

## Ladies Day



In a definite "first", a nun is to replace a bishop in the Detroit archdiocese. Sister Mary Corrinne Bart, RSM, is the new delegate for the religious, succeeding former Auxiliary Bishop Joseph M. Brietenbeck, now bishop in Grand Rapids. And her assistant is a priest. Meanwhile, in London, Sheila Cameron, right, has been named the Church of England's first woman diocesan chancellor. She will be the principal lay officer of the Chelmsford diocese, advising the bishop on legal and other problems. (RNS)

## U.S. Bishops Pledge Wider Ecumenical Work

Washington, D.C. —(RNS)— The U.S. Catholic bishops pledged themselves to "intensify" their efforts in the ecumenical movement and urged the nation's Catholics to join other Christians "in the holy task of restoring the unity of followers of the Lord."

The National Conference of Catholic Bishops, issued the call in heralding the 1970 observance of the Week of Prayer for Christian Unity, Jan. 18, to 25, which is being celebrated throughout the world.

The NCCB declared that the Second Vatican Council indicated four major routes on the path towards unity. They are:

- "Through the work of dialogue whereby everyone gains the truer knowledge and a more just appreciation of the religious life of the different Christian communions.

- "Through cooperation between Christians in the duties demanded by the Christian conscience for the common good of humanity.

- "Through prayer in common

with one another, and

- "Through undertaking with vigor that task of renewal and reform of which the Church is always in need and without which there can be no ecumenism worthy of the name."

The NCCB pointed out that since Vatican II's Decree on Ecumenism some five years ago, great strides have been made in the work towards Christian unity.

"No one can yet fully anticipate," they continued, "the further mission to which the Holy Spirit at this time is manifestly stirring the People of God.

"We pledge ourselves to intensify our efforts in the ecumenical movement, and we encourage all who work for a fuller unity among Christians to go forward filled with real hope, recalling the words of the council that this hope is to be placed 'entirely in the prayer of Christ for the Church, and the love of the Father for us, and in the power of the Holy Spirit.'"

## Ban on Intercommunion Reaffirmed by Vatican

By PATRICK RILEY

Vatican City — (NC) — The Vatican Secretariat for Promoting Christian Unity has reaffirmed the Church's ban on joint Eucharistic services with Protestants or Anglicans, but at the same time urged the development of a deeper Eucharistic theology "to bring about a convergence of positions."

The unity secretariat was prompted to issue its declaration by "certain initiatives that have been taken with regard to common participation in the Eucharist."

"An official of the secretariat explained that the frequency of such unauthorized intercommunion services varies greatly from country to country and from group to group.

It suggested including "our gratitude for the partial unity already obtained, our regret for the divisions which still remain and our firm resolve to do everything possible to overcome them, and finally our humble petition to the Lord to hasten the

day when we will be able to celebrate together the mystery of the Body and the Blood of Christ."

An official of the unity secretariat, Father John Long, S.J., of New York, pointed to the joint service held in St. Peter's Basilica during the visit of Ecumenical Orthodox Patriarch Athenagoras I to Pope Paul VI of Oct. 26, 1967. He cited it as an example of the sort of service suggested in the secretariat's declaration.

The service in St. Peter's was in effect a so-called "dry Mass", omitting the Consecration and Communion. It contained elements of an entrance hymn, the prayer of the faithful, and a Preface with the Sanctus. But instead of a Canon there was a prayer of joy at what binds Catholics and Orthodox together and of "deep sorrow that because of the calamity of the divisions by which we have been separated from one another for centuries, we cannot have that complete communion among ourselves which would be a sign to the world."

## Louisiana Bishops Urge Support For Public Schools

New Orleans — (NC) — Louisiana's Catholic bishops have urged support of the state's public schools during unrest caused by new integration orders.

The bishops asked Louisiana citizens to look beyond the present and to "exercise . . . responsibility toward the social welfare of all people."

"Maintaining and supporting the public schools at this critical time is an exercise of that social responsibility," the bishops said.

Issuing the statement were Archbishop Philip M. Hannan of New Orleans; Bishop Maurice Schexnayder of Lafayette; Bishop Charles P. Greco of Alexandria; and Bishop Robert E. Tracy of Baton Rouge.

## Dutch Paper Criticizes 'Observer'

Amsterdam, The Netherlands — (NC) — The Dutch national Catholic daily, De Tijd, criticized the Vatican City newspaper for failing to cover the recent meeting of the Dutch National Pastoral Council and for publishing as its only comment a papal letter sent to the Dutch bishops before the council ever met.

