

Frank Robinson:

'Still Mason Dixon Line in Baseball'

Catholic Press Features

New York — The frustrations and ambitions of a Black baseball star — Frank Robinson of the Baltimore Orioles — are spotlighted in the first of a series of "sports and morals" TV programs produced by the National Catholic Office for Radio and Television.

In a half-hour "Guideline" interview conducted by Joe Garagiola, a former major league catcher and now a radio-TV star with NBC, Robinson talked about monetary discrimination faced by Black baseball players, the "Mason-Dixon line in the batter's box" and his hopes to become the first Black baseball manager in major league history.

To be telecast Sunday afternoon, Aug. 10, on NBC-TV and followed later in the month with programs featuring Penn State football coach Joe Paterno and former boxer Carmen Basilio, the Frank Robinson interview is one that NCORT executive producer Joe Gallagher said he hopes the network will also broadcast in prime time because of the opinions and insights offered by Robinson.

In the taped interview, Garagiola noted that although Robinson was the National League's Most Valuable Player in 1961, when he was with the Cincinnati Reds, and the American League's MVP when the Orioles won the pennant in 1966, "I never see an endorsement of Frank Robinson for anything. If it was a white ballplayer, I imagine he'd be endorsing everything from spitballs to baby food."

Robinson: "Well, Joe, that's very true, I think, and you know, usually when this comes up, a lot of people will say, well, usually it's the area you're in. You know, Cincinnati wasn't New York or Chicago or Los Angeles. And then, when I moved to Baltimore, they say, well, it still isn't... I think you get more endorsements if you play in the larger cities where you're exposed more. But when you have some of the years like the year I had in '66, you expect to make some outside money and make endorsements but I was disappointed."

"And then, the next year or the year after, you see a fellow come along, a white ballplayer, and have the year that I had or not quite as



FRANK ROBINSON

good a year and all of a sudden you see where in the paper he's making \$200,000 or \$250,000 outside and it kind of bugs you a little bit."

Garagiola: "Do you find a Mason-Dixon line in the batter's box, or is it all gone?"

Robinson: "No, it's still there, Joe, actually. A lot of times, you know, you'll hit a home run off a white pitcher and beat him a ballgame or get a big hit and he's not going to knock down a white ballplayer. He'll wait and knock down one of the black ballplayers."

"You know, it happened. I hit a home run to beat a white pitcher a ballgame a week before and (the next week we faced him) Paul Blair hit two home runs off of this pitcher and I'm the next hitter, you know, and boom, first pitch is right at my head and he came out in the paper and said, if Boog Powell had been the next hitter, I wouldn't have knocked

him down. I wanted Frank Robinson." (Powell is white.)

Garagiola: "Frank, it's known that you want to be a Big League manager. There's never been a black Big League manager. Are you going to Puerto Rico (where he managed a winter league team that went on to win the title — that's part of your plan?)"

Robinson: "Well, I don't have a plan, Joe. Actually, there was an opportunity that knocked and it was a real fine opportunity... Earl Weaver took over the club (the Orioles) last year and he couldn't go back (to Puerto Rico) and it was just a funny incident right here in New York in the dugout (at Yankee Stadium)."

"He was talking to some of the players that he wouldn't be able to go back and I said, why not put in a plug for me? I'd like to go down there and have a vacation and take it easy during the winter and..."

Garagiola: "Why did you say it like that? Why wouldn't you go up and say, I'd like to manage — you feel like they were going to turn you down?"

Robinson: "Right, I just felt like they wouldn't take me seriously."

Garagiola: "Because you were black?"

Robinson: "Because I was black, right, and I just said it in a joking way because that way I wouldn't really be hurt if they would have refused and someone wouldn't pay any attention to me — just brush it off, actually. But he took me very seriously."

Buffalo Poll Studies Student Transfer

Buffalo — (NC) — Reasons for transferring children from Catholic schools to public schools have a greater concern for increasing costs of Catholic school education than do the parents of persisting students. Summarizing studies made within the last 15 years, Father Berg said the typical parents sending their children to Catholic schools have higher incomes are better educated, have more Catholic education and are usually both Catholic themselves.

The 152-page study was undertaken by Father Berg as a doctoral thesis at the State University of Buffalo.

Father Berg noted in an interview that much previous research had concentrated on why parents enroll their children in Catholic schools in the first place, but that none had been done on why they later transferred them to public schools. School officials have had to rely on guesswork regarding the reasons, he said.

These are the major findings of Father Berg's study:

- Contrary to the theories of some Catholic educators, the unavailability of Catholic schools in certain areas is not a major factor in the decline of Catholic elementary school enrollment.

- Parents who transfer their children from Catholic to public schools feel the public schools offer better educational quality.

- Parents of transferred children have a lower opinion of the need for Catholic elementary schools than do the parents of persisting students, even though both sets of parents agree basically on the reasons for the existence of Catholic schools.

Area Colleges

Share Grants

St. John Fisher and Nazareth Colleges are sharing in grants totaling about \$16,000 awarded to four upstate colleges by the General Electric Corp. Foundation.

The foundation raises monies for education through GE employee contributions matched by corporate funds.

Announced last week were the following grants: St. John Fisher College, \$5,706; Houghton College, \$4,454; Nazareth College, \$2,498; University of Rochester, \$2,339.

