

Archbishop on Vietnam:

My Most Moving Experience

By FATHER JAMES P. COLLIGAN, M.M.
(NC News Service)

Reviewing his first Christmas visit to members of the U.S. armed forces abroad, Archbishop Terence J. Cooke of New York described it as the most moving experience of his career.

Following the trails blazed by the late Francis Cardinal Spellman who made 18 successive Christmas-time visits to GIs overseas, Archbishop Cooke visited members of the U.S. armed forces in Germany, Turkey, Vietnam and now Japan.

"Our military is different from any other in that not only is care given our own men, but also given to everybody else," the Archbishop said. "Natives who are sick or injured, even those taken as prisoners, receive medical attention and care. I see in this an indication of the high value placed on human life. It also accords perfectly with the Christian counsel to love all your brothers.

Everything is done to help the individual.

"My purpose in making the trip was to offer spiritual encouragement to the men and women of our armed forces at Christmas," he continued. "Instead, I return grateful for the encouragement and inspiration I myself received. I was impressed with their spirit, dedication and sense of purpose."

"Approximately 1,200 Catholic priests are military chaplains at present. We could use many more. Part of my job as military vicar is to encourage our bishops and religious superiors to permit their priests to volunteer as chaplains. The spiritual welfare of men and women serving our country is a primary obligation. They are entitled to cooperation on our part.

"In each place I visited I witnessed the generosity of our military personnel toward the local people. Chaplains have played a major role in fos-

tering this in the various countries where we have bases. I saw situations where the military community was helping with the building of a church. I saw help given priests, Sisters and lay people who are staffing clinics locally. I saw help given children everywhere."

"The military community has kept abreast of current trends and changes in the Church. I have already mentioned the ecumenical area. In the liturgical area the progress is no less outstanding. On occasions when I was out in the field offering Mass with the troops, occasions on which you would not expect to see the new approaches to community prayer put into practice, I was pleasantly surprised to find both awareness and appreciation of current liturgical practices.

"And if I ever need a choir at St. Patrick's cathedral, I will pray for one which sings as well as the men's choir which sang for our Christmas midnight Mass at Vietnam's Tan Son Nhut AF Base."

PEOPLE AND EVENTS

Johannesburg - South Africa - (RNS) Gary Player, South Africa's top professional golfer, recently joined American Billy Casper, a 1966 convert to Mormonism during a "Mormon Fireside Meeting" at the Johannesburg Mormon Chapel.

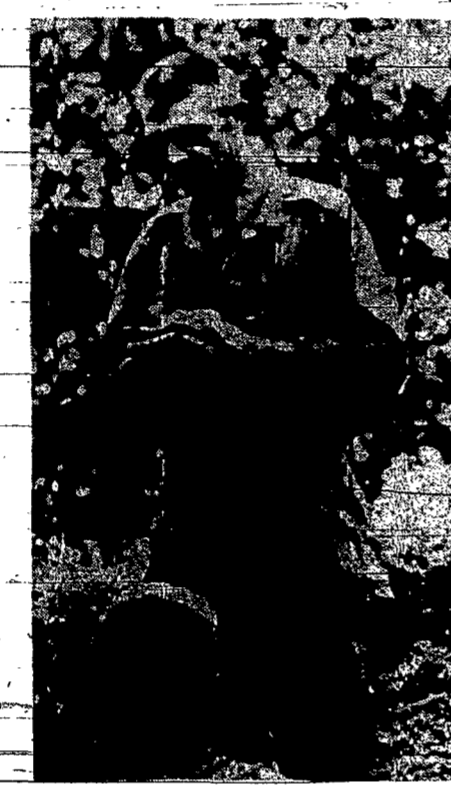
It was the first appearance for Player at a Mormon Church meeting, although Casper averages two "fireside sessions" each Sunday in the U.S. A large throng heard the famed golfer.

Player, who was introduced by Howard Badger, president of the South African Mormon Mission, emphasized the need for family "togetherness."

"The three most important things in life," said Player, "are faith, education and physical fitness, in that order. With faith, we can achieve anything, accept hardships and face challenges that meet us." "The uncrowned king of Easter Island," Father Sebastian Englet, OFM, Cap., died Jan. 8 at the age of 80. He was pastor of the 45-square-mile island off Chile's coast from 1935 to his death. Father Brian Rogan, a Passionist, has been hired by the City of Hartford as director of an inner city library branch.

An interreligious agency formed to receive aircraft made available by the U.S. to aid Biafra will be headed by Bishop Edward E. Swanson, executive director of Catholic Relief Services. Pope Paul announced that Bishop Louis Joseph Walters of Dubuque will be bishop of the Winona, Minn., diocese. The pontiff also announced the retirement of Archbishop Mortin Johnson of Vancouver, Canada.

