

Great Art Feeds Children

By JO-ANN PRICE
(NC, News Service)

United Nations, N.Y. — In 1949, a 7-year-old blond Czech girl named Jitka Samkova painted a picture on glass — because there was no paper — in a contest for a poster to be used at all United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) feeding centers in Czechoslovakia.

The painting, of the sun shining down on a group of children dancing around a maypole, not only won the contest, it became the first greeting card in the UNICEF Christmas card program.

This year, UNICEF cards may top \$4 million in profits. All the money will be channeled to projects giving health, learning and life to impoverished children of the world.

In many parts of Africa and Asia, they also may be responsible for introducing the English and Western custom of exchanging Yule and winter festival cards to new markets in underdeveloped lands.

Last year's UNICEF cards made a clear profit of \$3,949,309.38 — or nearly 10% of the budget of the United Nations Children's Fund — from the sale of 59,182,785 cards.

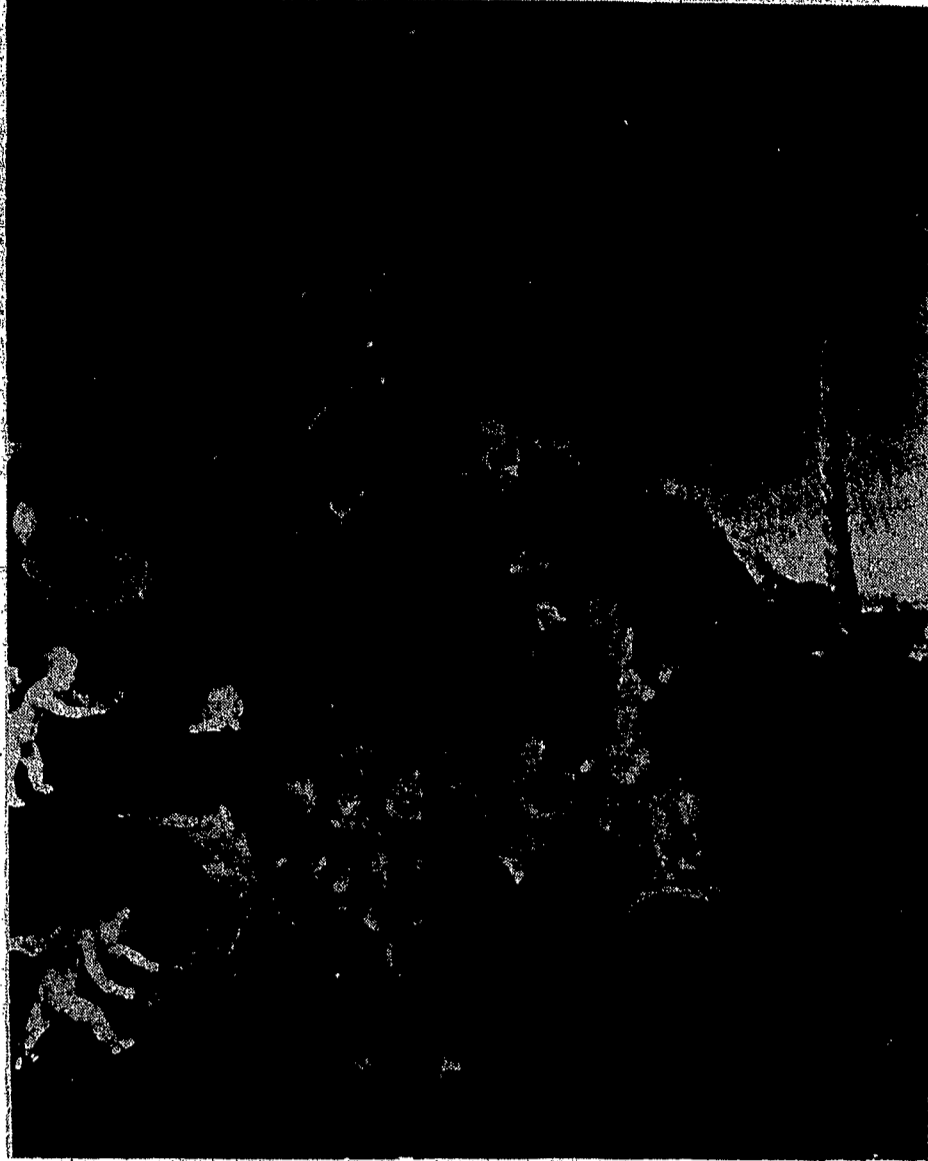
Proceeds from the cards, selling at \$1.50 to \$2.50 a box, are part of a vast mercy program based on voluntary contributions from more than 120 governments, private sources, the Holy See and various religious organizations.