Elmira Knights

Elect Officers

Elmira — John E. Strong of Horseheads was elected navigator of the Elmira Assembly, Fourth Degree Knights of Columbus, at a recent meeting in Watkins Glen. Elected with him were:

Francis H. Sally, captain; Paul Szymanski, pilot; Harry P. Seeback, admiral; Thomas A. Cowley, scribe; Joseph E. Prunier, controller; Joseph E. Corbe, inside sentinel; Alonzo LaValley, outside sentinel.

India Anglicans

Should Become Catholics: Cleric

Madras, India — (NC) — Orthodox-minded Anglicans in India have no choice except to join the Catholic Church, a former Anglican clergyman declared here while waiting for the Holy See's special dispensation to be ordained as Catholic priest.

The Rev. Jeedi Sadhu James, a former priest of the Anglican Nandyal diocese, spoke after he and four other ministers resigned from the Anglican Church and joined the Catholic Church.

Father James pinpointed the doctrinal difficulties that prevented their diocese from joining the Church of South India (CSI) that was formed in 1947 through a merger of all Protestant churches in south India and north Ceylon.

He listed the main difficulties as non-acceptance by CSI of the Eucharist as a sacrifice, non-acceptance of the apostolic succession and optional infant Baptism.

He said that a scheme for a Church of North India, that was presented for acceptance before the Nandyal diocese in 1966, was "much worse" because it contained almost all points on which Anglicans had differed earlier with CSI.

Deaths

J. F. Thrasher

James F. Thrasher of Batavia, formerly of Rochester, died July 7, 1969, after an illness of several months.

Mr. Thrasher, a Navy veteran of World War II, operated a camera shop in Batavia, where he had lived for the past 19 years. He was born in Rochester July 12, 1918. He was a member of St. Mary's parish, Batavia; of the Third Order of St. Francis, the Fourth Degree, Knights of Columbus, and the Nocturnal Adoration Society.

Survivors include his mother, Mrs. Byron Thrasher of Rochester; his widow, Marian Kershner Thrasher; four daughters, Mrs. Michael Graney of Cleveland, and Judy, Maureen and Roberta, at home; a grandson, Timothy Graney, and a brother, John of Rochester.

Blacks Block Plans For 'Halfway House'

Chicago — (RNS) — Three Negro organizations here have thwarted Catholic Church efforts to use an empty convent as a halfway house for women ex-convicts.

A two-day sit-in of the first floor of the convent adjacent to St. Laurence's Church ended when the three black organizations agreed to hold discussions with the parish council on a mutually acceptable plan for the currently unused 20-room building.

Father Bernard Guirsch the pastor, said he expected the Essex Community Organization to ask for use of the building but he did not contemplate any transfer of real estate title from the archdiocese.

"They want to use it as a community center," he said. "It would have been a very Christian thing for the community to accept the program to rehabilitate women who have left prison and need a place to stay while they find jobs."

The convent, which is 80 years old, was used by the Dominican Sisters and originally designed to house 20 nuns. When the number of Sisters declined to nine, they sought a smaller building.

The plan to rehabilitate women released from prison — accepted by the archdiocese — was offered by the Legion of Mary, a Catholic lay organization. That group and the Essex Community Organization had submitted applications to the chancery office for use of the building.

Mrs. Lorraine Johnson, vice president of the Essex Community Organization, said that the archdiocese might give the black community the convent for use as a cultural center. In another report, Mrs. Johnson was quoted as saying that community representatives have been trying for six months to obtain the building for use as a community day-care center.

Precious Blood

Plans Festival

The annual summer festival at Most Precious Blood Church, Lexington and Stenson Streets, has been set for July 25-27.

There will be a fireworks display and the festival also will welcome the new sisters who will teach at the school.

DOMINICAN HOUSE

SETS INSTITUTE

The Dominican Retreat House in Schenectady has scheduled a "Vacation Institute in Christian Living" for lay people and clergy of all faiths, August 18-22.

Information may be obtained from Sister Paulette Beatty, O.P., at the retreat house, 1945 Union Street, Schenectady; 518-393-4169.

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Business in the Diocese

Thomas P. Riley has been promoted to director of industrial relations at Rochester Telephone. In his new position, Riley will serve as head of the personnel department and report to Adam J. Schwartz, corporate secretary.

A native of Rochester, Riley attended Aquinas Institute and was graduated from Princeton University in 1960. He received a master's degree from Cornell University's Graduate School of Business and Public Administration.

Riley has been board president of the Catholic Youth Organization and on the board of the Catholic Family Center.

He lives with his wife and three children in Seneca Parkway.

Willard C. Parker of Penfield has been awarded the Insurance Institute of America Diploma in Risk Management as a result of the Institute's May, 1969 examinations.

Agency manager of L. G. Loomis Co., Inc., Rochester, Parker is a Trustee of Holy Spirit Church.

John Kennedy and John Maier have received new positions at Rochester Gas & Electric.

Kennedy, a member of St. Salome's Parish, who resides with his wife at 48 Hoffman Road, has been elected vice president rates and government affairs.

Maier, elected to vice president purchasing, is a member of Mother of Sorrows Church. Mr. and Mrs. Maier live at 17 Edgemere Drive.

Richard F. Delmonte, former director of placement and alumni relations at St. John Fisher College, has been appointed director of central placement services at Rochester Institute of Technology.

Delmonte is a member of the Eastern College Personnel Officers Association and the Notre Dame Club of Rochester. He resides with his wife Lorraine and their two sons, James and John at 152 Brentwood Lane, Fairport.

Anthony J. Rosati has been named vice president, plans and marketing for UNIMED Computer, Corp. Rosati, who resides in Charlotte with his wife Libbie and five children is a graduate of LeMoyne College and is active in technical, civic and religious groups.