

# Change in Social Institutions Seen Need for Racial Peace

By Arthur P. Farren

Solutions to racial problems in any neighborhood will be sought only through a change in the structure of society and its institutions," a Rochester priest told nearly 300 persons Sunday night in St. Charles Borromeo School hall.

Father P. David Finks, vicar for the diocesan Office for Urban Ministry, was one of three speakers at a panel sponsored by the parish's newly formed Committee on Understanding and Promoting Racial Brotherhood.

Nothing that there is much individual "good will," Father Finks contended that there also is "much misinformation about the problems."

He maintained that racial peace and equality will not be brought about overnight, and that organized groups will be necessary to influence major changes in established institutions and to redesign "a whole new way of life."

While not decrying the "Good Samaritan, one-to-one person-to-person approach," the priest insisted that "it will not be enough."

Solutions will not come through "mere wound-binding," Father Finks said. There is need for in-depth study of the problems, he added, so that there will be "knowledgeable persons with expertise" to help bring changes in many structures.

He expressed recurring frustrations at the breadth of the difficulties in urban conditions. Acknowledging that it is good to see "a house or two" being erected for the poor, he continued:

"But what do you do, I ask you, when you realize that there are 15,000 housing units needed in the community?"

Father Finks emphasized that groups must be formed which will be able to make their influences felt on legislators and on leaders of the community, business and religion.

He called the FIGHT organization "the best thing that has happened to Rochester in the last three years because it is an active group."

He noted that the Joint Urban Ministry of the Rochester Area Council of Churches and the Rochester Roman Catholic Diocese currently is conducting a nine-month training course for 75 persons who will try to become "experts" in certain fields.

Another panel speaker, Mrs. Ellen Stubbs, a Negro, resident of Greece, said she disagreed with Father Finks. "You've got to begin somewhere," she declared. "We can't wait until everything gets organized."

Mrs. Stubbs pointed out that there are many groups, agencies and movements which are seeking "volunteers with good will."

"Negroes want basic, decent living," she declared, "and we are going to get it."

Referring to the panel title—"The Racial Crisis: A White Problem"—the third speaker, Rev. John Monroe, stated that "it is the white man's problem, because you created it."

The Rev. Mr. Monroe, pastor of Atlantic Avenue Baptist Church and director of the Southeast Loop and Atlantic Avenue Ministry, declared:

"You really don't believe that Blacks are equal to Whites . . . you believe that if it's white, it's right—and if it's black, it's wrong."

He claimed that "police brutality" in Rochester against Negroes still continues, that "bigots and racists brutalize us verbally," and that "there are more slums and there is more mis-education in Rochester than down South."

The Negro pastor dismissed the busing of children from the ghetto to schools in other areas as "only a small part of the solution. When we bus 50 to the suburbs, look at the thousands we leave behind." As an alternative he suggested "upgrading the schools of Rochester, putting them on a par with the suburbs."

Rochester "has the worst education system in the United States," he charged, and added: "If the schools are going to be black, then let them be controlled by blacks and bring more black teachers in."

Warning that "our cup runneth over," the minister declared: "Either we're going to be free here in America or nobody in America will be free."

During the question period, the Rev. Mr. Monroe was challenged by some in the audience for what they termed a "militant attitude." His answer: "I'm calling a spade a spade."

He said he still feels hope "that the American dream may become reality—but it will become so only when we all recognize the brotherhood of man and the fatherhood of God."

## More Than 60 Couples Attend Pre-Cana Meet

More than 60 engaged couples attended a Pre-Cana Conference Sunday afternoon in St. Helen's School hall — first in a new series of conferences to be held throughout the year in various diocesan communities.

A similar conference was held Sunday night in St. Theodore's School hall.

The remaining three of the four-part conferences will be held in the two parishes on the next three Sundays — Jan. 12, 19 and 26 — at 3 p.m. in St. Helen's, and at 7:30 p.m. in St. Theodore's.

Pre-Cana Conferences are a marriage preparation course designed to supplement the pre-marital instructions of the parish priest. They are conducted by the diocesan Family Life Bureau.

Themes for the four sessions include: 1) God's Plan in Love and Marriage; 2) Practical Helps for the Problems in Marriage; 3) The Psychology and Physiology of Marriage; 4) Spirituality in Marriage.

Principal speaker for the opening conference at St. Helen's was Msgr.

Gerard C. Kreis, head of the Diocesan Tribunal. Moderator for the conferences is Michael G. Cole, diocesan Director of Family Life Bureau.

