



### Priest-Pilot Writes Space Theology

Father Clifford Stevens, author of "Astrotheology—For the Cosmic Adventure," prepares for a flight from New York City. A priest of the Archdiocese of Omaha, Father Stevens became interested in the aerospace program while serving as an Air Force chaplain. His latest book is an interesting collection of essays that brings theology, the world's oldest science, as up to date as the space age. Divine Word Publications is the publisher.

## ECUMENICAL EVENTS

### United Lutheran Church Urged

Lakeside, Ohio—(RNS)—The secretary of the Lutheran Church in America (LCA) has called on Lutherans in the U.S. to begin "talking openly, candidly, energetically and optimistically" about a single-united Lutheran Church.

"Cooperative Lutheranism needs to move forward in this country to unite Lutheranism and I genuinely hope that you and I will live to see the day when unity becomes reality," Dr. George F. Harkins of New York City told a conference of American Lutheran Church (ALC) pastors here.

He made several proposals

to the ALC pastors, phrasing them in the form of questions, "which you probably asked yourself—at least they are being asked by laymen."

"Hasn't the time come," he asked, when:

• At least the Lutheran Church in America (LCA), the nation's largest Lutheran body, and the American Lutheran Church (ALC), the third largest, should plan joint operation of their seminaries?

• The LCA and the ALC should "look toward the joint administration of our world mission endeavors?"

• The four bodies in the Lutheran Council, comprising 95 percent of all American Lutherans, should have a "single ministry program?"

• The four Churches in the Council should "encourage cooperative and daring efforts toward the consolidation of neighboring congregations for the purpose of strengthening the Lutheran community and our common Lutheran witness?"

• The four Churches should begin talking about a "single united Lutheran Church in the U.S.A.?"

### 3 Parishes Work in Concert

Milwaukee—(NC)—Three Catholic (with a capital C) parishes on the east side here are engaged in a catholic (with a small c) experiment.

The "churches in concert" program is being carried on by the neighboring parishes of St. Peter and Paul, Holy Rosary and St. Hedwig.

The philosophy of serving

in joint fraternal effort, according to Father Edmund Vojtko of Holy Rosary parish, could take form in such programs as:

A periodic pulpit exchange for Sunday Masses; a three-parish newsletter attached to the Sunday bulletin; possible cooperative and complementary CCD schedules; expanded welding of CYO activities.

### New Life in Ecumenism

Sudbury, Ont.—(RNS)—Bishop Romo De Roo of Victoria, B.C., has proposed new ecumenical steps, including some form of common communion, to rescue the Christian unity movement from its "current slump."

He gave a major address to the 260 delegates attending the 24th Anglican General Synod of Canada—the first member of the Roman Catholic hierarchy ever invited to speak to the biennial Synod.

"The tide of enthusiasm which once swept the Christian world seems to be receding," he said, pointing to the proliferation of endless meetings that produce little fruit and opposition to unity schemes.

"Personally," he said, "I remain convinced that organic unity is a vital part of the ecumenical movement. Current efforts to promote Christian unity through common social action are gaining in popularity. They merit our support. But institutional ecumenism is at least as important to complete Christian unity as humanitarian social action."

Stressing the importance of action at the local level, Bishop De Roo said that "some form of common communion by all Christians in a given region

might constitute an initial step before complete unity is reached at the level of the Church universal."

Without formally committing himself that the Roman Catholic Church should recognize the validity of Anglican orders, he said that as a result of Vatican II, the Catholic Church recognizes better "the great variety of ministries which animate the Church and build it up."

Now is the time for a study of the Christian ministry as a whole, he urged. "Would not a combined inter-church study of the broader implications of collegiality for the various ranks of church ministries bear the promise of rich fruit?"

### Hebrew Schools Show Increase

New York—(RNS)—Fifteen new Hebrew Day Schools have opened this Fall in the U.S. and Canada, according to officials of Torah Umesorah, National Society for Hebrew Day Schools.

The number, which includes four high schools, constitutes the most new schools in any one year in the past decade. The total number of schools reached a record 404, including 118 high schools.

