

Rome Updating Latin American Missions

Rome (NC) — Although the help contributed by foreign missionaries to Latin America was recognized, the General Council of the Pontifical Commission for Latin America (COGECAL) said that the selection, preparation and performance of these missionaries must be improved.

COGECAL said that the foreign missionaries need a solid background in theology and an awareness of the social problems in Latin America.

COGECAL, an advisory board of experts from all the missionary-sending countries, plus representatives of the Latin American Bishops' Council (CELAM), made these other points at the

end of its annual meeting here in June:

- The Church in Latin America itself "must seriously undertake the solution of its own problems... determine its own pastoral work."
- The bishops receiving foreign personnel should use it wisely, and "not solely to fill vacancies."
- The Church in Latin America, including Religious Congregations, must rethink its assignments of the few available native priests, foster the use of married deacons, and call on a well-informed laity.
- There is an overall need for the missionary to identify himself with the problems and

aspirations of the local people, and for the Church itself to act at the grass-roots level, including aid for the Indian populations.

Praise for the work done thus far by foreign missionaries came through a CELAM-sponsored survey among the bishops in the area.

The final report of the survey gave these findings:

- The substantial numbers of foreign priests "has made it possible to bring the Gospel to otherwise 'marginal' areas" — those areas outside the mainstream of a nation — resulting in the establishment of "Christian communities, more vocations for the priesthood and the specific care of the souls."

"Truly apostolic priests, self-sacrificing and generous, have made a contribution to the total renewal of the Church in Latin America by their theological thinking, their pastoral work, their fostering of the liturgy, the catechism and the reading of the Bible."

COGECAL, however, recommended several ways of improving this contribution, including a better coordination between the groups sending mission aid and the diocese receiving it.

To overcome whatever deficiencies this foreign aid had in the past and to improve its results, COGECAL suggested the following:

- "A selection of personnel

that will take into account the human and psychological maturity of the candidates.

- "Preparation of these personnel should include a better knowledge of the language, history and culture, mentality and traditions of the people."
- "An effort at total integration with the local clergy and Christian community, by adapting themselves to the new conditions."
- "The preparation of the diocese that receives the (foreign missionaries) through a close cooperation between the sending and the receiving groups."
- "A particular awareness of the social problems which burden this continent."

The statement issued by COGECAL also called for reform in the current approach and the programs of Religious Congregations, and asked that they adapt future plans to diocesan pastoral programs and improve the preparation of their personnel assigned to the area.

The COGECAL meeting recommended also the establishment of an international coordinating commission for all foreign personnel coming from Europe and North America and a greater participation of CELAM in the training centers "in order to insure that such preparation follows the mind and the needs of the Church in Latin America."

WEEKLY CROSSWORD

ACROSS

- Resort
- Roofing tiles
- Not in
- Munoz
- Aquatic bird
- Blunder
- Speck
- Billow
- Guard
- Away: prefix
- Rope-aplicing tool
- Warning bell
- Spirit
- Planet
- Outer hanks
- Jewel
- Mouth
- Defames
- Luzon native
- Water: Fr.
- Hill: S. Afr.
- Disposition
- Compassion
- Legislative body
- Hair on horse's neck
- Specific date
- Land measure
- Disciplinful

DOWN

- Kettle
- Article
- Baking dishes
- Young pig
- Peet: Lo
- African antelope
- Swiss river
- Neighbor learning
- Enemy scout
- Answer
- Among
- Size of
- coal
- Equal
- Goddess of justice



Father Kenneth McElligott, second from left, treasurer of Mount Carmel High School, presents a Certificate of Appreciation to the Sacred Heart Society of St. Francis Church for its donation to the Mount Carmel Endowment Fund. Present at Mount Carmel for the Sacred Heart annual banquet were, from the left, Brother Daniel Recla; Father McElligott; Dr. Daniel E. Carbonaro, guest speaker; Mrs. William DeTomaso, president of the SHS.; and Mrs. Dominic Ciampaglia, toastmistress.

Infallibility Likened To Fidelity

Philadelphia (RNS) — Would it be possible for Christian Churches to take a doctrine on which they strongly disagree — for instance, infallibility — and make that a basis of unity?

Father Ladislav M. Orsy, S.J., chairman of the theology department at Fordham University, suggested here that getting to the core of the most difficult doctrines could remove the wedge between the branches of Christianity.

He spoke at the National Workshop on Christian Unity sponsored by the Archdiocese of Philadelphia.

Noting that infallibility is a "stumbling block" to church unity, he suggested that infallibility could be translated as "fidelity."

