

THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Jesuits Aid Black Home-Buyers

The Jesuit community in Chicago has pledged \$100,000, one-fifth of its usable assets, to support the black Contract Buyer's League in a legal fight to end discrimination against blacks in the sale of homes.

The money provided by the Chicago Province of the Society of Jesus will be made available to the league for posting bonds in eviction cases.

Some 261 black Chicago families, members of the league—having refused to make monthly payments pending court decisions—face possible eviction. Three eviction notices have already been served.

In the suit filed by the Contract Buyer's League, it was charged that the contracts involving sale of homes to some 4,000 black families in the Lawndale district here were "illegal and part of a system of economic exploitation of black citizens."

Some 50 white speculators are being charged with "grievously" over-charging the black home-buyers because of their race, sometimes double fair market value. The case assumed national importance when the U.S. Department of Justice intervened on behalf of the residents.

Delay Bishop's Poll, Priests Ask

John Cardinal Cody of Chicago was asked not to use the results of a poll of his archdiocesan priests in which he asked them to indicate three candidates they consider suitable for the office of bishop.

The request came from 24 young priests who objected to the process of selection, holding that all Catholics in the archdiocese—including religious order priests, nuns, brothers, and lay—should have a voice.

The 24 priests are part of a group known as the Young Priests' Caucus. It was formed last Spring in an attempt to achieve better representation for the younger clergymen in the Association of Chicago Priests.

Cardinal Joins Franco Staff

Vicente Cardinal Enrique y Tarazona of Toledo has assumed his constitutional post in the top level Council of State, an advisory body for Chief of State Gen. Francisco Franco.

In joining the Council of State as a right bestowed on all archbishops of Toledo, the cardinal, regarded as a pro-renewal leader in the Church, said that although he is doing so in accordance with constitutional procedure, "the word of a bishop can open up new approaches and provide clearer views within the council," not only "on Church matters but on many other problems."

The council advises the Franco regime on important legislation, international treaties—including Spain's concordat with the Holy See and budgetary matters.



Americans Help Americans

This gift from the North gets a big thank you from these Latin American boys. It is milk, a scarce item for most of the world's children, and it will help their bodies grow strong. You get a chance on Mission Sunday this week.

'Witness' Charged in Baby's Death

Thessaloniki, Greece (RNS)—The district attorney here has charged John Frangos, 34, a house painter, with "intentional homicide" in the death of his five-day-old child.

Frangos is a member of the Jehovah's Witnesses. In accord with his religious beliefs, it is charged, he refused to permit a blood transfusion for the infant, even though he was informed by physicians that such a procedure was imperative to save the child's life.

His refusal resulted in the death of the infant, the state said.

Most of the press reactions here and in Athens were strong and severe. It was urged by many that the state outlaw Jehovah's Witnesses.

Birth Control Evil, Mormon Says

The "deliberate limiting of families by birth control" was criticized as a "mormon evil of this day" by a Mormon leader addressing the 138th semiannual-General Conference of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints.

A. Theodore Tuttle, member of the First Council of Seventy, pointed out that Church teaching cites "the sacred obligation resting upon husband and wife to bring children into the world. . . . A man's home is his most important consideration."

"The Church speaks out boldly against the common evil of this day—deliberate limiting of families by birth control," he said. "It teaches, rather, the sacred obligation resting upon husband and wife to bring children into the world."

"The family is life's most important consideration—not his business nor farm nor political office. Not even his church or civic service."

Emergency Measures, Says Survey

School Closings Not Result of Planning

Chicago — (RNS) — Data received from 147 dioceses indicates that Catholic school closings resulted from emergency measures rather than planning.

This finding was reported by Dr. Richard H. Metzcus, assistant professor of education at Notre Dame University who conducted a comprehensive national survey of the Catholic school crisis in collaboration with two of his doctoral students.

The results of the study are contained in an article by Dr. Metzcus in the November issue of U.S. Catholic, a national magazine published here.

Data for the study was supplied by the responses of 147 diocesan school superintendents and 348 administrators of local Catholic schools.

The study found that Catholic school closings and grade eliminations this fall were:

- Largely the result of emergency measures and did not proceed from any consensus

of the Catholic people on the goals of the parochial schools.

- Most prevalent among small, parish-controlled elementary schools handicapped by size in trying to provide a quality education.

