

# Black Priests to Move, Sanctioned or Not

Washington — (NC) — Leaders of the Black Catholic Clergy Caucus have announced in a letter to Archbishop John F. Dearden of Detroit, president of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), their decision "to intensify our work with black people, with or without the sanction of the Church."

"We will publicly disaffiliate ourselves from the acts and decisions of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops which relate to black people until we are satisfied that the bishops take our requests seriously," they stated.

A meeting between members of the caucus' executive

committee and the U.S. Bishop's Liaison Committee for Priests, Religious and Laity, headed by Lawrence Cardinal Shehan of Baltimore took place on Jan. 30.

The letter expressed the black priests' anger that the bishops have ignored the caucus and black priests generally. It chided the bishops for their "apparent unwillingness to enter into meaningful and on-going communication with us."

The Black Catholic Clergy Caucus, an organization of about 85 black Catholic priests and Brothers, was formed last April. It requested a number of reforms in the Church, centered on allowing black clergy a greater role in the decision-making process in the Church and freedom to work more effectively among the black community.

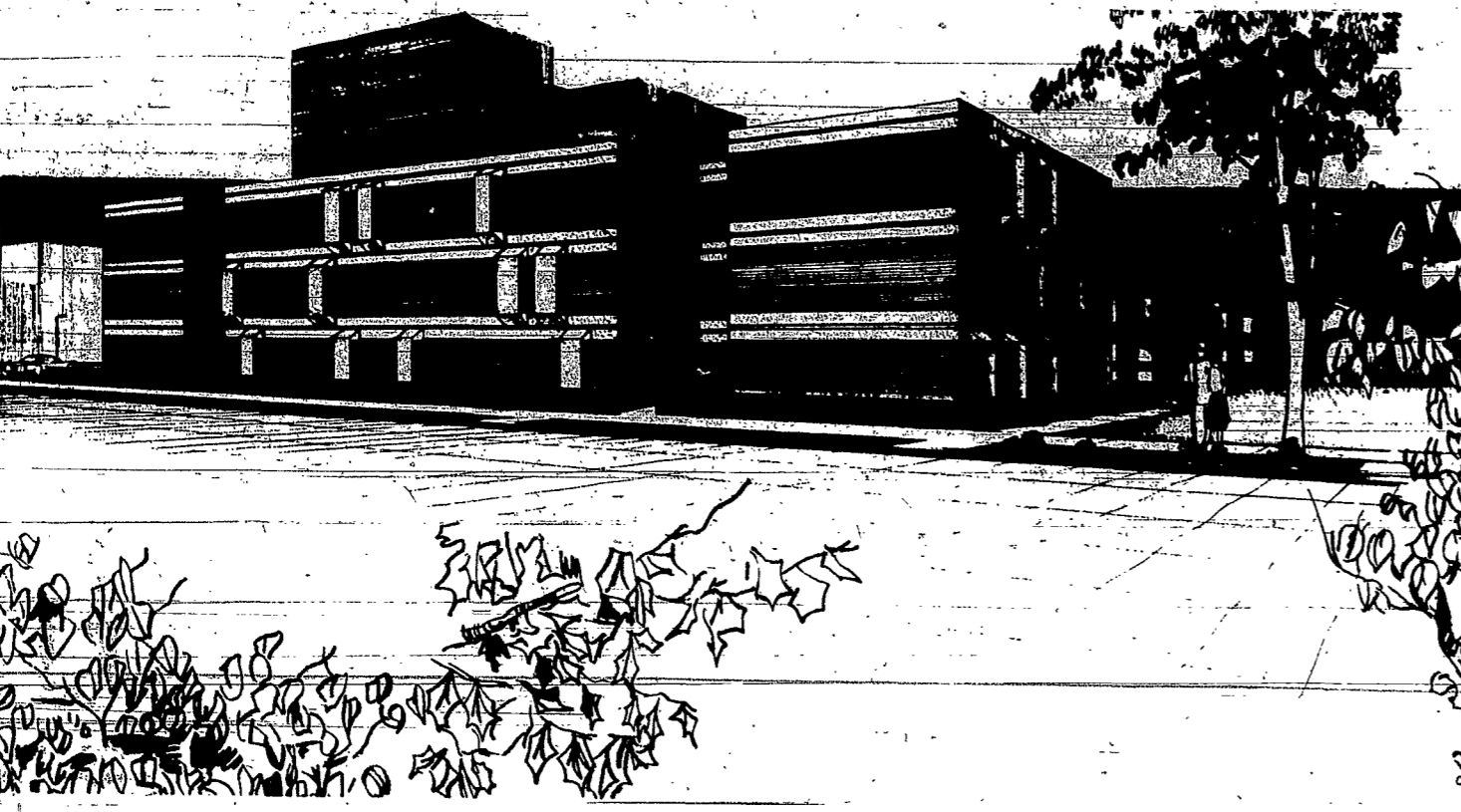
Bishop Cletus F. O'Donnell of Madison, Wis.; Bishop Joseph L. Bernardin, executive secretary of the NCCB.

