



### Anniversary

The government of Communist Hungary has launched a year of celebration, commemorating the 1,000th anniversary of the birth of the country's patron saint and national hero, St. Stephen, the first king of Hungary. Born in 970 and baptized some years later, St. Stephen was largely instrumental in bringing unity and Christianity to what is now Hungary. This statue was done by a Hungarian priest-sculptor, Father Albert Szappanyos of Budapest. More than six feet high, the statue shows the king holding the original Holy Crown of Hungary which he received from Pope Sylvester II. It is in the Basilica of Our Lady of Fatima in Portugal. (RNS)

## Black Lay Catholics Organize

Washington, D.C.—(RNS) — More than 350 delegates to the first national convention of black lay Catholics here accused their Church of failing to respond to black Catholics, and resolved that they are "black first and then Catholic."

In addition, the three-day convention, sponsored by the Black Lay Caucus of the Washington (D.C.) archdiocese and called to create "national awareness" among black Catholic laymen, voted to establish a National Black Lay Organization (NBLO).

A press release distributed after the convention, which was closed to white newsmen, declared: "After carefully examining the non-responsive role of the American hierarchy, the general assembly went on record as refusing to be Catholics first and blacks last."

The convention at the Catholic University of America also produced the charge that "the Roman Catholic Church is dying in the black community because of the tragic and total failures of those who have so long exercised the 'missionary' role among us to be sensitive to us as a people with a particular culture, heritage and history."

Among the resolutions, which

included 14 "demands" and which were adopted unanimously, was one urging "creation of a delegation of black Catholics to seek an audience with his Holiness Pope Paul VI, with a view to putting before the Vatican an agenda of urgent proposals relating to the welfare and involvement of black Catholics in this country in the mission of the Church in our society."

The resolutions were delivered to Archbishop Luigi Raimondi, apostolic delegate in the United States.

The participants, whose approximately 800,000 to one mil-

lion fellow black Catholics total less than half of one percent of the 47 million Roman Catholics in this country, made the following "demands":

- Establishment of four regional black dioceses, with black bishops elected only by black Catholics of each region and consecrated by the American hierarchy, with each bishop possessing his own "legitimate diocese."

- Establishment of a "black lay pastorate."

- That all policy decisions on the parish level be made by an elected lay representation which

should make special provisions to incorporate youth.

- That the "cooperation and respect" of the American Catholic hierarchy be insisted upon in the development of a liturgy "reflective of our Afro-American heritage."

- That black youth organizations be recognized as a necessary element in all decision-making policies relating to the youth in affairs of the Church, and that such organizations be "appropriately funded."

- That youth programs be developed at the parish and national levels which will "enhance black awareness, develop black leadership, and support evolving black student unions in high schools, colleges and universities."



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