Only 460,530 cards were sold in 1951, the first year of the program. Ten years ago the figure hit 14 million.

Today, if the 10,000 orders being received daily in the Manhattan offices of the U.S. Committee for UNICEF are any indication, sales in 1969 may reach an all-time high.

One secret reward for the planners and givers of UNICEF cards is the knowledge that they are helping children. The agency has equipped more than 37,000 health centers serving about 110 million people — almost half of them children. It has distributed more than 17 million vials of penicillin, 3.5 billion vitamin capsules and 1.5 billion pounds of milk over the years.

In an offbeat way the cards may also have entered into diplomacy among the big powers. A couple of years ago, wishing no doubt to send the season's greetings, Soviet Deputy Foreign Minister Vasily V. Kuznetsov, an atheist, sent a UNICEF card to the then U.S. Ambassador to the UN, Arthur J. Goldberg, a Jew. The inci-



"Rest in Flight" is by the 16th Century German painter, Lucas Cranach. (Religious News Service)

dent illustrates how universal the UNICEF card custom has become.

UNICEF cards have included such famous artists as Dufy, Matisse, Shahn, Miro, Chagall, Tamayo, Picasso, Henry Moore, Portinari, Loren McIver, Andrew Wyeth, Dubuffet, Dall, and Kokoska, Magritte and Sasarely. The first card by the late Grandma Moses appeared this year. All designs are donated by the artist or his estate.

Religious designs were introduced to UNICEF's annual selection with Gladys Rockmore Davis "Mother and Child" design in 1957.

Curiously, there is a shortage of specifically Christmas contemporary religious art. Many religious paintings depict, instead, Easter or other Christian festivals.

Over the years, however, popular

religious cards have included "Glad Tidings" by Marc Chagall; a Nativity and "Epiphany" by Irene Delano of Puerto Rico; "The Cathedral" by Faoli; "Angel" by Salvador Dali; "Nativity" by Toussaint Auguste of Haiti, and "Shepherd's Watch" by Mario Toppi of Italy.

The choice of cards by the committee is subject to strange pressures. After all, UNICEF committees in 100 different countries act as sales agents for the cards.

Once in a while the program may come under right-wing attacks by groups opposed to the United Nations generally.

The selection committee has to strike a neat balance between "too many Christmas trees" and cards that can be used for birthday and other occasions.

Guidelines Adopted For Catholics, Jews

Brooklyn, N.Y. — (NC) — An unprecedented set of "Guidelines for the Advancement of Catholic-Jewish Relations," advocating formation of joint community councils and outlining ground rules for interreligious dialogue, was released here by three New York area Catholic Sees.

The document, eight months in preparation by Catholic and Jewish leaders, is expected to serve as a model. It will be sent to Catholic dioceses throughout the country, said Father Edward H. Flannery, executive secretary, Secretariat for Catholic-Jewish Relations of the U.S. Bishops' Committee for Ecumenical and Interreligious Affairs.

The document was compiled by representatives of the New York archdiocese and the Brooklyn and Rockville Centre dioceses, in collaboration with the Anti-Defamation League of B'nai B'rith, the New York Board of Rabbis, and scholars of the major Jewish traditions.

The introduction cited Second Vatican Council documents urging elimination of anti-Semitism among Catholics and asked that the Guidelines foster fraternal understanding, love and cooperation leading to "a re-assertion in our time of the religious and social values of the Judaeo-Christian tradition."

The "general principles" for Catholic-Jewish programs included these suggestions for Catholic organizations:

- Formation of permanent diocesan committees, including Catholic clergy, Religious and laity, and Jewish rabbis and laymen, should be "greatly encouraged."
- Dialogue and common projects

Pope Paul Praises Presence of Purity

Vatican City — (RNS) — "Purity does exist and it is possible for men and women today," Pope Paul VI declared here.