The Black Catholic Clergy Caucus was represented by its chairman, Father Rollins Lambert of Chicago; and by Brother Joseph Davis, secretary; Father Donald M. Clark, chairman of the Midwest regional caucus; Father Rawlin Enste, chairman, Southern regional caucus.

The joint statement on the Jan. 30 meeting said:

"This meeting was held to discuss a proposal by the caucus for the establishment of a Secretariat for Black Catholicism by the American bishops. The caucus proposed that such a secretariat consist of priests, Brothers, religious women and lay people with the purpose of formulating programs for action in the black community.

The very existence of the Church among black people will be at stake if the needs and potential of the black catholic community are not recognized in a mature fashion by both black and white."



Architect's rendering of four-level, three-story Medical Arts Building to be erected by St. Joseph's Hospital on Gregg Street, Elmira, near the hospital's present buildings, planned eventually to be

connected with them. Architects for the new building, expected to be completed by Oct. 1, are Hirsch & Casati. General contractor is McLane Construction Company.

## Ground Broken for Medical Building

Elmira — Ground has been broken for a Medical Arts Building to be constructed by St. Joseph's Hospital here. It will be erected on Gregg Street, between Market and East Church Streets.

Completion of the building, which may attract new physicians and specialists here as needs arise, is scheduled by

Oct. 1. No cost figures were noted.

Thirty suites will be available for rental to doctors, and other areas of the building will be for hospital use. The structure eventually will be connected across High Street to hospital extensions.

The medical building is separate from two hospital additions given tentative approval recently by the State Health Department. These — a four-story addition to a one-story extension of medical facilities — were estimated to cost approximately \$3,000,000.

A long-range plan for the area includes a state mental hospital, an elderly housing project and a health-welfare complex.

Meanwhile, Amot-Ogden, Elmira's other hospital, is expanding its facilities in an estimated \$6 million program which will include construction of a five-story building to house a new pharmacy and an expanded laboratory, physical and occupational therapy and other facilities, and a new one-story nursing education building.

Louvain, Belgium — (RNS) — Father Dominique Pire, O.P., 58, humanitarian, Nobel Prize winner and veteran of the Belgian underground in World War II, died here at the Louvain University hospital.

The Belgian Dominican was awarded the Nobel Peace Prize winner and veteran of his work among refugees from Eastern Europe.

With the Nobel Prize money and other contributions, the priest opened new refugee villages in Austria and Germany and established a "University of Peace" in Belgium where international seminars are held to foster the cause of world peace.

He was a teacher at the Dominican monastery in Huy, Belgium, when World War II broke out and he joined the underground as a combined chaplain and intelligence officer. One of his most important roles in the war was in the organization of an escape route for pilots who had made forced landings.

## Father Pire Dies, Won Nobel Prize

## Ecumenical Meeting Told

### Disunity Hurts Christian Power

Skaneateles — Christian power for good in society has been too long dissipated by disunity among U.S. churches, Father Edward A. Shamon, pastor of St. Aloysius Church, Auburn, told an ecumenical service of worship in First Presbyterian Church here on Jan. 26.

"The Christian family, spiritually and institutionally divided, has been offering for centuries the spectacle of self-contradiction," Father Shamon said.

"The people of God appear not as a united body of men and women proclaiming the truth which will save the world from itself, but as a chorus of voices, hotly arguing about what the Gospel and the way of salvation really is. The fact that Christians are not one makes it very hard for the world to believe."

The cooperating churches in the third annual ecumenical service held here were Boro-

dino Methodist, the Methodist First Presbyterian, St. James Episcopal and Holy Trinity Lutheran, all of Skaneateles, the Motville-St. Andrew's United Methodist and St. Mary's of the Lake Catholic Church of Skaneateles.

Clergymen of the various churches all had parts in the liturgy. Father Robert Casey and Father Thomas E. Neary of St. Mary's read the Apostles Creed and the Lord's Prayer, respectively.

Discussing the "fragmentation of Christians" which has led to the "deterioration of the moral fabric of the world," Father Shamon told the ecumenical audience that the Vatican Council has said: "Such division openly contradicts the will of Christ, scandalizes the world and strikes the holy cause of preaching the Gospel to every creature."

