

# ECUMENICAL EVENTS

## High Costs May Spur Mergers

Cincinnati (RNS) — Rising costs facing local churches from taxation and inflation can be expected to give added impetus to the ecumenical movement, representatives of nine Protestant denominations were told here.

The National Conference on Program of the Consultation on Church Union (COCU) also was advised that the demands of blacks has added a new dimension to considerations of religious unity.

"The world is going to help us with our agenda," according to the Rev. John A. Anderson, executive secretary of the Board of National Ministries for the Presbyterian Church U.S. (Southern).

Local taxes and national inflation, he said, may combine to force a greater collaboration between the Churches than has been true in the past.

One effect of spiraling costs will force the Churches to forego the luxury of duplication and competition, he said. Individual denominations will no longer be able to afford a "cathedral" a block away from another denomination's "cathedral," he added.

"Inflation," he said, "is going to make us start working together." It may also bring about a "new efficiency" which the institutional church needs in today's world, he said.

Mr. Anderson cited situations in India where church-sponsored hospitals were built within a few miles of each other and conducted their business without any attempt to share or even know what facilities were available in the neighboring institution.

The associate executive secretary of the department of health, education and welfare of the United Presbyterian Church, Mrs. A. Eugene Adair, went further and said that the Churches must become "involved in restructuring public education." The small private college which is frequently church-sponsored she suggested, may have "had its day."

## So What's New? A Kosher Retreat!

Detroit—Kosher food at a weekend retreat?

Gefilte fish and bagels — and interfaith understanding — were on the menu during a Jewish-Christian retreat, one weekend recently at both the Convent of Mary Reparatrix Retreat and Catechetical Center and the Adas Shalom Synagogue.

Fifty retreatants, evenly divided between Catholics and Jews and including several Catholic-Jewish married couples, took part in the retreat Sunday afternoon and introduced Catholics and Jews to each other's religious beliefs and practices.

The retreat began with a Friday evening "Sabbath dinner," with a commentary provided by Rabbi Leonard S. Cahon, assistant rabbi at Adas Shalom Synagogue. Afterwards, the rabbi and the Jewish retreat participants assisted the Catholic retreatants in the singing of several Sabbath hymns, one of which translated, in part:

"How good and pleasant it is for brethren to dwell together in unity."

The evening closed with Compline, both the Catholic and Jewish participants.

Saturday morning's breakfast — catered to solve kosher problems for the retreat-house nuns — featured several kinds of fish and bagels, arranged by a short walk by all the retreatants to the

synagogue. Here, the Catholic retreatants saw — many for the first time — the handling of the Torah, participation of the men and young boys, and the recitation of the Kaddish.

In the afternoon, Father Nicholas Rieman, S.J., director of social and pastoral ministries for the Detroit Jesuit Province, gave a talk titled "Ferment in the Church," followed by a question and answer period, which in turn triggered discussion among the retreatants.

For Evening Prayer and Vespers on Saturday evening, the retreat chapel was used at the convent, with psalms being read aloud by the men. Later, a social program featured the singing and dancing of Hebrew songs.

At Sunday morning Mass, Father Rieman explained the liturgy to the Jewish participants and, as with the Sabbath services, questions and answers were quietly exchanged in the pews.

Mass was followed by a dialogue by Father Rieman and Rabbi Cahon, and the afternoon was given to a tour of the nuns' convent and conversation with the nuns.

The weekend retreat between the Catholics and Jews in the Detroit area has been followed by several "reunion discussion evenings," and a newsletter for the retreat participants is in the making, along with a bibliography of books and articles on Jewish and Catholic life.

## Urge 'Full Communion'

Graymoor, N.Y. — (RNS) — Chiding the "frustration" felt by many Christians, a Catholic religious order has officially called on the leadership of the various Churches, "to give more positive direction" so that "full communion among Christians" may be attained.

It urged, among other things, ecumenical baptism services for the children of mixed marriages and a concern with the development of Christian values in the home rather than in denominational formation.

