



### Carols in the White House

The Boys Choir of the Washington National Cathedral sing Christmas carols for President and Mrs. Nixon at the White House. Earlier, the Episcopal cathedral's choir participated in a special Christmas carol service in the East Room. (Religious News Service)

## School 'Pact' Criticized by 3 Agencies

New York — (NC) — An "agreement" between the New York State Council of Catholic School Superintendents and public school officials in five cities in the state to seek ways of finding public support for non-public schools was sharply criticized by spokesmen for the American Jewish Congress (AJC), the Public Education Association, and the United Parents Associations.

The agencies charged the public school officials with "an attempt to circumvent the will of the people who overwhelmingly rejected a proposed new state constitution in 1967 that would have eliminated the ban on state aid to nonpublic schools."

"Precisely at a time when our schools need every protection from the onslaught of those who would divert limited public monies to private institutions," the statement declared, "we find public school officials abandoning their responsibilities and pledging to help parochial schools dip into the public treasury."

The agreement which came under fire was a statement at a meeting of state Catholic school superintendents and the Conference of Large City Boards of Education. The latter group includes public school officials from the cities of Albany, Buffalo, Rochester, Syracuse, and New York.

The statement declared "it is essential for the public and nonpublic schools to work together, not only in the field of education but also in the solution of their respective financial problems."



### Art from the Convent

"What Color Is God's Skin?" asks the poster held by Sister Miriam of the Mt. Carmel Convent in Barre, Vt. The Carmelite nuns, the only order of contemplative nuns in the state, are using the silk screen process to make religious cards and colorful banners. The banners have become so popular that the Sisters are making them for general sale in stores throughout Vermont. (RNS)

## 'Selective Objection' Upheld by Judge

San Francisco — (RNS) — The section of the Selective Service Act requiring a conscientious objector to oppose all wars and to have the support of his church in such a stand was overturned here by a federal district judge.

Judge Stanley A. Weigel ruled in the case of Lester Charles Bowen, 24, a Roman Catholic who had challenged draft practices partly on the basis of belief in the "just" and "unjust war."

Bowen and a second youth, James McFadden, were denied a C.O. status by the local draft board. Bowen refused induction at Oakland in June 1968.

If allowed to stand, Judge Weigel's ruling would give standing to the concept of "selective conscientious objection" — opposition to particular wars — which the government has so far not recognized on the basis of the 1967 draft law.

The law limits the C.O. classification to those "who by reason of religious training and belief are conscientiously opposed to participation in war in any form."

This regulation, said Judge Weigel, favors those whose religious groups are historically against war—Quakers, Jehovah's Witnesses, Brethren—and does not exempt others, such as Catholics.

Bowen's lawyer had argued this point, and both Bowen and McFadden have been supported by the National Council of Churches.

The Catholic Church does not stand in announced opposition to all wars, as do Quakers and other historic "peace Churches." Catholic theology does not contain grounds for a distinction between "just" and "unjust" war. Bowen's argument that he qualified for C.O. status under his belief that the Vietnam war is "unjust" was supported by 11 San Francisco area priests who joined in his challenge of the draft law.

Judge Weigel said: "In denying conscientious objector status to Bowen, based upon his religious opposition to the Vietnam war but permitting it to one whose religious opposition to all wars, the effect of Section 631 (the regulation involved) is to breach the neutrality between state and religion required by the mandate of the First Amendment."

## \$300 Vouchers Proposed as Student Aid

Albany — (RNS) — A bill has been pre-filed in the New York Legislature which would pay \$300 annually in state aid to parents of children attending non-public schools. A similar amount would be allocated to "public school" parents.

Assemblyman Albert J. Hausbeck (D-Buffalo) said his measure is designed to aid financially hard-pressed parochial schools.

"Something has to be done," Hausbeck said, noting that the bill, if passed, would take effect in September 1970 as a "stop-gap measure" until repeal of the State Constitution's Article 11, Section 3, the so-called "Blaine Amendment."

Under the Hausbeck bill, parents of every student in the state would be issued a \$300 voucher. This would be turned over to the child's public or private school. Non-public schools would be able to redeem the vouchers and public educational institutions would use the vouchers as credit toward normal state school aid payments.

Noting the mounting costs facing Catholic schools, Hausbeck pointed out that many parents of parochial school students are forced to place their children in public schools because they can no longer afford the tuition charged by non-public schools. This, he said, increases crowding in the public schools, which have a higher cost-per-student average than private schools.

