

# THE WEEK'S NEWS IN REVIEW

Courier-Journal — Friday, October 24, 1969

## New Grand Rapids Bishop

Auxiliary Bishop Joseph B. Breitenbeck of Detroit has been named by Pope Paul to head the diocese of Grand Rapids, Mich.

The 55-year-old bishop was ordained in 1942 and served as secretary to the late archbishop of Detroit, Edward Cardinal Mooney, from 1944 to 1958.

After the appointment of John Cardinal Dearden to the Detroit archdiocese Bishop Breitenbeck continued in the same post until 1959 when he was appointed pastor of the Assumption Church in Detroit.

In 1965, he was named Auxiliary to Cardinal Dearden and episcopal vicar for religious personnel in the diocese.

## San Francisco Imports Irish Priests

Ireland still has more priests than required and in a time when other countries are experiencing a vocation crisis she is exporting priests to all corners of the globe.

For the first time in more than 30 years, the San Francisco archdiocese has followed the practice of many other U.S. dioceses in seeking priests in Ireland.

"We scoured Europe; we scoured Ireland, we got the best," Father John Kavanaugh told parishioners of St. Boniface Parish here as he introduced them to his new curate, Father James Walsh of Kilkenny.

Ordained in Kilkenny's St. Kieran College in June, the Irish priest said that only one of his classmates was able to find a parish vacancy and that was in Northern Ireland. All the others went to England, Australia and the United States.

## Priests Want Decision Role

The National Federation of Priests' Councils (NFPC) has established as its top priority the attainment of an "equal share in the decision-making process of the Church."

At a meeting here with a liaison committee of the National Conference of Catholic Bishops (NCCB), the NFPC officers requested that the federation's president be allowed to address the bishops' Fall meeting which will open here on Nov. 10.

The NFPC also asked that at the NCCB meeting scheduled at San Francisco in April every bishop heading a diocese be accompanied by the head of his priests' senate or a clergyman elected at large by diocesan priests.

## Diocese Aiding Black Bank

A new black-operated bank in Dayton's West End area has learned that the Catholic Archdiocese of Cincinnati is buying \$50,000 of its stock to promote its initial success.

The money is part of the \$1,250,000 pledged by lower Ohio's Catholics for Catholic and ecumenical projects intended to end racism and poverty.

The bank is the Unity State Bank, organized by and for black residents of Dayton, which is within the Cincinnati archdiocese.

Most share-holders are West Side residents who bought the stock at \$25 a share.

## News Capsules

An archdiocese of Hartford panel has proposed abolishing pastor-curate relationships. Milwaukee poor people confronted Auxiliary Bishop Leo Joseph Brust with an "Encyclical of the Poor" . . . Christians in India are seeking greater representation in state government . . . The Iraq government has taken over the second of two Jesuit colleges, it was disclosed in Boston. . . Valerian Cardinal Gracias of Bombay, India, condemned India's program for fighting its population explosion. . .

## People

Father Christopher F. Mooney, S.J., chairman of the department of theology at Fordham University, has been named president of Woodstock College, Woodstock, oldest Jesuit theological seminary in the United States, recently completed the first stage in its move from rural Maryland to New York.

## Parishioners Polled on School's Future

Albany — (NC) — Families of three parishes in the Albany diocese have been polled on their attitudes toward continuation of Catholic

The results will carry considerable weight on the future of St. Mary's Academy in Little Falls. Possibilities range from tearing down the school and building a new one to doing away with Catholic education altogether.

More than a year ago a committee of St. Mary's parishioners was formed to consider problems of their school. At the suggestion of Father John Keefe, diocesan director of education, representatives of two other parishes were included in the meetings, from which the poll resulted.

Father Keefe called the procedure "a complete departure." Closings used to be announced from the pulpit or the bishop's office. Now, parishioners must "make a practical judgment about the ability of the schools to keep open and as to where the funding will be found," he declared.

At the same time, a new diocesan task force would be studying the need for school consolidations and closings. The 14-member task force consists of seven laymen, three priests, three nuns and one Brother.

## Welfare Issue On Agenda For 'Charities'

Albany, N.Y. — (NC) — The new president of the National Conference of Catholic Charities, Charles J. Tobin Jr., believes "the real challenge of the job is that we can't be satisfied. We must find how we can do a better job."

One of the "most important matters" the national charitable organization will deal with during the coming year, Tobin said, will be participation in, and debate of President Nixon's proposals for welfare reform.

Tobin and other Catholic Charities officials will appear at forthcoming congressional hearings on the sweeping welfare plan.

The new Catholic Charities president said this year's Houston convention skipped its traditional banquet and delegates instead donated \$5 each to Bishop Humberto S. Medeiros of Brownsville, Tex., to be used in charitable work.

Tobin, a New York attorney who also serves as executive secretary of the New York State Bishops' Catholic Committee, said NCCC is in the process of a self-study which "is looking at all aspects of our functioning."

The forthcoming study, Tobin pointed out, is part of a "process of change which all organizations must continue to do in a rapidly changing society."



## 'Miracle' Worker

Happiness is New York Mets manager Gil Hodges and family after the Mets beat the Baltimore Orioles in the fifth game of the World Series, 5-3, to become the world champions of baseball. Gil's wife, Joan, and daughter, Irene, give him a well-earned hug. Smiling in the background is Gil Hodges Jr.

## Uruguayan Clergy Battles Press

Salto, Uruguay — (NC) — Priests from four rural provinces have joined the controversy between the bishops of Uruguay and the conservative press on government measures to forestall violence and further economic decline.

The newspaper Accion in Montevideo ran an editorial warning that "if the Church seems willing to enter the political arena, it must be ready to take the consequences."

Father Arnaldo Spadaccino, vicar general for pastoral renewal in the archdiocese of Montevideo, was labeled by Accion as "pro-Communist."

Auxiliary Bishop Andres Rubio of Montevideo answered that "the Church is determined to fulfill its pastoral mission and has sided with the poor and the humble, against all unjust conditions."

At the end of its annual meeting this September, the

Uruguayan Bishops' Conference issued a document supporting the guidelines on social reform and Church renewal approved last year by the second general assembly of Latin American bishops at Medellin, Colombia.

The 11 Uruguayan prelates also dealt with repressive measures and economic moves which, they said, affect most adversely the poorer classes.

"We back our pastors," said the new document signed by priests from Artigas, Salto, Paysandu and Rio Negro, all northern provinces; "we believe that situations stemming from such moves run against the dignity of the human person, and we cannot accept them as the price to get our nation out of its current predicament."


Strikes, terrorist activities and a steady decline in the per capita income have marred Uruguay for the last five years.

The priests say that in their own provinces there are clear violations of labor rights and of civil rights, and that educational problems mount.

## WORLD COMMUNITY DAY

New York — (NC) — Church women from some 2,400 different units in this country will celebrate World Community Day on Nov. 7, emphasizing their corporate action for justice and peace in the world. The day is sponsored by Church Women United, an ecumenical lay movement of Protestant, Orthodox and Catholic women which provides both the channels and program goals for participation in civic, national and worldwide concerns.

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## Vatican Contributes To U.N. Agencies

United Nations—(NC)—The Vatican has made two contributions totaling \$15,000 to agencies of the United Nations.

The Holy See has contributed \$5,000 to the United Nations Development Fund and \$10,000 to the U.N.'s Relief and Works Agency for Palestine (UNRWA). The sum is a contribution from the Vatican to cover the cost of the second year's training of 20 young Palestine refugees sponsored by the Holy See at UNRWA vocational training centers in Ramallah and Damascus, Syria.



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