Roman Catholics, Presbyterians, Lutherans, and others, Father Orsy said, would agree that "somehow God is faithful to His church, faithful to their community. They accept that as an infallible fact."

"All that we differ on then is the instrument of God's infallibility, God's fidelity," he explained later in an interview. "Catholics would put the infallibility in the episcopacy (bishops), while Presbyterians, for example, would put it in all the people. But, you see, they do not differ in the basic concept."

"Catholics had a great block about papal infallibility. But since Vatican II (which ended in 1965), the bishops share the infallibility with the Pope. It's now spread

all over the episcopacy. That's an entirely new situation. Perhaps one day the Catholic Church will understand the idea of infallibility differently and spread it even further."

Father Orsy made clear that he is concerned with an organic unity of Christians as a community, not just with distant acceptance of one another.

He expressed hope that an organic union of Christian Churches could exist in which interpretations on such crucial doctrines as infallibility could differ in many respects without destroying the core of such doctrines.

Father Orsy told the 570 participants — the majority of them Catholics — "in our quest for unity, our problem is not with the spirit but with the structures."

He declared that "we do not speak enough about the humanity of the church," challenging the audience to realize that the church is marked by holiness and marked by sin — "a combination we cannot end."

Catholic School Aid Supported

Belleville, Ont. (NC) — Municipal councils throughout Ontario are going to be asked to take a stand on extension of the separate school system through high school.

"Let's have the politicians show their true colors," declared Mayor J. Russell Scott of Belleville.

The mayor, who is not a Catholic, was the key figure in a City Council debate which resulted in a resolution supporting "equal opportunity for continuous education in the separate schools of Ontario from kindergarten to grade 13."

The resolution will be sent to provincial Premier John Roberts and Education Minister William Davis. It is also being circulated among municipal councils across the province.

Discussing community attitudes toward Catholic public schools, Mayor Scott observed there has been "a shift in community feeling and my own personal feelings."

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Canadian Churchmen Back Poverty Report

Ottawa, Ont. (NC) — The Canadian Council of Churches and the Canadian Catholic Conference officially accepted a report on poverty entitled "A Coalition for Development."

The report was commissioned by both groups last December as a result of the 1968 Montreal Conference on Christian Conscience and poverty.

A joint statement by the executive bodies of the groups said the report had been received with enthusiasm and gratitude to the authors.

The statement makes the following requests:

- That the Churches give wide distribution to this report by seeing that copies are provided for not only national leaders of their churches but also for parish clergy, lay leaders and all interested individuals and organizations;
- That all delegates to the Montreal Conference on Christian Conscience and Poverty receive copies of the report;
- That at both national and local levels the report be made a main reference point in program planning for fall-winter 1969-70 and beyond;
- That this planning include an examination of conscience and a review of resources at all levels;
- That initial progress reports be submitted by Sept. 30, 1969;
- That the Canadian Council of Churches in cooperation with the Canadian Catholic Conference send copies of the report to all members of the Senate and House of Commons, to all provincial premiers and appropriate ministers, and such other public bodies as seem advisable.

