

New Role For IHM Community

By GERARD SHERRY (NC News Service)

Los Angeles—The Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary announced Feb. 2 that they were forming a lay community open to both married and single persons "committed to the service of man in the spirit of the Gospels."

Nucleus of the new community will be approximately 300 Immaculate Heart Sisters who have asked to be dispensed from their canonical vows and from the prescriptions of the Vatican's Congregation of Religious.

Anita Caspary, president of the former order of Sisters, said she will continue as head of the new lay group, which will be based in Los Angeles.

"We are taking this step," Sister Anita said, "in order that we might fully develop the experiment in contemporary community life which we attempted to set in motion two years ago. Our repeated efforts to expand the structure of canonical religious life did not meet with the approval of the Sacred Congregation."

She was referring to the documents of renewal, issued by the Immaculate Heart Sisters in October, 1967, and presented to James Francis Cardinal McIntyre, then Archbishop of Los Angeles, after overwhelming approval from the community of 560 nuns.

The recommended changes included simplification of dress, names, and a greater emphasis on areas of endeavor beyond those they had been noted for—education and care of the sick. Both Cardinal McIntyre and the Congregation of Religious opposed some of the experimentation. In the ensuing controversy, the IHM Sisters were withdrawn from the Los Angeles diocesan school systems, with the exception of a group that objected to the documents of renewal.

This latter group was accepted by the cardinal and, in December, 1969, it was announced that it had been given canonical status with the same title as then held by the main order.

The community expects to continue its long-term commitments to education, health services, social concerns and the fine arts. Members of the community will continue to teach at Immaculate Heart College, Immaculate Heart High School, Queen of the Valley Hospital and Montecito Conference Center.

The Week's News In Review

Resist Segregation, Nuns Urged

Catholic nun teachers throughout Mississippi were urged to "resist, to protest and to strike" rather than accept white children trying to circumvent school integration laws.

The National Coalition of American Nuns (NCAN), while directing Mississippi nuns to refuse to teach in all-white schools if no efforts are made to integrate, also praised Father James Gilbert, superintendent of schools for the Natchez-Jackson diocese, who resigned, they said, "rather than stand by in cowardly acquiescence while some parish schools were admitting white children who were escaping desegregation in other schools."

Sister Margaret Ellen Traxler of Chicago, chairman of NCAN, said "the Catholic school system cannot exist without the services of Sisters, and now is the time for us to place our lives on the line for morality and integrity."

Inmate Confirmed in Prison

For the first time in Quebec Province's penal history, an inmate was confirmed inside a prison.

The confirmation was conducted by Roman Catholic Archbishop Paul Grogan of Montreal, who was making his first official visit to the prison—known as "Bordeaux Jail." The archbishop also used for the first time in any Canadian prison an experimental liturgy for the confirmation ceremony.

The 23-year-old prisoner was not identified, in keeping with the usual practice of not naming prisoners.

Father Jean Patry, the chaplain, said prisoners at times were allowed to leave the jail for such religious ceremonies as baptism, confirmation, marriages and funerals, but he said this marked the first time such a ceremony was conducted in a Quebec prison. More than 300 prisoners attended.

India Archbishop Succumbs at 75

Verapoly, India — (NC) — Valeran Cardinal Gracias of Bombay, president of the Catholic Bishops' Conference of India, presided over the funeral ceremonies for Archbishop Joseph Attipetty of Verapoly, the first Indian citizen to become an archbishop in modern times.

Archbishop Attipetty, 75, who died (Jan. 21) in Lourdes hospital, Ernakulam, which he founded, was a prominent member of the Indian hierarchy for many years. He was the first Indian bishop of the Verapoly See and during his 35-year tenure contributed significantly to the social, educational and material welfare of the people in the archdiocese and neighboring communities.

Catholic Foundation Grants \$106,500 For Radio, Television

Chicago — (NC) — Twenty grants totaling \$106,500 to support radio and television programming and services on the national, diocesan, and local levels have been announced here by the Catholic Communications Foundation.

In a separate grant, the foundation awarded \$25,000 to the Department of Communications, United States Catholic Conference, for production and distribution of the color documentary films, "You Are My People," which illustrates the work of the Church in a contemporary American diocese.

The foundation was established by Catholic insurance fraternal societies and is supported by them in response to a request from the U.S. bishops.

Some recipients and the amounts awarded are:

St. Francis Production Company — \$10,000 for production and distribution of "teleshots" and "audioshots," inspirational messages for television and radio.

Sacred Heart Program — \$2,500 for duplication and distribution of films to national and international outlets as well as to the Armed Forces television service.

Archdiocese of New York — \$3,500 for production of a series of catechetical, liturgical

programs in Spanish for distribution to commercial/educational television stations serving Spanish-speaking communities throughout the United States.

The Christophers — \$2,500 for assistance in the production and distribution of 15-minute television programs featuring interviews with individuals making positive contributions to the public interest.

Archdiocese of San Francisco — \$3,500 for a joint programming effort with Protestant and Jewish broadcasters of a series of color presentations designed for elementary school and teen-age audiences.

Passionists Radio - Television Apostolate — \$3,000 for production of the general audience "Crossroads" program and the teen-age and young adult "Contempo" program.

Paulist Productions — \$10,000 for assistance in production of the "Insight" television series designed primarily for the 15-30-year-old audience.