In announcing the conference schedules, Cole noted that help could be used at the opening of each session to assist in registering attendees.

Conferences are slated in parishes in Rochester, Auburn, Canandaigua, Geneva, Newark, Elmira, Hornell and Ithaca. Besides the two in Rochester, two other conference series will begin this month, as follows:

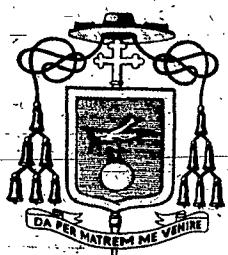
Auburn — Jan. 12, 19, 26, and Feb. 2, St. Aloysius Hall, 3 p.m. Ithaca — Jan. 29, Feb. 5, 12, 19, place to be announced, 8 p.m.

## Cardinal Heenan To Lead Retreat

John Cardinal Heenan, Archbishop of Westminster, London, and leader of the British hierarchy, will give the annual retreat to priests of the diocese in the weeks of June 9 and 16, Bishop Sheen announced today.

Famous as a writer and radio personality before his consecration as a Bishop in 1951; the 63-year-old Cardinal has attained high respect among the world's prelates since the Vatican Council, Bishop of Leeds and of Liverpool before moving to London's Westminster Archdiocese, he was named a Cardinal in 1963.

## Diocesan Appointments



Father William J. Flynn, from assistant at St. Louis Church, Pittsford, to assistant to the Episcopal Vicar for Diocesan Planning.

Father Thomas M. O'Brien, from the Bolivian mission to the diocesan Secular Mission for service in Wayne County.

## Fifth Priest Assigned To Secular Mission

Father Thomas M. O'Brien, who returned this fall after more than two years' service at a diocesan mission in Bolivia, has been appointed to the diocesan Secular Mission for service in Wayne County, it was announced today by Bishop Fulton J. Sheen.



FATHER O'BRIEN

He is the fifth priest to be assigned to the Secular Mission project, which is under the direction of Father John J. Hempel.

Freed from direct parish duties, these priests are endeavoring to work directly for and with the rural poor in six of the 12 diocesan counties.

Father O'Brien, who will reside in St. Michael's Rectory, Newark, will serve as community development coordinator for Wayne County Action Program Inc., a project funded by the Office of Economic Opportunity, the U.S. Department of Health, Education and Welfare.

His duties, in general, are to coordinate and work with "neighborhood centers" in Lyons, Clyde and Sodus, and to promote programs such as aid to migrants, day care centers, new careers, head-start education, youth corps, and so forth.

Similar work among the underprivileged is being undertaken by the other Secular Mission priests in the following areas:

Father Hempel, 312 Liberty St., Penn Yan — Yates and Seneca Counties; Father John F. Gormley, Galilee House, Cayuga — Tompkins and Tioga Counties; Father George Gauthier, Galilee House — Yates and Schuyler Counties; Father Timothy G. Weider, Sacred Heart Rectory, Perkinsville — Steuben County.

Father O'Brien, son of Mr. and Mrs. Thomas M. O'Brien, 223 Colebrook Dr., Irondequoit, was ordained June 6, 1964.

After two-years as assistant pastor of St. Lawrence Church, Greece,

he was one of two priests selected from more than a score who volunteered service in foreign mission work. The other was a classmate, Father Peter A. Deckman, former assistant at St. Thomas More Church, Brighton.

The two priests, later joined by Father Paul J. Freemesser and Father Edward Golden, both from Rochester parishes, worked in a parish in La Paz, Bolivia, as part of the Rochester Diocesan Mission there. Their efforts were coordinated with those of Marynoll missionaries.

Father O'Brien's familiarity with the Spanish language will aid in his work among migrants in Wayne County.

## Astronauts and the Magi

# A Year-Round Christmas Idea

By FATHER E. CHARLES BAUER

"The brightness of your glory has made itself manifest in the eyes of our mind by the mystery of the Word made flesh." (The Christmas Preface)

Christmas, 1968 — and a most wonderful thing has happened. Three wise men have set out on a long journey. They have left not only their own country, but the very face of the earth. They travel, not on the backs of camels, but on the head of a rocket. They are called, not by a star, but by the moon. They carry, not gold, frankincense and myrrh, but radio, television and photography.

These three wise men of 1968 are not called magi, but astronauts.

