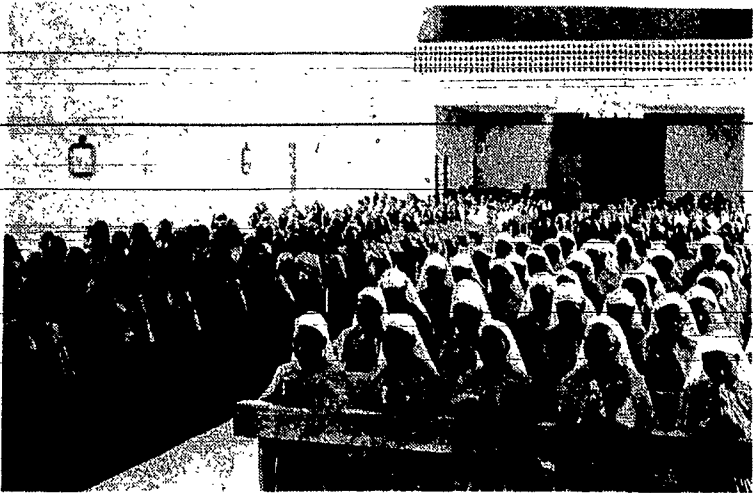
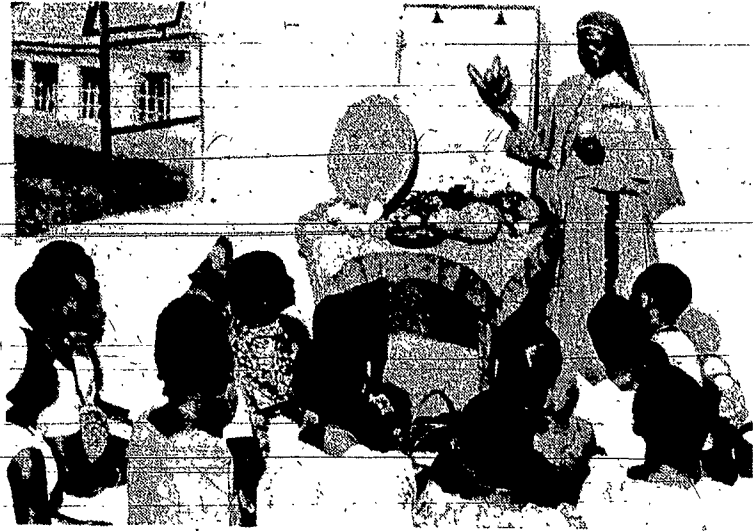


# Africa: 'New Homeland of Christ'



This panel indicates some of the Catholic life in Uganda; left, Ugandan priests give their first blessing after ordination; upper right, a Bannabikira nun gives practical lessons to local women



on nutrition; lower right, the community at services in the motherhouse of the Bannabikira congregation. (RNS)

(NC News Service)

When Pope Paul VI travels to Uganda in July, he will be visiting a continent that he once described as "the new homeland of Christ," and while there he will pay tribute to 22 black African martyrs he "had the blessed fortune to canonize" in 1964.

At Kampala, Uganda's capital, he will preside at the consecration of an altar in a sanctuary now being constructed in honor of the martyrs, who were tortured and made the supreme sacrifice for their faith over 80 years ago.

At Namugongo, where 13 of the 22 martyrs met their deaths, a large, red brick church now stands in a peaceful green field where their executioners' fires once blazed.

Every June African Catholics go there in pilgrimages by the thousands, to the natural amphitheater behind the church, and as they assist at Mass in the open they hear

again the heroic story of those 22 men and boys.

In 1884, the tribal ruler, Mwanga, began to persecute Christians in earnest.

Anglican Bishop James Henington, on Mwanga's orders, was murdered en route to assume his See of Eastern Equatorial Africa. Joseph Musaka Bakkudembe, the majordomo of the royal household and a leading Catholic, rebuked Mwanga for the bishop's murder. Enraged, Mwanga had Joseph killed.

Mwanga next prohibited the teaching of religion to his subjects.

After a page named Muwafu, the son of a high court official, had been converted by a catechist, Dennis Sebaggwawo, the catechist was executed on May 25, 1886.

The persecutions were culminated by a forced march of professed Christians from Mwanga's summer residence near Lake Victoria to the city

of Namugongo. Several were killed along the way and most of the rest, 13 Catholics and 15 Anglicans, were burned to death on Ascension Thursday, June 3, 1886.

Devotions to the Uganda martyrs spread quickly through central Africa.

In 1920, a scant 37 years after their deaths, the 22 Uganda martyrs were declared blessed by Pope Benedict XV.

The canonization of the Uganda martyrs struck two characteristics of the modern Church: A fresh realization of the layman's role in the Church, because all the martyrs were laymen, and an emphasis on ecumenism—side-by-side with the Catholics were 15 Anglicans who also died for refusing to give up the Christian faith and its moral code.

At the canonization of the Uganda martyrs Oct. 18, 1964, Pope Paul said:

"Christianity found in Africa a special predisposition, and in this we do not hesitate to see a mysterious design of God, a vocation proper to

Africa, a promise of historical significance.

"Africa is a land of the Gospel. Africa is the new homeland of Christ."

# 'New Priesthood' of Service Urged

Worcester, Mass. — (NC) — A priest psychologist urged here building a "new priesthood," concerned with function

## St. Agnes to Try Flexible 'Mods'

St. Agnes High School will embark next fall on "flexible modular scheduling" that will permit lengthening some class periods and shortening others as the need arises, and rearranging the order of classes.