## INTERRACIAL

### Bp. Perry: 'Don't Make Blacks White'

By GERARD E. SHERRY (NC News Service)

Los Angeles — The nation's only Negro bishop said here that if the American Catholic Church wants to make its presence felt in the black world it "must stop trying to make black men white who want to become Catholics."

Auxiliary Bishop Harold Perry, S.V.D., of New Orleans spoke to about 500 delegates to the annual meeting of the National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice.

"We are going to have to try and relate the two worlds to each other, without destroying either one," he said. Moreover, we will work, pray and look forward to the day when there will be neither black nor white, but simple human beings, Christians, sons of God."

Bishop Perry pointed—to

the visit of Pope Paul VI to Africa and said that the Pontiff backed an adaptation of the Christian life to suit the needs of African cultures.

"The words of the Holy Father (in Africa) should be pondered carefully by those who feel (honestly and strongly) that the faith must be expressed in only one certain way—and that no other way is worthy of consideration," Bishop Perry said.

"The Church encourages every generation and every temperament to express the message of Christ in its own idiom," Bishop Perry said. "It should not surprise us that in a Church which includes all nations of the world, we should find an enormous difference in temperament and preferences and cultures. We ought to boast about it and try to give an honored place to each valid expression of Christian faith in our churches. Every large

parish has a dozen different sets of temperaments and cultures."

"While members of the black community who were traditionally Catholic felt somewhat satisfied with or tolerant of the liturgy offered them, sensitive missionaries have for years felt that the Universal Church should have more open policy to accept the worthy contribution of black people to a more enlightened and improved liturgy for black Catholics."

Bishop Perry said that this was especially true in regard to converts from the Protestant faith who often expressed themselves as seeing "nothing wrong in enjoying our worship of God."

"For the Church to accept contributions to the liturgy from black people should not be looked upon as a revolutionary idea," Bishop Perry said. "For within the Western world the Church has always recognized and supported various cultural differences."

"While we sang Irish songs and French hymns and promoted Spanish fiestas and Polish festivals, we ignored black traditions and culture and acted as though they did not exist or what was worse, we considered them uncouth and bad and unworthy of consideration because they were black."

### New Black Church Role

(NC News Service)

Greensburg, Pa.—Father Augustus Taylor, a 29-year-old black priest, has been assigned to a program of Interdiocesan Black Ministries.

His work will extend to five dioceses and has been approved by the bishop of each diocese. They are the dioceses of Pittsburgh, Greensburg, Youngstown and Steubenville, Ohio, and Wheeling, W.Va.

Father Taylor's new role is to improve Catholic Church relations with black people and to build and develop black Catholic leadership on all levels.

His efforts will be directed to carrying out an effective program for the recruitment of vocations for priests and Religious to serve later in the five participating dioceses and also to strengthen black Catholic leadership among laymen.

Father Taylor plans to work with pastors in all parishes where there are black Catholic

parishioners and will in turn solicit assistance from these parishioners in developing a service tailored to meet their expressed or latent interests.

His ministry to black Catholics in each of the five dioceses will offer an intensive program of leadership, Catholicity, and black awareness to the laymen in order for them to assume their proper leadership role in the contemporary Catholic Church, the information bureau reported.

### Bishops Score Afro-Apartheid

Cape Town, South Africa (NC)—The Catholic bishops of South Africa have "wholeheartedly endorsed" the "substance and aims" of the South African Council of Churches in its condemnation of this country's policy of apartheid, strict racial segregation.

In its statement, issued a year ago, the South African Council of Churches called apartheid "the most complete refusal of the truth" and the "most plain denial of life."

At the session of the South African Bishops' Conference here the bishops said they recognize the council's 1968 message as a "prophetic summons to all Christians and churches to reform their lives according to the Gospel and to apply the precept of Christian love of all men in a truly effective way, both in their individual lives and in their communities, whether ecclesial or secular, not allowing any ideology of nation or race to take precedence over the Gospel."

