



Flower Power

A brave sign erected by a homeowner following Hurricane Celia's rampage seems to express determination of Corpus Christi area residents that shattered homes, churches and cities shall be rebuilt again. Churches from all over the country have provided aid for rebuilding after the most destructive storm hit the Texas Gulf Coast since 1919. (RNS)

COURIER / WORLD

Old Patrons Never Die

Vatican City—(NC)—Anyone worried about how many patron Saints Lithuania or Bohemia may have can relax. Contrary to press reports, the Vatican has not "slashed drastically" at the ancient and pious affections of many nations and peoples.

The misunderstanding followed a recent minor revision of general guidelines for the drawing up of local Mass calendars. The Vatican Press reported that patron saints were now to be limited to one principal patron with a secondary one possible if there were good reason. The bulletin failed to mention that the provision applies to future choices of patrons.

The provision, said Father Annibale Bugnini, O.F.M., secretary of the worship congregation, "concerns the future, not the past." Father Bugnini has been caught before in saintly upheavals—as when St. Philomena was declared never to have existed. He said the old patrons remain, adding, "What a useless flap!"

Government Uses Old Convent

San Juan, P.R.—(NC)—A 447-year-old building, one of the oldest Catholic convent sites in America, is now headquarters for the Institute of Puerto Rican Culture, a government agency.

Dr. Ricardo Alegria, agency director, said there are older convent and monastery sites in America, but they now are in ruins.

The building dates back to 1523 when the Dominican Fathers came to the island. They used the convent until 1830 when the Spanish regime closed all convents.

Vatican City Wages Disdained

Vatican City—(NC)—The Vatican gendarmes have refused to take September's wages, in protest against a new pay policy.

Their complaint is that, although their recent pay raises were made retroactive to last July, increases given early this year to other employees of the Vatican City state were made retroactive to July, 1969.

Another complaint of the gendarmes is that the increase they have received is whittled down by abolition of uniform and transportation allowances. Meanwhile, prices in the Vatican commissaries have been raised. Meat has gone up 25 per cent and liquor 30 per cent. The price of high-test gasoline has risen 37 per cent, to about 70 cents a gallon.

Courier-Journal

Nuns Establish New Community In California

San Diego, Calif.—(NC)—Fourteen Dominican Sisters seeking a more modern approach to religious life have left their congregation and established a new community.

Calling themselves Community of the Holy Spirit, the women, under the jurisdiction of San Diego Bishop Leo T. Maher, will serve as teachers, counselors and social workers in the diocese "striving to bring about an adoption of Religious life that will meet the times," Bishop Maher said.

Said Sister Mary Prose, elected coordinator of the group, "Community life is our biggest thrust."

She said the women had asked, "What is it that we can do best and that we would like to do for the people of God?" One nun, a former English teacher, decided to accept a post on The Southern Cross, San Diego diocesan paper.

Bishop Maher agreed to sponsor the 14 Dominicans wishing to form the new community, and petitioned Rome last May to receive permission.

The new community is neither a diocesan religious community under his jurisdiction, nor an independent religious community, Bishop Maher explained, until a certain trial period has elapsed and the number of members has grown to about 50.

Sister Mary, formerly a counseling psychologist for the University of California at Berkeley's Newman Center, said she had received inquiries about the Holy Spirit from "a number of young women there who would never have considered religious life before." In addition, she said, "Sisters who have left other congregations have expressed interest."

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