Addressing pilgrims on Dec. 8, the Feast of the Immaculate Conception of the Virgin Mary, the Pope invited all men to look at that "unique woman in whom humanity recovered its pristine beauty and native innocence as the very image and likeness of God, the mirror of his divinity and the sign of his infinite wisdom."

"If we have lost the vision of a pure and integral human nature, truly representative in its God-likeness," the Pope continued, we can recapture this vision in "Our Lady," and, "transported by her pure beauty, be comforted and learn to believe that purity does exist and is possible for men and women of today."

Noting that today many persons, though jealous of their personal liberty, are being seduced by fascination with the licentious or by a kind of "toleration" that leaves the door open to "sexual and sensual degradation," the pontiff pleaded, "Recover beauty, love and life in their genuine expression in 'Our Lady' of the immaculate Conception."

should be viewed as means to reaffirm and strengthen the religious traditions and commitments of both sides.

—Catholic-Jewish relations should be advanced "on all levels," clerical and lay, academic and popular, religious and social, with stress on priest-rabbi "fraternal encounters" and cooperation between service organizations of both communities.

In a spirit of "openness," candor and friendship," the document suggested, dialogue might take these forms: institutes for clergy, institutes for lay leaders, community "grass-roots" dialogues and special education programs. Other recommended activities might be: "open houses," joint social events and invitations to Catholic or Jewish leaders to synagogues or churches for the explanation of liturgy and beliefs, which should avoid "all semblance of debate."

The document recommended that Jewish and Catholic clergy appropriately can join in prayer for a common objective, such as peace. Catholic priests are permitted, it said, to preach "before or after" a Jewish liturgical service but not during it.

U.S. Panel Rejects Civil Disobedience

(Continued from Page 1)

critiques of the majority's central contention: that protest groups should rely on legal challenges pursued through the regular judicial processes, not massive disobedience of the law.

"Those who adopted the majority statement," said Mrs. Patricia R. Harris, "have never belonged to a group required to sit in the back of a bus, or excluded from restaurants because of race, with the approval of legislatures, courts or administrators. I am a member of such a group and I refused to obey those segregation laws."

Mrs. Harris is a professor of law at Howard University and a former U.S. ambassador to Luxembourg.

Cardinal Cooke, in his statement, said democratic society is based on the concept and common agreement that civil law deserves the respect and obedience of every citizen.

"Civil disobedience as an act of conscience expressed by public acts of defiance is permissible only as a last resort to obtain justice when all the other remedies available have been exhausted," he stated.

"In this extreme case," he continued, "nonviolent forms of civil disobedience, accompanied by willing acceptance of any penalty the law provides, are the only means that can be justified in our democratic society. These principles are not only the foundation of an ordered society under law, but they guarantee our freedom and our social progress as well."

Archdiocesan Lay Teachers Talk Strike

New York — (NC) — A group of lay teachers in the New York Archdiocese has voted to plan "strike action" if they do not receive an acceptable salary offer from archdiocesan officials by "the week after Christmas."

After unanimously rejecting a contract offer, about 300 of the teachers marched (Dec. 8) in front of the chancery office with signs saying: "Guess who pays unjust wages" and "End medieval working conditions."

Both sides have requested the State Mediation Board to enter the dispute, but no date had been set for a meeting. Meanwhile an ongoing series of meetings between archdiocesan officials and teachers continued.

Barry F. Ryan, president of the newly-formed Catholic Lay Teachers Group, claimed the organization represents 2,500 lay teachers. Most are elementary school teachers in parish schools and schools operated by religious orders. Another 300 teachers in 12 archdiocesan high schools have their own union.

The archdiocese operates the 12 high schools directly but also recommends the pay scale for teachers in the parish and religious order schools.

Ryan's group is asking for a salary increase, fringe benefits, including major medical, life and disability insurance and an improved pension plan. They now have Blue Cross and Blue Shield coverage for individuals. The archdiocese has offered to extend this to family coverage.

Ryan said the teachers are seeking "just wages and job security." They are asking a salary range of \$6,800 to \$12,800 for both elementary and secondary schools. Ryan said the archdiocese has offered to raise the elementary teachers to a range of \$5,400 to \$9,400 and the secondary faculty members to a range of \$5,800 to \$11,800.