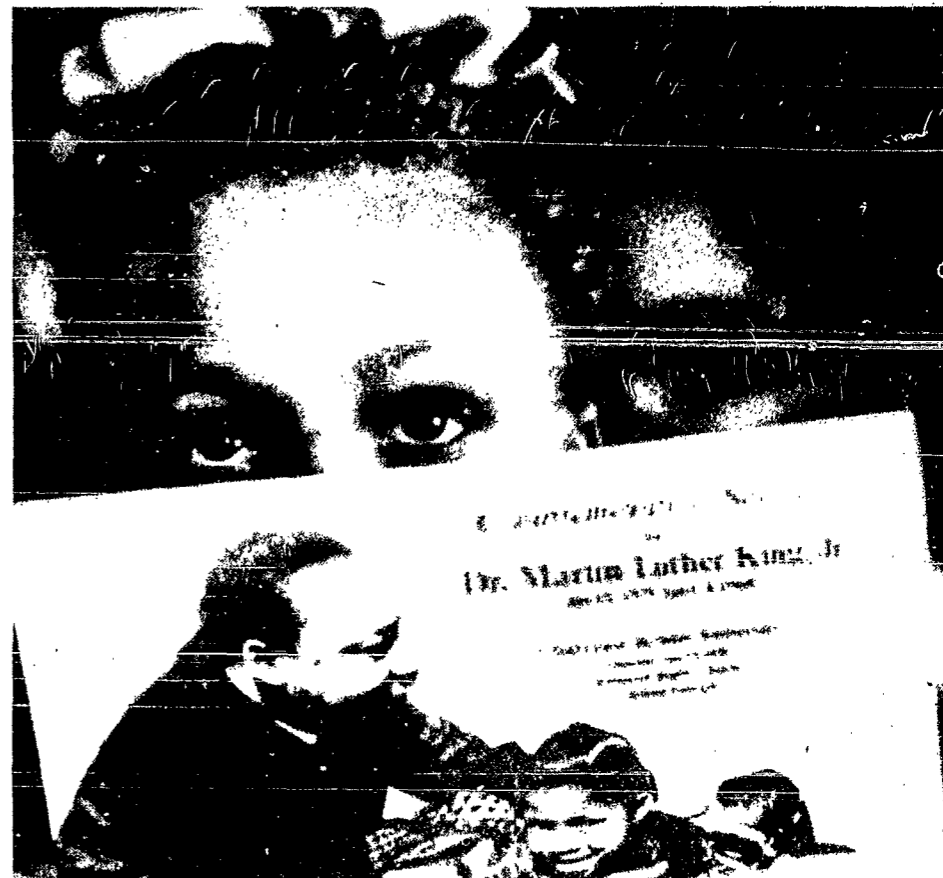
In a front-page editorial Jan. 14, De Tijd said: "The publication in L'Osservatore Romano on Jan. 12 of a papal letter of Dec. 24 is most remarkable. L'Osservatore seems to overlook the fact that in the meantime the plenary meeting of the Dutch National Pastoral Council actually took place."

The letter from Pope Paul VI urged the Dutch bishops to speak out clearly in defense of celibacy and other doctrinal and disciplinary points disputed by many Dutch Catholics.

The pastoral council meeting at Noordwijkerhout voted by an overwhelming majority in favor of optional celibacy for priests, but the bishops abstained from voting.

Concerning celibacy, the Pope said the Dutch bishops should "teach clearly and firmly that the generous practice of perfect chastity is not only possible but a source of joy and of holiness."

De Tijd's editorial went on: "L'Osservatore never published any reports of the meeting at Noordwijkerhout, but it now apparently wants to make its comment by publishing the



In Remembrance  
Six-year-old Bernice King, daughter of the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., peers over a program during a memorial service for her father at the Ebenezer Baptist church in Atlanta. (RNS)

papal letter of warning written before the Noordwijkerhout event. We wonder how a letter written before Noordwijkerhout could ever answer questions that came up after Noordwijkerhout.

"In the papal letter . . . draft reports for the pastoral council were criticized, but, in the meantime, at Noordwijkerhout itself, these reports and recommendations were criticized not only by the bishops but even by the members of the diocesan delegations.

"In his opening speech of Jan. 4, Cardinal Alfrink stressed repeatedly that these draft reports do not reflect

the views of the pastoral council or of the Dutch community of the faithful."

De Tijd further noted: "L'Osservatore also overlooked the fact that Mr. Willem Chamuleau, as official spokesman of all the delegates at Noordwijkerhout declared in the plenary meeting of Jan. 6 that the pastoral council would absolutely not abandon the bonds with the Holy Father, with Rome and with the universal Church.

"L'Osservatore overlooks these facts. We do not lack respect for this papal letter if we declare that the manner in which a letter written before Christmas is used on Jan. 12 wrongs the cardinal, the bishops and the other members of the pastoral council."

## Bishop Cote Dies, Ran Quemoy Mission

Quemoy, China — (NC) — American-born Bishop Philip Cote, S.J., apostolic administrator of the offshore China mission territories of Quemoy and Matsu Islands, died here Jan. 16.

Bishop Cote, 74, a native of Lawrence, Mass., was the head of the Suchow diocese in mainland China when the communists took over. After three years in prison he was expelled from Suchow in 1953. He came to Taiwan in 1954 and took up mission work there. In January, 1969, he was appointed head of the Quemoy-Matsu missions.

## PRELATE FAVORS TRAINING LAYMEN FOR PASTORAL WORK

Bogota — (RNS) — Vacancies in Roman Catholic seminaries, an increasing phenomenon in Latin America as on other continents, should be filled with laymen interested in a religious apostolate, a bishop said in an article published here.

Bishop Roman Arrieta Villalobos of Tilaran, Costa Rica, writing in the CELAM Bulletin, official publication of the Latin American Bishops' Conference, said that in the years ahead the continent's present priest shortage "far from improving, will grow worse."

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