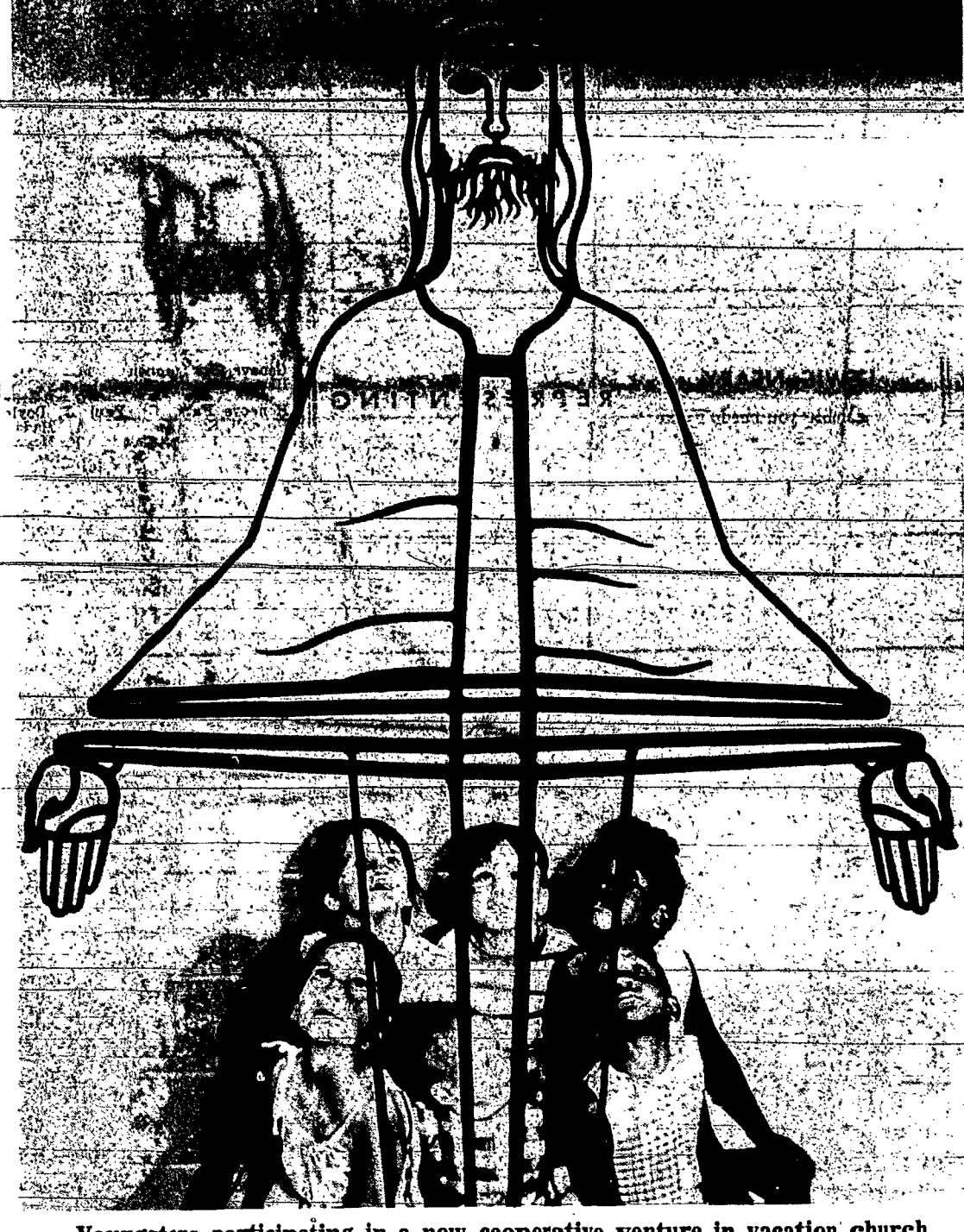
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Youngsters participating in a new cooperative venture in vacation church school contemplate a religious sculpture by Charles Parks, Delaware sculptor and artist. Fifteen city and suburban churches are involved in the project, planned by the staff of Methodist Action Program. The inner city project is staffed by 90 volunteer teachers who first took 16 hours of intensive training in curriculum materials and racial and suburban city interaction. A total of 440 city and suburban youngsters, black, white and Puerto Rican, are enrolled. (RNS)

Pope Sympathizes With Brazil Catholics

Vatican City (RNS) — Pope Paul VI expressed sympathy for Catholics in Brazil who are reportedly suffering government repression, a U.S. expert on Latin America said here after a private audience.

Father Louis M. Colonnese, director of the Latin America Bureau of the U.S. Catholic Conference, presented two messages to the Pope, one describing the struggle of Catholics working for social change in Brazil, the other calling for better relations with Protestants in Colombia.

Following the meeting with the Pope, Father Colonnese reported that he had been told, "Your concerns are my concerns. With all my heart I will pray and I will do all I can to help. Your task requires not only faith but great courage."

The priest joined two Brazilian leaders in a letter to the

Pope which detailed the harassment suffered by churchmen and Catholic movements.

"Many bishops have been harassed and persecuted," the letter said.

"Archbishop Camara's house was machine-gunned for the third time on April 29. Bishop Picao's residence in Santos was surrounded by tanks and troops on Dec. 13, 1968. Bishop Frago, Bishop of Cratuz, has been declared persona non grata by the government's party and banned from speaking in Fortaleza, the state capital.

"Bishop Calheiros of Volta Redonda had his residence invaded by army troops. The Archbishop of Belo Horizonte and his auxiliary were summoned to military courts. The Dominican monastery in that city was twice invaded and its friars are facing trials. The situation of the Carmelites is similar."

OFFICERS NAMED

Ithaca — Edward Platkowski has been elected president of the Home and School Association of Immaculate Conception Church. Elected with him were Mrs. Dean Linscott, vice president; Mrs. Robert Anderson, secretary, and Walter Schwan, treasurer.

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