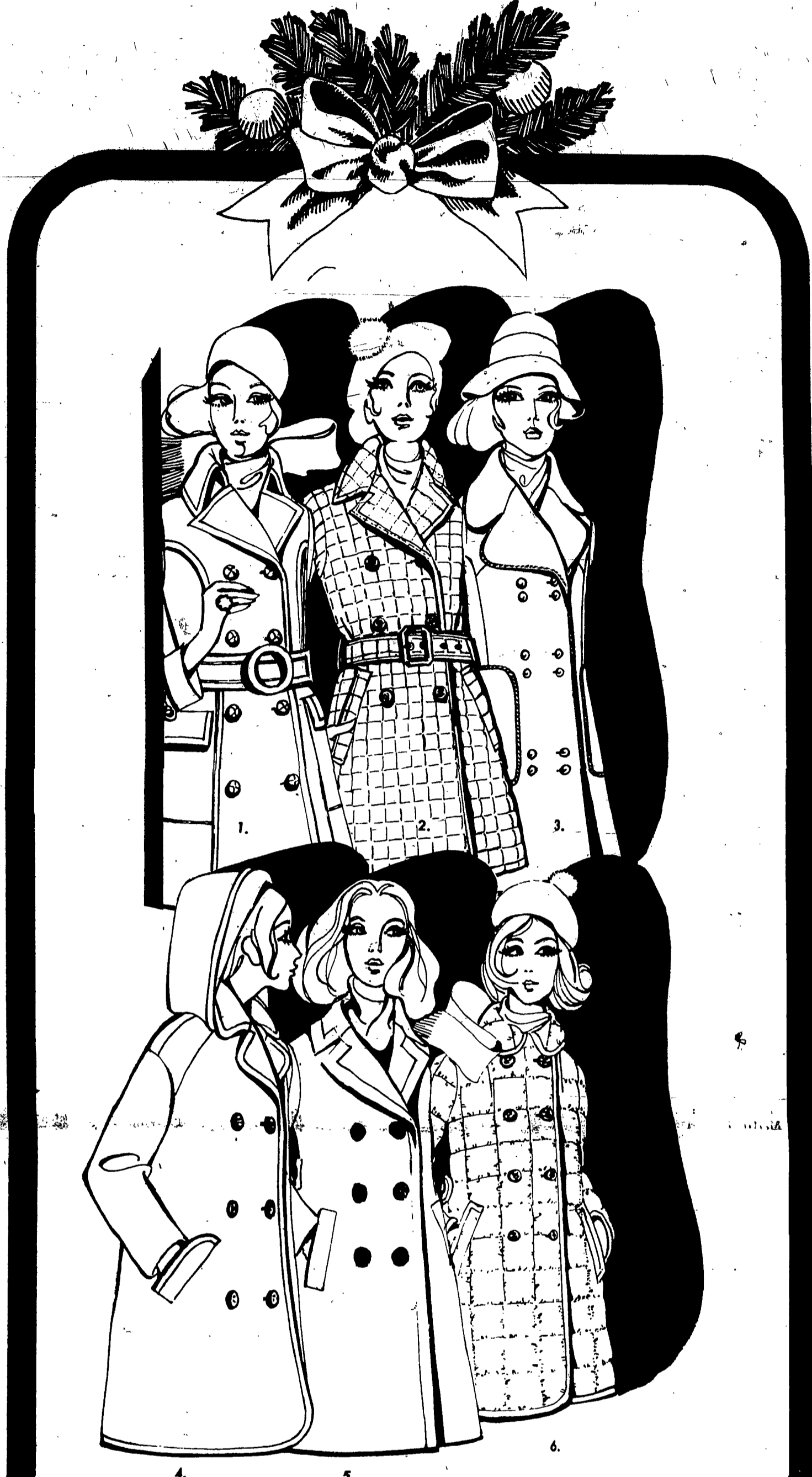
Gift Carried by Pope To World Council Used For African Lepers

Geneva — (RNS) — An anonymous gift of \$100,000 which Pope Paul transmitted to the World Council of Churches when he visited Geneva last June will finance work among lepers in Africa.

Serving the entire African continent, the center in Ethiopia will use the funds to complete surgery facilities at Princess Zenebework Hospital, finance leprosy control through rural clinics and provide training grants at the hospital.

When Pope Paul visited the Ecumenical Center here in June, he was handed an envelope left by an unidentified person inside was a \$100,000 draft. The donor said he wanted Pope Paul to give the funds to the World Council for leper relief.

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