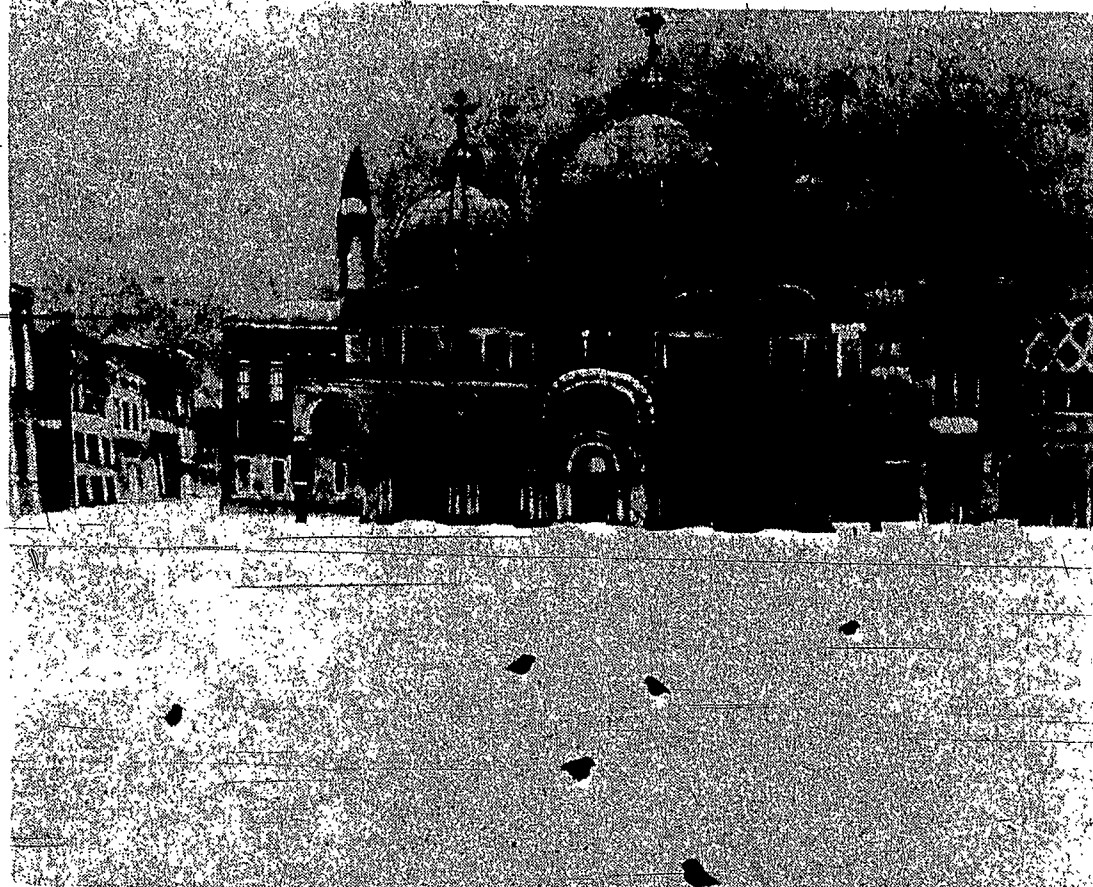
The Franciscan Friars of the Atonement, popularly known as the Graymoor Friars, revealed the contents of a statement which was prepared in September at a meeting of 40 priests of the order who are engaged in ecumenical work in various parts

of the world. It was subsequently adopted as a position paper of the order.

Father Michael Daniels said the paper was issued "to call attention to the serious state of affairs in which the ecumenical movement finds itself."

"Many of our members are engaged in grassroots or local ecumenism," he said, "and as such frequently are confronted by the frustration felt among ordinary Christians over the disunity of the Churches. This concern, he said, is both "a sign of hope and a sign of despair."

The position paper cited three problem areas — Eucharistic intercommunion, marriage laws and baptism, particularly the baptism of children of mixed marriages.



### UNICEF Cards

Leading artists have authorized reproduction of their works on UNICEF greeting cards for the Christmas and New Year seasons. At top is "San Marco in the Snow" by the French artist, Christine Chagnoux. Below is a painting, "The Magi," by Lise Borregaard of Denmark. Proceeds from the sale of the cards help finance UNICEF programs aiding children. (RNS).

## India Deportation

### 'Let Me Stay', Jesuit Pleads

Patna, India — (RNS) — "When I came to India I was 23 years old; now I am 63. I have never left India."

With a touch of emotion in his voice an American missionary, Father John A. Morrison, S.J., has protested an order expelling him from India.

Father Morrison, awaiting the outcome of deportation proceedings, claims he was being expelled for his assistance to poor people, not because of illegal activities and

asked the government to let him stay.

A native of St. Louis, Father Morrison was ordered to leave by the governor of Bihar State but the order was suspended pending an official investigation of the still undisclosed charges against the priest.