- Generally decided by a combination of administrative levels, with diocesan authority mentioned most often and school boards rarely cited.

- Most frequently attributed to an insufficient supply of religious as teachers, poor financial support, and dwindling enrollment.

- Usually effected without firm plans for utilization of abandoned facilities.

The report said its findings "project a continuance of enrollment losses, grade eliminations, and school closings," and urged that more consideration be given the manner in which such decisions are made.

"Future decisions regarding the existence of a school or a grade level should be mitigated not by expediency,

Record Crowd for Billy Graham

Before another record-breaking crowd of 56,000 at Anaheim Stadium, the Southern California Billy Graham Crusade closed its 10-day program with a warning from the evangelist to prepare for "the judgment."

"Will God spare America?" Mr. Graham asked "He didn't spare Lucifer and his angels. He didn't spare Sodom and Gomorrah. He didn't spare Samson or David. Do you think there is something special about you and me?"

At a press conference Mr. Graham announced that his next major crusade would be held in Dortmund, Germany, in April.

In his sermon on the judgment at the closing session, Mr. Graham listed some reasons for the decline of America moral decline, high use of drugs, and permissiveness in sex among youth, the rise in taxes, the drop in the value of the dollar.

but by an informed effort to establish a viable system of Catholic schools," the report said.

"A clear definition of the goals and objectives of the Catholic school" was advocated in the report which cited basic disagreements among Catholic educators on the theory and function of the system.

"Of even greater importance, it said, was the creation of an adequate diocesan organizational structure including parishioners, religious communities and clergy."

"Education," it said, "has outdistanced parish boundaries" and the lines of a Catholic school district should be drawn so that it "encompasses enough students to provide a quality educational program."

If Catholic school authorities carry out these first two priority recommendations, the report said, the way will be paved for the resolution of the third problem facing the system — financing.

"Furthermore, a demonstration to the public at large that the Catholic schools are making every effort to assist themselves might do more to encourage public financial support than all of the school closings combined."

"Catholic schools," the report concluded, "do not survive by legislative fiat. They exist because they have something to offer which cannot be obtained as conveniently elsewhere. They must sell a product. It therefore behooves Catholic educators to

provide insight into what the school is trying to accomplish and a clear understanding of what it costs."

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'Camille's' Lesson

Be Ready for 'Disasters', U.S. Dioceses Forewarned

Houston — (RNS) — Every U.S. Catholic diocese has been urged to work out a disaster plan which would cover "every known emergency situation."

The advice came from Msgr. Edward E. Michelin, director of Mississippi Catholic Charities, as he described for delegates to the National Conference of Catholic Charities convention here his experiences during and after Hurricane Camille.

"When Camille struck," he said, "the devastation was so complete that we were totally without resources. We didn't know where to begin — what to request or from whom."

Msgr. Michelin stressed the necessity for disaster preparedness. He asked that special attention be given to such details as "staging areas," primary and secondary building resources, and a full volunteer "disaster corps." Diocesan plans, he said, might be coordinated with the Red Cross.

The Mississippi Catholic Charities director noted that the spirit of the survivors of Hurricane Camille was "rapidly and wonderfully restored by the compassion extended to them by the entire United States — the federal government, the voluntary charitable organizations, and individuals."

"Churches and voluntary agencies and St. Vincent de Paul Societies throughout the country," he said, "were quick to respond to the disaster with tons and tons of relief supplies. Salvation Army personnel streamed in from everywhere."

"Before Camille," he added, "Fed was a nasty word on the Gulf Coast and Confederate flags were commonplace. Now the American flag flies over almost every ruin and empty lot as a symbol of the spirit to rebuild. The slogan in bumper stickers and buttons is 'Together we build.' Old angers, prejudices, enmities and class distinctions have disappeared in the mutual need."

Oct. 22 Proclaimed Nat'l Prayer Day

Washington (NC) — President Nixon, declaring that at no time in the nation's history was the "power of prayer" more needed, proclaimed Wed., Oct. 22 as a national day of prayer.

The President's proclamation was in accordance with a 1952 congressional resolution providing that the President proclaim such a day each year.

In his proclamation, the President said, "I ask that on this day the people of the United States pray for the achievement of America's goal of peace with justice for all people throughout the world."

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