The National Catholic Office of Radio and Television — \$25,000 for consultative services on a weekly basis to the major radio and television networks, including production of 17 national half-hour television programs on NBC-TV.



Ray Wyatt, 41, of Pell City, Ala., businessman who sold 1,000 acres of farm land to the Black Muslims, gives a light to Loonie Bothwell, right, an employee of the farm. The Black Muslims say they will farm the acreage and sell the products in Northern cities. Mr. Wyatt says that since he sold the land "my life has been threatened, my car dealership burned out and state authorities have arrested me." Nevertheless, he vows he will stand by the deal. (Religious News Service).

Klan 'Surrounds' Black Muslim Farm

Tuscaloosa, Ala.—(RNS)—The United (Ku Klux) Klans of America are trying to create a land "buffer" to Black Muslim farms in Alabama, Imperial Wizard Robert Shelton announced here.

He said 140 acres around Muslim property in St. Clair

County has been leased. Shelton, recently released from federal prison where he served time for refusing to submit Klan records to a federal committee, said negotiations were under way to create a "buffer" around Muslim land in Jackson County.

Meanwhile, in Montgomery, hearings opened before three federal judges on litigation involving the St. Clair County properties. The Muslims have bought three tracts of about 1,000 acres on which they hope to begin a commercial farm.

Shelton, the Klan leader, said the Muslims could use the Alabama land for "guerrilla warfare training" and this was the reason Klansmen wanted to surround it.

Theologian Attacked by Mob

Paris — (RNS) — The French progressive theologian assaulted on Jan. 25 by a gang of "fanatical (Church) integrists" outside a Paris church, said here he was lucky to escape with "only ripped clothing and bruises."

Father Marc Oraison, 56, a physician before he entered the Catholic priesthood, was manhandled and sprayed in the face with harmful dyes during a 45-minute melee outside the Church of Notre Dame de l'Assomption.

According to witnesses, about 150 young demonstrators seemed to be systematically organized under the direction of a few older men. They gathered in front of the church to prevent Father Oraison from delivering an address on "Sexual Morality and Sin." When the priest arrived and attempted to enter the church, the disturbance erupted.

In a letter to the Paris daily, Le Monde, Father Oraison said the incident was "much more serious than I thought at the time."

The theologian professed to see in the episode "a significant phenomenon" transcending the personal attack. "I was only the excuse," he said, "the point of impact of a significant phenomenon which easily surpasses my personal case."

Recalling that another "progressive" priest, Father Rene Laurentin, was maltreated in a Paris church a few days before, Father Oraison declared that such assaults had all the earmarks of being "very systematically organized" attacks on these priests who were trying "to live with the Church of the Second Vatican Council and the Synod of Bishops."

What amazed him the most, he said, was that this "fanatical crystallization" was being organized with "truly destructive mission" of "defending Christianity" against Pope Paul, against the Archbishop of Paris, Francis Cardinal Marty, against the "heretical" bishops, and "the theologians and Christians who together sought the most authentic evidence of the Gospel."

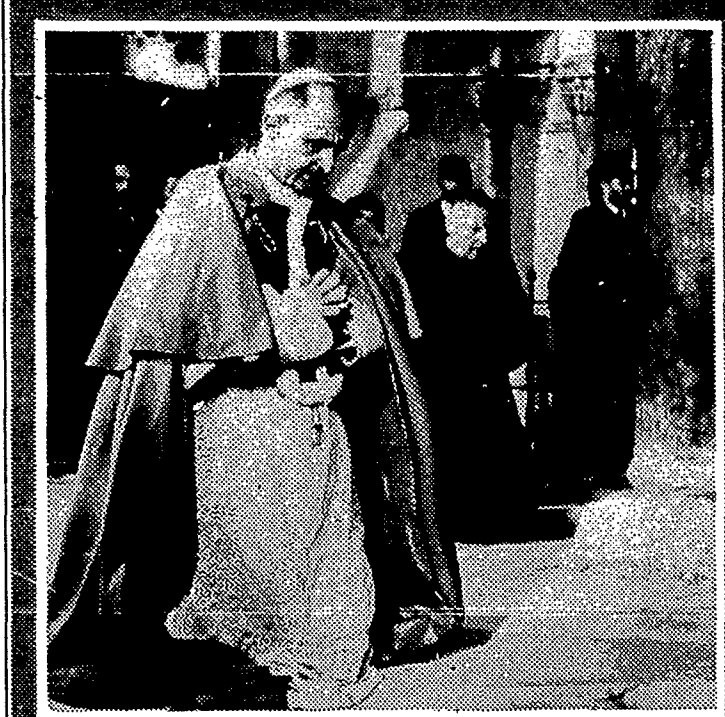
Lay members of the parish council and priests of the Parish of Notre Dame de l'Assomption.

Assomption, where the attack occurred, issued a strong statement of protest against the "brutal treatment" of Father Oraison "and of the parish priest—who had come to his aid—whose clothes had been rendered unusable."

The parish statement deplored the fact that Cardinal Marty had been branded as "garbage." It also referred to the demonstrators' singing of the Credo (in Latin) as Father Oraison fled the scene. "When these people then sing the Credo in the streets, along with the few parishioners who approve of them, they dishonor themselves and

they dishonor the Church of Jesus Christ."

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