### NEW MASS IN FRENCH

Portland, Me. — (RNS) — Roman Catholic parishes in which the Mass is said in French — there are 30 of them in Maine — may start immediately, using the revised order of Mass and the new marriage and baptism rites.

The English translations have been approved, with some changes made by the American Bishops' Conference, and may be used starting with Palm Sunday in 1970.

## Saturday Evening Masses Prove Popular

Boston — (RNS) — Saturday evening Masses which meet the Sunday "obligation" in Catholic churches are becoming so popular with parishioners that many churches in the Boston archdiocese are planning to eliminate some Sunday services.

A random survey of pastors in the second largest archdiocese in the U.S. revealed that the Saturday Mass plan, begun as an "experiment," may become a permanent fixture.

Typical of large Greater Boston parishes is Holy Name Church in the West Roxbury district. It was announced there that the customary

Sunday afternoon Mass is being dropped and earlier morning Masses will be combined into one. The cause: attendance at the Saturday evening Mass is very large.

The popularity of the radical shift to the Saturday plan has spread out from the Boston core area into the outer limits of the archdiocese.

In Boston, churches that have reported a large attendance of college students have noted a remarkable acceptance of the Saturday Masses and a decided drop in attendance, on Sunday.

## White Cemetery Ordered

# Allow Black Soldier's Burial

Birmingham, Ala. — (NC) — From the grave, Army Pfc. Bill Terry Jr. has won a far reaching victory for his people.

But in the first flush of triumph, Bill Terry's family was disinclined to take full advantage of the hero's hard won rights. They were leery of disturbing the seasonal peace-on-earth, good-will atmosphere.

Bill Terry's victory came Dec. 22 when U.S. District Court Judge Seymour H. Lynne handed down a 17-page ruling which opened the way for the hero to be buried in Elmwood Cemetery here.

Bill Terry, 20, was black — and he, too, had a dream. In one of his last letters home from Vietnam he expressed the wish to be buried in

Elmwood Cemetery, close by his family home. He was killed on a combat mission last July 3. His parents, Mr. and Mrs. Jimmie Lee Terry, and his widow, Margaret Faye Terry, 17, sought to buy a plot in Elmwood Cemetery to fulfill the dead soldier's last wish. The cemetery officials refused the family's request stating the burial ground was reserved for whites only.

The cemetery action started a furor. Father Eugene J. Farrell, S.S.J., of Our Lady of Fatima parish here, became one of the leaders in the fight against the discriminatory policy. He called upon Negro soldiers to refuse combat duty unless racial discrimination in cemeteries was eliminated. Father Farrell said as a result of his activities he began receiving threatening phone calls.

Quietly, without fanfare Bill Terry's family had the hero buried July 19 in an all-Negro cemetery here.

But National Association for the Advancement of Colored People's legal branch filed suit on behalf of Bill Terry's family to have him buried in Elmwood Cemetery.

Judge Lynne, in his ruling, ordered Elmwood Cemetery to sell burial plots to anyone who applies, regardless of race. Citing a century-old civil rights law, the judge held the cemetery rules limiting burials to whites only are void and of no legal effect. The ruling is expected to have effect on future similar cases.

"I've talked with his mother and his widow since the ruling," Father Farrell said (Dec. 23). "At this time, I'm not quite certain what they will do. Much of the bitterness is gone and right now, in a Christian-like spirit, they don't want to disturb the tranquility of the Christmas season."

Father Farrell speculated that eventually Bill Terry's dream will come true. He recalled that the hero's mother had remarked: "I can see Elmwood Cemetery from my front porch."

## True Humanism Must Be Christian, Pope Declares

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ing that many reject it, many dissect it, and many deprive it of "its mysterious significance, of its religious content."

"Today," he said, "many wish for a Godless Christ, indeed a Christless man, even if they wish to preserve for that man certain superlative characteristics conferred on him by Christ: his right to life, his unmistakable appearance as a person, his human dignity, his inviolable conscience, his responsible liberty, his spiritual beauty."

The Pope observed that many people, perhaps all, want to see in man "deformed by toil, poverty, slavery and weakness, a preferential subject for rights, solidarity and assistance, exactly as Christ taught."

But rejecting what he called a humanism of man alone, Pope Paul declared that "without Christ there is no true humanism."

"And we implore God and beg you, men of our time, to spare yourselves the fateful experience of a Christless humanism," adding that history teaches that "human virtues, developed without the Christian charism, can degenerate into their contradictory vices."