Watch out, kids, Msgr. Percy Johnson, re-elected president of the Toronto Catholic school board, advocates an 11-month school year, saying the traditional 9- or 10-month year is obsolete. "He always had a kind word," was how one prisoner revealed the sentiment of the long line of inmates who walked past the casket of Father Francis J. Miller, chaplain of Minnesota State Prison. It was the first time a body had ever lain in state at the institution. Father George F. Heinzmann, M.M., has retired as editor of Fides, Maryknoll mission press service.



Hero Priest

The late Father (Lt.) Vincent R. Capodanno, Navy chaplain, is shown in the field preparing to give communion to members of the Third Marine Battalion in Vietnam. The priest was killed in action while shielding a wounded Marine medic with his body. The Congressional Medal of Honor was posthumously awarded to the priest's relatives in a Washington, D.C., ceremony. (NC)

In Spain

Unions Win Backing By Bishops

By MANUEL MIRA
(NC News Service)

Madrid - In an attempt to ease labor tensions in this country, Spain's bishops are supporting freer trade unions and have also decided to use worker-priests to increase the Church's influence among workers.

Since the time of the Civil War (1936-39) a large part of the working class has been alienated from the Church.

Archbishop Arturo Tabera Azaoz of Pamplona, head of the bishops' committee on social action, said the meeting of the Spanish Bishops' Conference in November decided to foster the worker-priest movement, a labor apostolate of the laity and renewed efforts in working-class parishes. The committee is in charge of drafting details.

Archbishop Tabera said these priests will work in mixed teams with other priests, so that some will have full-time (manual) jobs, while others will devote their time to parish work only; there is also the possibility of a third group combining pastoral and manual work.

Although their number has been growing in recent months, worker-priests in Spain number only a little over 60, in a total of 35,150 priests.

Much of the alienation of labor from the Church stems from the long association of Catholic leadership with the government of Gen. Francisco Franco, which now controls all labor unions through the Falange, Spain's only legal political party.

As thousands of Spanish industrial workers return home from a stretch at French, German and Belgian factories, pressure for free labor unions independent of the Falange has been increasing.

In a New Year's message the bishops called for self-determination for trade unions at all levels, and true representation of the workers; freedom of action for all trade unions; and dialogue and arbitration in all labor conflicts. They also said that strikes may well continue to be the necessary means, although an extreme one, for the legitimate defense of workers' rights.

Albany Doctors Vote Panama Scholarship

Albany - N.Y. - (NC) - A four-year, \$1,500-per-year medical scholarship has been established in Panama by the Catholic Doctors Guild of the diocese of Albany.

The scholarship provides that a qualified student be trained in a Latin American university for service in Latin America. Selection of applicants will be made by Bishop Marcos G. McGrath, C.S.C., of Santiago de Veraguas and a committee of doctors and representatives of parent-teacher groups.

Msgr. Edward L. O'Malley, doctors guild chaplain, said the scholarship was established in Panama because "Latin America is truly one of the most needy areas of the world. Anything we can do to aid the, especially in the area of medical needs, is going to be most helpful."

Several guild members have donated a month or more of their time to medical service in Guatemala, Peru and the Caribbean islands.

INTER-FAITH SERVICE

LONDON - (NC) - John Cardinal Heenan of Westminster will preach in St. Paul's, London Anglican cathedral, during the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity. Archbishop Michael Ramsey of Canterbury, the Anglican Primate, will welcome the cardinal to the cathedral tomorrow (Jan. 18).



New Senate Chaplain

Dr. Edward L. R. Elson, pastor of Washington's National Presbyterian church, is the U.S. Senate's new chaplain, succeeding Dr. Frederick Brown Harris, who held the post for 24 years. Dr. Elson was chosen by Senate Democrats in a close caucus vote, 28-20, over United Methodist pastor, Dr. Edward B. Lewis, who had frequently substituted for the retired Dr. Harris. The Presbyterian clergyman has been a strong defender of the U.S. policy in Vietnam. (RNS)

