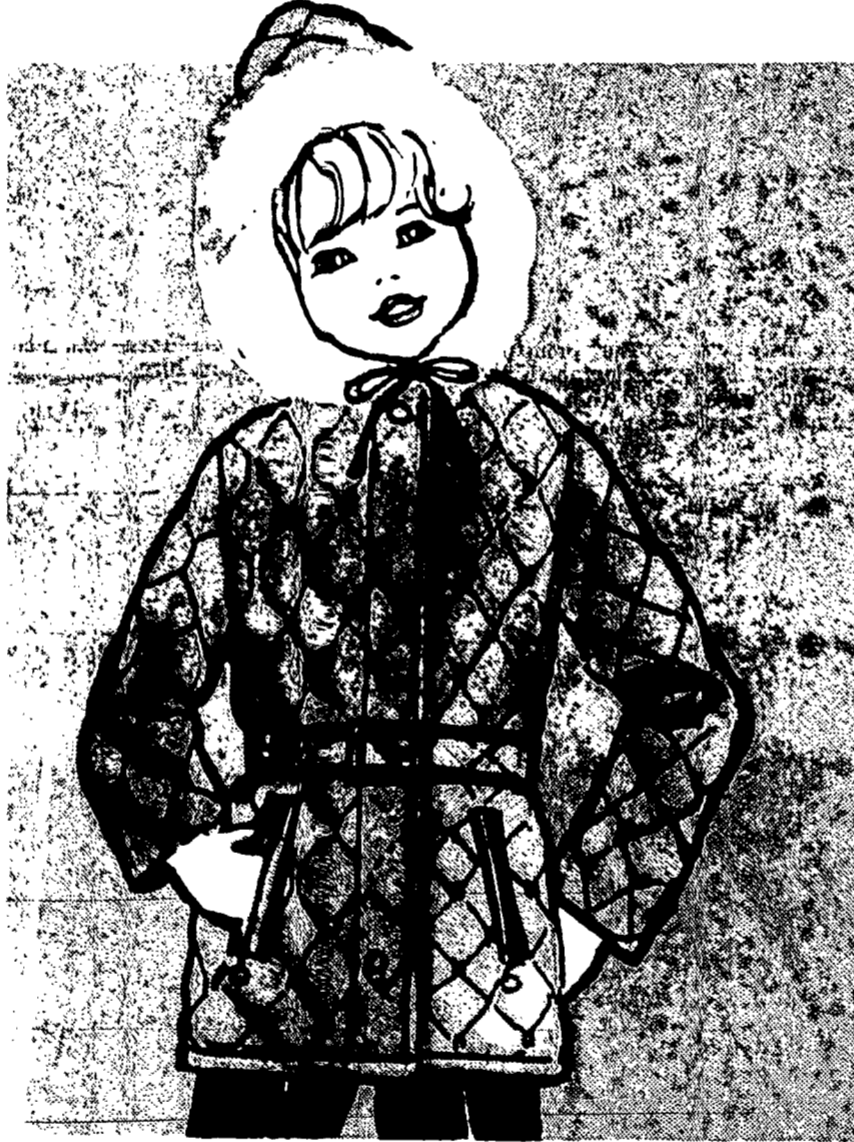
The timing of the midnight Mass is experimental, he says, but that it is proving a success and will probably become a permanent thing. "We had nearly 200 at (a recent) Saturday night," he said. "The fellows are starting to bring their dates and that's what we want."

Manhattan College has a large commuter student population and the midnight Mass, he says, is aimed at the resident student population getting in from dates or "just hanging around in their dorms."

"I would guess we attract 40 per cent of the resident enrollment to all our Sunday Masses," he explained, "40 per cent return home for the weekend. It's those remaining 20 per cent we are after now he added."

nize that the churches' "real center of gravity" is in suburbia and the city's outer edges.

The National



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AROUND

Give 'Justice, N

Paris — (NC) — Developing nations was parliament member Marty of Paris.

At a Mass for Nov. 16, Archbishop Marty a triple reform: "A an evolution of ment

"It is greatly to tion in the developm considered as being not of sharing, of al immediate interests Marty said.

"A people that nations is, I believe, the future."

Catholics S

Rome — (RNS) — a statement to the It approved the idea of legalization of divor

Reiterating its f organization said t referendum so that or not, may loyally a the clear and direc will."

Catholics, Ang

Glasgow — (NC) — olic Church in Scotla (Anglican) Church h theological issues.

Clergy and lay met here to study "Church." The delega gional groups for fu the practice and th held before May, 19

Laity Coun

Vatican City — of Quebec, president Laity, has given Po council's discussion c cyclical Humanae Vi

The council deci varied response and countries should be.

(A well-inform Secretariat of State secretariat at first l informed on the exte to his encyclical, and a more detailed acco pening.)

Vatican-Israel

Jerusalem — (R) — Archbishop of Vien press as saying that of diplomatic relatio Israel.

Cardinal Koenig places here, a kibbu Dead Sea Scrolls are

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