## Teenagers March To Unity Service

Philadelphia — (NC) — More than 2,000 teenagers representing religious unity and social peace marched to the Cathedral of St. Peter and Paul for a service stressing religious unity and social justice.

A Baptist minister told them their demonstration of unity was one of "people who believe in God being caught up in a movement which will not end."

The Rev. Leon Sullivan, pastor of Zion Baptist church, said men must tie their ropes together "to rescue victims of poverty and neglect."

"We must continue to prove," he said, "that God is not dead... that Christ makes us color-blind."

The event was planned by and for youth leaders and advisers from Baptist, Catholic, Episcopal, Lutheran, Methodist, Presbyterian and United Church of Christ congregations in metropolitan Philadelphia.

## City Seeks Dismissal Of Suit by Diocese

Buffalo — (NC) — The city of Lackawanna, a steel producing Buffalo suburb, has sought dismissal of a diocese of Buffalo federal court suit charging the city with racial bias in blocking construction of low income housing.

The diocese filed suit Dec. 2 after the city rezoned land the diocese sought to sell to a Negro civic group for federally subsidized housing.

In a brief presented to Federal Court Judge John T. Curtin, Lackawanna defended its City Council's Oct. 21 action freezing indefinitely any construction of subdivisions in the city and rezoning the vacant church property for recreational use only.

It claims that a limited sewer system and the lack of public parks forced that action.

Meanwhile, however, the federal Justice Department has filed papers arguing that

it should be allowed to join the diocese in its suit of the city.

Calling the issue one "of general public importance," the Justice Department alleges city violation of the 1964 and 1968 Civil Rights Acts.

It cited the 1968 Act as insuring freedom "from interference in the exercise of the right to purchase and aid dwellings without discrimination on the basis of race or color."

The diocese has said in its suit that after the Federal Housing Administration found the housing development feasible, the city began action to block the sale.

Lackawanna seeks to develop a multi-purpose recreation center on the land, and had condemned the diocesan property so that it could acquire it. That action, however, was stopped by Judge Curtin, pending a hearing.

## Pueblo Indians:

### No Civil Rights for Us, Please

Albuquerque, N.M. — (RNS) — U.S. Senate hearings on the issue of exempting Pueblo Indians from the Indian Civil Rights Law of 1968 — which includes religious rights — have been asked by Sen. Clinton P. Anderson, D-N.M.

Sen. Anderson and Sen. Joseph M. Montoya (D-N.M.) are co-sponsoring legislation that would exempt the Pueblo Indians, who live in Rio Grande Valley villages and maintain "theocratic" government.

Pueblo leaders appeared at hearings before the Civil Rights Law was passed, holding that it would void the pueblo system of justice. The Ervin bill has as its purpose the extension of "the process" guarantees to all Indians.

However, Pueblo Indians point out that the law's guarantee of a right to an attorney is meaningless because, they say, attorneys do not

understand the pueblo system of jurisprudence based on a tradition of theocracy.

At present, Pueblos, whose leaders are chosen in a variety of ways, maintain their own courts which are closely linked to the Indian villages' governing bodies. The rights law of 1968 requires that the court system be separate.

## Drastic Changes Foreseen In Religious Communities

Dayton, Ohio — (NC) — A priest-authority on religious vocations predicted religious communities of the future will be organized according to the kind of work they do, rather than according to the spirit of their founders.

Father Godfrey Poage, C.P., of Chicago, former director of the Pontifical Office of Vocations, said that members of religious communities will no longer place emphasis on "the Dominican, Augustinian, Franciscan or Ursuline spirit."

The differentiation, he said, will be in the apostolate. The spirit for all will be the same — "the spirit of the Gospel" in the Sermon on the Mount, he added.

"The religious life of the future will be a commitment to an approved form and rule," the Pontifical priest said. "Every religious wants the assurance that Christ, through His representatives on earth, in the name of the Father, accepts his dedication. Commitment is accepted by the Church and given stability," he said.

Father Poage, discussing vo-

ocations to the priesthood and religious life at the Benjamin Center and the University of Dayton, said the Church's "vocational theology" of the past must change.

That theology stressed a person's vocation was "pre-ordained and predestined" by God, who "selected you from all eternity and endowed you with the qualifications of mind, heart, temperament, disposition and personality, fitting you for one role and that your salvation is in following this Divine plan," he declared.

In an era when freedom and creativity of the individual are recognized, this kind of an approach "turns off modern youth," he said.

"It's his life, his world and he can make it what he wants it to be," the priest said.

Thus a vocation becomes a challenge of personal service to the world, "where one meets God in service to his fellow man."

"The more you know of love of your fellow man, the more you know of the infinite love of God," Father Poage said.

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