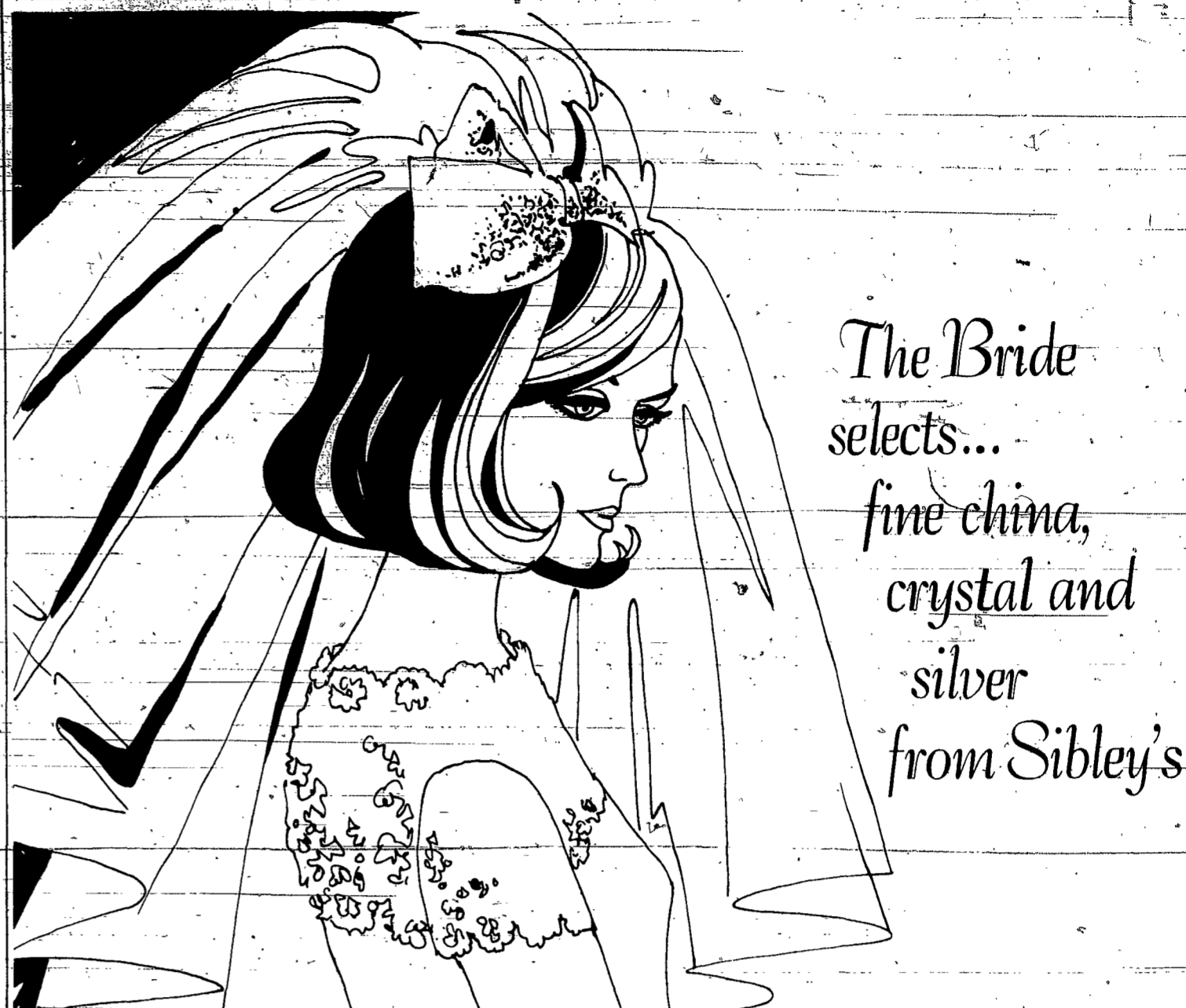


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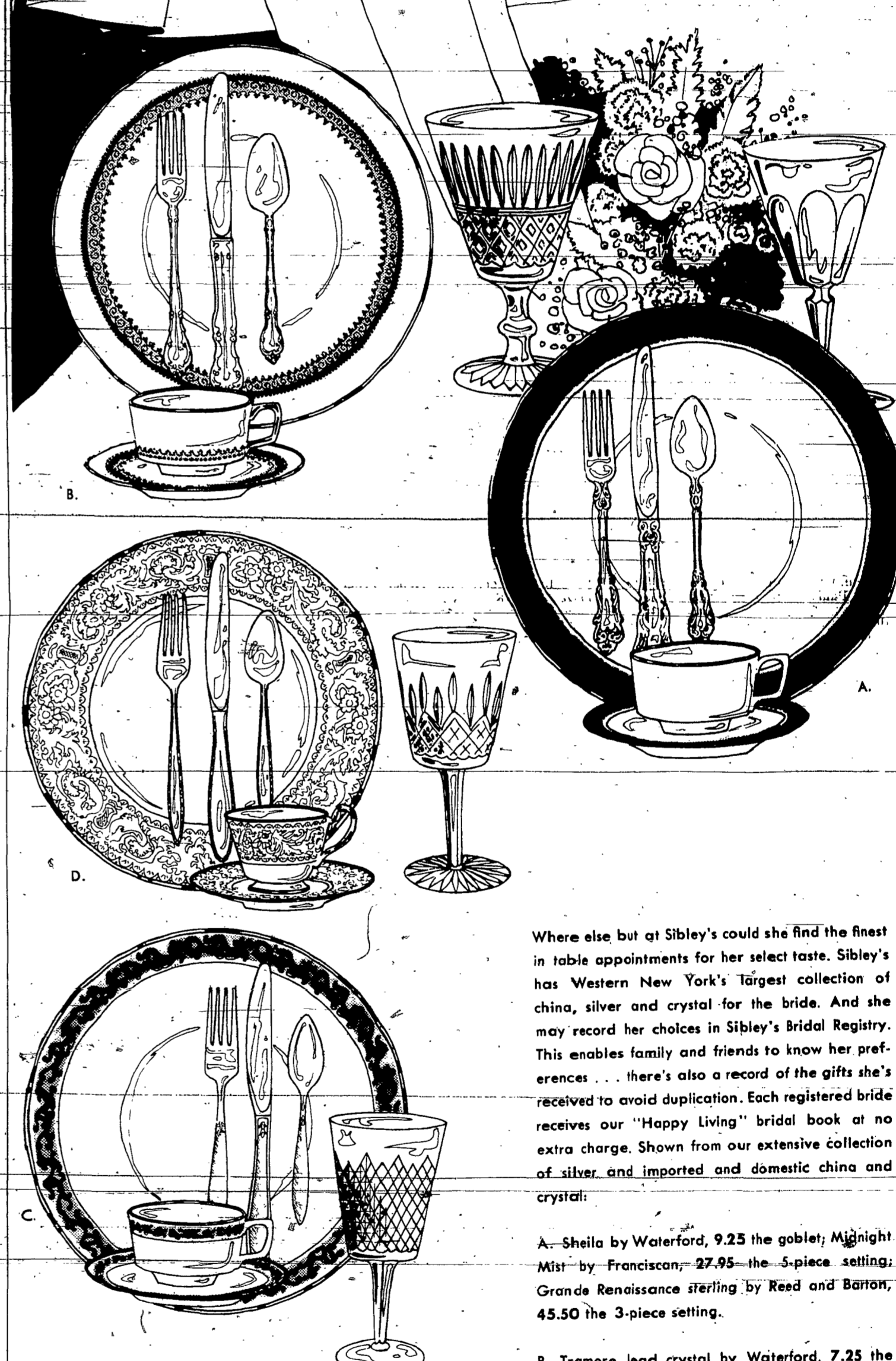
Msgr. Joseph T. Riordan, district superintendent of Catholic schools for Staten Island in the Archdiocese of New York, defended three teaching Sisters who were removed from the staff of St. Mary of the Assumption parochial school by the 75-year-old pastor, Msgr. John J. Cleary. The teachers, accused of teaching "evolution vs. creation" and of departing from traditional doctrine of devils, angels and the prevalence of sin, were victims of "a highly conservative viewpoint" held by the pastor and some parents, according to the school administrator. (RNS)

The Christian Century, an ecumenical magazine published in Chicago, has announced that Father Gregory Baum, O.S.A., and Mrs. Sally McDevitt Cuneen have become editors-at-large. Father Baum, a noted ecumenist, is professor of theology at the University of Toronto, and Mrs. Cuneen, along with her husband, was a co-founder of Cross Currents, an interdenominational journal. In what was a first for a cardinal, Norman Thomas Cardinal Gilroy of Sydney, Australia, was made a knight of the British Empire. At the same time, Sister Mary Regis, who retired as headmistress of Our Lady's Catholic Girls School in Liverpool, was made a dame of the British Empire, the highest civil award open to women, and is the first nun so honored. Father Robert J. Hente, 59, a St. Louis University vice-president, has been named the 45th president of Georgetown University.

K. C. Checko, a lay leader, has been named to the India Bishops' Conference's commission for the renewal of priestly formation. Funeral rites for Father Gerald Reilly, C.S.S.R., 55, were held Jan. 10. He was rector and president of Holy Redeemer College at Catholic University from 1953-59. Glen Bayless, a Washington journalist, has been made director of special projects in the Division of Information of the U.S. Bishops' Conference.



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- D. Lismore by Waterford, \$8 the goblet; Platinum Renaissance by Franciscan, 25.95 the 5-piece place setting; Michele sterling from Wallace, 45.75 the 3-piece place setting.

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