### Catholic Unit Lauds Episcopal Donation

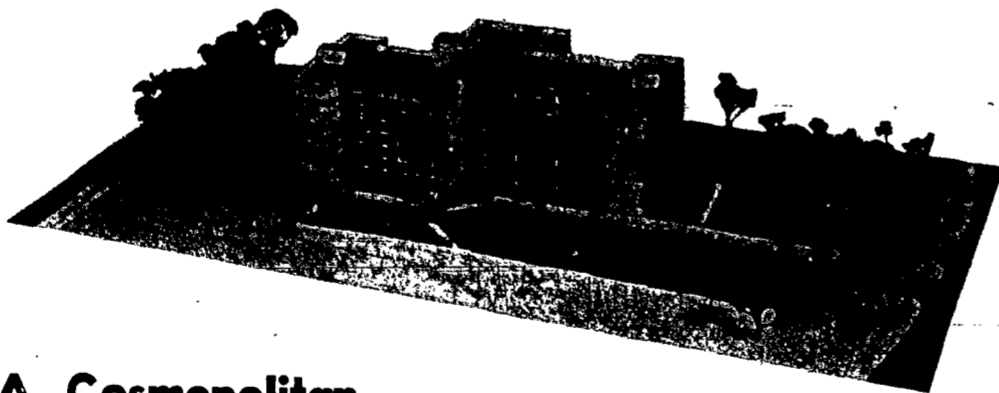
Chicago—(RNS)—The National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice has praised the Episcopal Church's indirect gift of \$200,000 to the Black Economic Development Conference as "both far-sighted and just."

NCCIJ executive director James T. Harris pointed out that his organization had earlier supported the "principle of reparations" in the belief that the church can come to the oppressed of this world with clean hands only when its priorities have shifted.

The pulpit exchange Father Vojtko said, stems from the idea that "a prophet goes without honor in his own country. If the message is common and is preached by the man from the next parish, hopefully, hearing will be facilitated."

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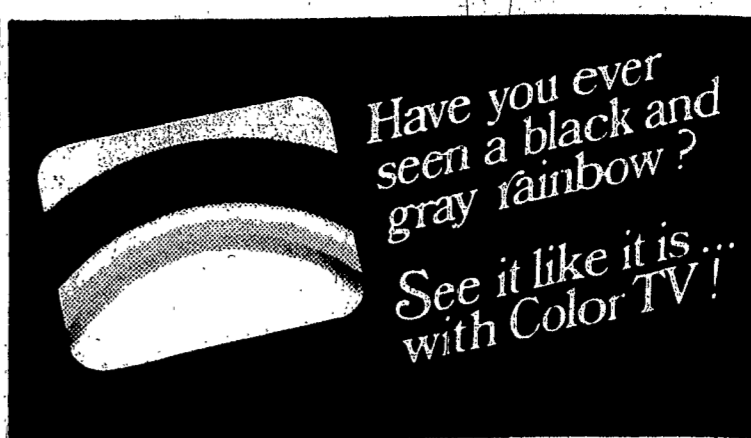


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## THE Schools' L Pace

Washington—The U.S. charged the Nixon administration with "retreat" on school desegregation methods and granting un-

The commission reluctantly claimed that school segregation was not the exception in education.

Commission chairman C.S.C., president of the Urban League, criticized the Department of Education, and Welfare.

### Money Ap Black 'C

New York City—The National Council of Churches of the Black Manifesto with its member denominations and related organizations.

The extensive statement board's meeting here, care idea of reparations.

Money allocated by the go to the National Commission on Reparations and Reconciliation, widely respected black denominations as well as a religious foundation for

### Cleveland Over Sc

Cleveland—The Cleveland Council of Churches issued a statement and lay persons "to work and if necessary, to replace in the wake of a controversy used in Cleveland diocesan

Msgr. William S. Nov panel of three pastors and



Dr. Helmut Fischer, 3 the role of Christ; an school teacher will Oberammergau

### No Major C At Oberam

Oberammergau, Germany—(NC)—Preparations for the 1970 performances of the village's famed and now controversial Passion Play are under way without any substantial changes in the script which has been attacked anti-Semitic.

Some references considered offensive to Jews, however have been cut — expressions such as "damned synagogue" and "generation of vipers"—and the play has been shortened by one hour to last about 6½ hours.

Worldwide pressure for changes in the text of the present version, used for the play since the 1630s, followed the Second Vatican Council

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