The schedule will be built on a six-day cycle, rather than a five-day week, so that not every class will meet every day. The school day will be made up of 24 modules or "mods" of 15 minutes each, and multiples of these "mods" will replace the traditional 45-minute period. Longer periods thus can be provided at times for science labs, art, homemaking, music and business practice.

Sister Marie Margaret, describing the change, said there would be "little unstructured, or free, time."

The new system is recommended, she added, by the National Education Association, the Catholic Education Association and the New York State Department of Education. Bishop Grimes High School in Syracuse has experimented with it this year, she reported.

and service rather than structure.

Father Eugene C. Kennedy, M.M., counseling psychologist at Maryknoll Seminary, Glen Ellyn, Ill., addressing a vocations seminar for priests of the Worcester diocese, called for a priesthood "dedicated to the service of the human family."

Alluding to the current "crisis" in vocations, Father Kennedy said he felt young people want to serve, "but they want to serve people, not an institution." He said it is no longer possible to speak of vocations without speaking of the needs of the Christian community.

"We should expect fewer vocations," he warned, and suggested priests should be willing to share pastoral responsibility with Religious and laity. He said the "inevitable changes" in the concept of the priestly ministry "should be understood."

## 'Evening of Music' Set at Nazareth

The "Sing Out '69" group of St. Jerome's parish, East Rochester, will stage an "evening of music" at 8:15 p.m. Friday, April 11, at the Nazareth College Arts Center.

Sponsoring the performance is the St. Martin dePorres Center. Tickets, at \$2, may be obtained at the rectory, 209 Garfield St. (586-3231) or at the St. Martin House, 537 Clinton Ave. N., Rochester (325-2818).

not bewailed, because the priesthood will continue to be changed drastically, even in our lifetime.

"It is futile," he said, "to look back to simpler days," the challenge facing priests today, he said, is that they "are called upon to bridge the chasm to the next century."

Emphasizing that priests are servants of the people, Father

Kennedy said as servants of the "pilgrim community," priests should "form and lead, not control" the community. "Blind devotion to form must give way to discovery of the true function of the Church, which is service," he added.

The priesthood and the Church, Father Kennedy said, must abandon ideas and techniques that "do not match today's realities."

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## Bill Cosby Apologizes For TV Monologue

New York — (NC) — Bill Cosby has apologized to NBC viewers who were offended by his "Tonight Show" monologue on his first visit to a Catholic Mass.

Cosby, who is acting as the "Tonight Show" host during Johnny Carson's vacation, received complaints about the content of the comedy piece.

Several cuts were made in the monologue and, according to one "Tonight Show" spokesman, most of these dealt with the word "God."

Cosby's monologue dealt with an "outsider's" view of a Mass. Cosby's wife is a Catholic and he was relating his experience in going to church with her. One comment Cosby made likened the host to "pizza without the tomato sauce."

An NBC spokesman noted that Cosby has used the mono-

logue many times before and is a "great success" with it at Catholic colleges and universities where "nuns, priests and students seemed to find it very funny."

Cosby said that he most sincerely apologized to anyone he might have offended.



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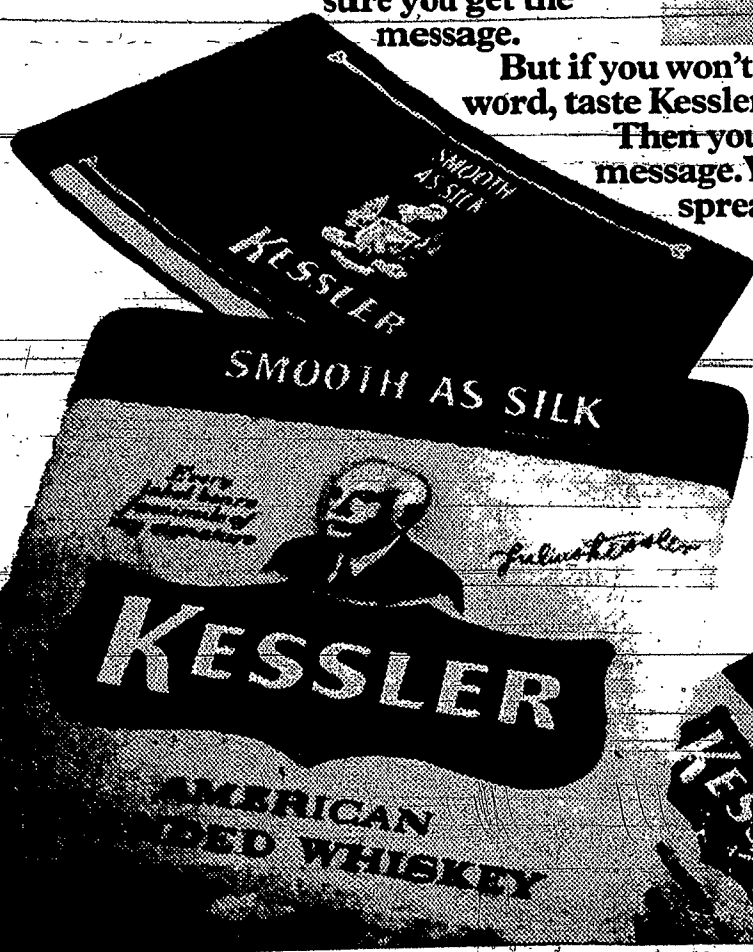
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