"True humanism," he stressed,

"must be Christian. As our first duty. As our supreme interest."

Speaking primarily to youth, to the working classes and to the "builders of peace," he asked "what hope of innovations, true and constructive, could be given you . . . without the veritable and evanescent word of Him . . . who can say: 'All things are made new?'"

"What liberation," he asked, "from the oppression of toil and social inequality can be offered . . . for the overthrow of economic systems if it is not raised to a higher human and spiritual level by the voice of Christ saying: Remember, 'man does not live by bread alone?'"

Finally, he asked, where will those who seek peace "find the energy to proceed . . . unless assisted by Him who can say with triumphant certainty: Bear in mind men that 'you are all brothers?'"

In closing, he projected a special blessing to those in areas of violent conflict — in Nigeria, Vietnam and the Middle East. After referring to Nigeria as an "African land so dear to us," he urged an honorable reconciliation in Vietnam and peace "there where Bethlehem is, and where from the heavens, giving glory to God, peace was announced on that sacred day of the birth of Christ Our Lord."

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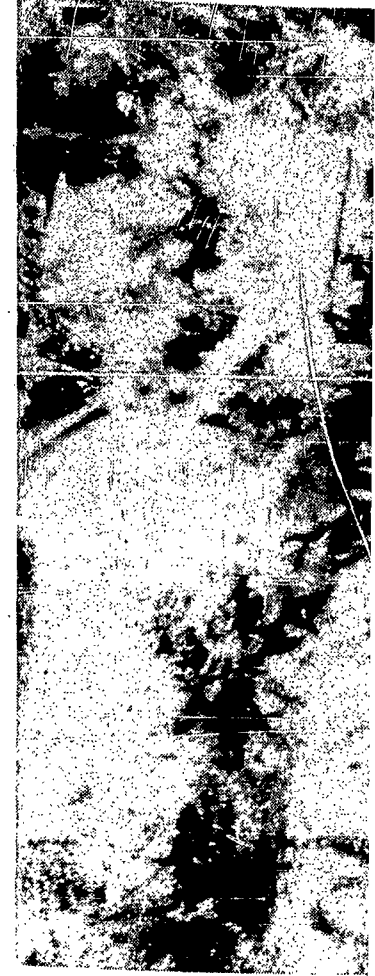
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The Village of Song My, serious damage. An Army massacre of at least 109 civilians. (NC News Service)

## Chaplain

By FR. PATRICK BURKE (NC News Service)

Salgon — Although many extol what allegedly took place on March 16, 1968, in an attempted, no number of extolations can amount to an excuse sums up the reaction of United States Army chaplains to the charge atrocities against Vietnamese civilians.

Vietnamese Catholic bishop priests hold the same view — the deliberate killings of civilians morally wrong and cannot be excused under any circumstances.

The horror of the alleged atrocity in the small Vietnamese village that women, children and old were said to have been deliberately killed in large numbers. The implications of any atrocity, a single one, are never in doubt.

"We do not measure the gravity of an atrocity by its size. They are morally wrong," said Father (Lt. Daniel) Byrne of Norwich, Conn. Army Republic of Vietnam (US) deputy command chaplain.

Father William R. Fitz O.M.I., of Washington, D.C., mand chaplain of the Military Area Command Vietnam (MAC) senior chaplain in Vietnam, "if the reports are correct, it there was a breakdown, a moral lapse. In our character guidelines we set ethical standards.

## Songmy

(NC News Service)

Washington — Are the U.S. who allegedly massacred Vietnamese villagers any more guilty of the city than the American people whole.

This question was raised in a comment on the incident issued by Marvin Bordon, director, I of World Justice and Peace, States Catholic Conference.

The incident occurred at Song My, Vietnam, on March 16, 1968, a platoon led by Lt. William J. Jr. was said to have killed a number of civilians, including children. Lt. Calley has charged with the murder of 109 persons and is facing a court trial.

The statement said that Pfc. Nixon, in his Dec. 8 news conference "shed some light on the My Lai by stating 'What appears to be a massacre, and under circumstances was it justified?' A mission helped clear the air, I gain fundamental questions unanswered."

"What difference does it make," Bordon asked, "if the platoon of My Lai were mowed down?"



Cardinal Terence Cardinal Cook Catholics in the U.S. A field hospital at Cam F is on his annual Christi