Even though millions of people have seen these brave astronauts sailing around the moon, it is almost impossible for us to believe that such a marvelous thing has happened. But we know that it has happened; we must believe it; and all we can do is exclaim that it is truly amazing, astounding, and awesome.

But then we must ask what these men have found at the end of their incredible journey. Many great wonders, indeed. You might have thought that the three wise men of 1968 would find only the moon. But did you? Did the Wise Men find only a star? Did the Shepherds find only a stable? Did Joseph and Mary find only the little town of Bethlehem?

None of them had made an easy journey. Your television screen may make it look as though our astronauts are "floating through the air with the greatest of ease." But we all know better. We know how long they spent getting ready for this trip, how much they have studied

The following homily was delivered Christmas Eve to the residents at the Newark State School by Father E. Charles Bauer, chaplain. Because of the timeliness of his Christian interpretation of technological thought and because it is a message that applies all year, the Courier-Journal reprints it.



20th Century Magi?

how hard they have worked and how much danger they are in.

Surely it was not easy for the Magi to leave their country and to travel across the hot desert on the bony backs of camels with little food and drink, perhaps for many days. Certainly it was not easy for the Shepherds to leave their sheep — something which a good shepherd would never do — to go in search of a little Babe. And of course, that trip was really tough for Joseph and Mary, perched as she was on the shaky shoulders of a donkey stumbling over rough roads even though her Child was about to be born.

But it was worth it! Because at the end Mary and Joseph, Shepherds and Kings found not just stars and stables. On that first Christmas, they

found Jesus under the Star, they found Christ in the stable, they found God in Bethlehem. That's what made it a Merry Christmas for Kings and Shepherds, for Mary and Joseph, finding Jesus.

And on this Christmas Eve of 1968, our three modern kings have found God on the moon! On this Christmas Eve, I dare say, the most wonderful thing has happened since that night when angels sang to the Shepherds and a Star appeared to the Magi. For on this Christmas Eve, the wise men of 1968 read the Bible from the moon, and once more the Word of God was sent down to earth. Finding the moon makes us wise. Finding the Maker of the moon makes us happy. On this Christmas Day, may you find Him in your heart and may He make it merry!

## Slate of Officers Chosen By New Priests' Council

The inaugural monthly meeting of the newly-elected Priests' Council of the diocese convened Tuesday afternoon following the offering of consecrated Mass with Bishop Sheen in the chapel of Columbus Civic Center.

In the organizational election preceding their business meeting the 16 councilmen chose the following slate for officers: President, Msgr. George A. Cocuzzi, Holy Family, Rochester; Vice-president, Father Joseph F. Hogan, St. Vincent's, Corning; Secretary, Father Paul Cuddy, St. James Mercy Hospital, Hornell; Agenda Committee, Father Francis Pegman, St. Thomas More, Rochester; Father Charles Mulligan, Sacred Heart, Auburn; Father Frederick W. Bush, St. Mary's, Rochester.

Other members of the Council, in order of seniority, are: Msgr. Robert A. Kelleher, retired; Father Thomas F. Brennan, St. Mary's, Corning; Father Joseph M. McDonnell, St. Michael's, Newark; Father Paul G. Wohl, Our Lady of Good Counsel, Rochester; Father John T. Walsh, St. Paul's, Webster; Father John J. Hempel, Secular Mission, Penn Yan; Father Edward Kowalski, St. Casimir's, Elmira; Father Paul J. McCabe, Corpus Christi, Rochester; Father James Lawlor, chaplain, University of Rochester; Father William Swinyg, St. Salome's, Rochester.

The Council members elected in December by a poll of all diocesan priests, represent approximately 26 priests each in their respective age groups. They will reflect the clergy's opinions and needs to the Bishop and be consultants on diocesan problems.

## Students in Area Get Chance for School Briefing

Boys and girls entering high school next September will have an opportunity to investigate the status of all nine Rochester-area Catholic high schools on two successive Sunday nights this month — Jan. 12 and 19.

Information about all the schools will be available at the two sessions, to be held at two of the high schools — Cardinal Mooney High School and Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Programs at the two schools will open at 8 p.m. with talks to be followed by tours to various rooms where representatives of the nine schools will be stationed with displays and fact sheets.

Personnel will be present from the following schools: Aquinas Institute, Bishop Kearney, King's Preparatory, McQuaid Jesuit, Cardinal Mooney, Our Lady of Mercy, Nazareth Academy, St. Agnes, and St. Joseph's Commercial School.

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