Father Morrison said, "Because I am helping the poor oppressed in securing justice for them, I incurred the enmity of those who are oppressing them, particularly

an ex-landlord and other vested interests. My present condition is the result."

Father Morrison cited his long championing of the Santal aboriginal tribe which, he said, had been "cruelly exploited by non-Santals."

"They lost most of their best land," he said, "with the result that they went to work in the mica mines. There many of them contracted tuberculosis. Tuberculosis is now endemic in Chakal. The Santals are being wiped out by tuberculosis."

Giving a hint of the immediate reason for the deportation order, Father Morrison said that an attorney hired by him to plead Santal lawsuits recently won a case for an entire Santal village in which more than 100 acres were involved. The priest said he engaged the lawyer with the help of the German-Catholic relief agency, Misereor, "to obtain justice for the Santals before the law."

"He is a Hindu, not a Christian," the priest said. "And he wins cases. For years I have been working for justice for these poor Santals. I speak their language in daily contact with them in their village. I want to spend the rest of my life working for the Santals here in this Chakal area. I hope the government will give me justice and let me stay."

## Buffalo Priests Hear Debt Reduction Plan

Buffalo (RNS) — Two proposals to help pull the debt-ridden Catholic Diocese of Buffalo out of the red met with little immediate support from diocesan priests at a meeting here.

With a \$12-million debt already on its records, projected cash requirements for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1970, will result in a further deficit of \$3.5 million.

The proposals were outlined by John M. Galvin, a retired banker and chairman of the Lay-Priest Financial Committee which supervised a study of the diocese's financial operations. One would increase diocesan offertory programs and parish quotas, the second would combine the diocesan appeal with the annual Catholic Charities drive.

In Proposed Plan 1 — increasing the offertory program and parish quotas — each parish would be expected to double and in some cases, triple their collections in order to contribute proportionate shares toward diocesan operations and to raise funds for their own local programs.


Quotas based on parish receipts from the five-year period 1963-1967 would be assigned to each parish. The additional quotas would represent 27 per cent of the receipts, with varying adjustments made for parishes already in debt.

Proposed Plan 2 — combining the diocesan appeal with the Catholic Charities drive — was met with more interest if not more affirmation. This

### MINISTERIAL GROUP ELECTS CATHOLIC

Little Rock — (RNS) — Auxiliary Bishop Lawrence P. Graces of Little Rock is the first Roman Catholic to be elected president by the Greater Little Rock Ministerial Association. A Negro pastor, the Rev. Angelo Johnson of Bethel AME, was elected treasurer.

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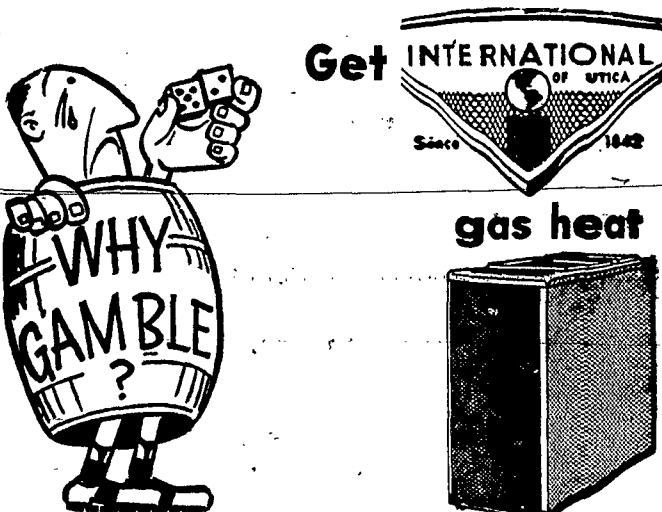
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## Jesuit College Sold

Milwaukee (NC) — The facilities of Jesuit College at St. Bonifacius, Minn., have been sold to the St. Paul Bible College of St. Paul, Minn.

The price received for the buildings, furnishings and approximately 173 acres was in excess of \$3 million.

The college, for the past ten years, has educated Jesuit seminarians in their first four years of training. The novitiate of the Wisconsin Province will be located at a site in the Twin Cities area, and the remaining students will be transferred to St. Louis where they will join the new collegiate program for Jesuits at St. Louis University.

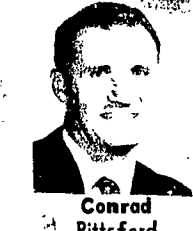


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