Church Council Offers to Mediate N. Ireland Dispute

RELIGIOUS NEWS SERVICE

The World Council of Churches (WCC) has offered to attempt a reconciliation between Protestant and Roman Catholic factions in Northern Ireland.

The offer was sent to member Churches in Northern Ireland — Anglican, Methodist, Baptist, Presbyterian — by Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, WCC general secretary.

Dr. Blake also said he was communicating "indirectly" with William Cardinal Conway, archbishop of Armagh, Northern Ireland.

In a separate development, however, Cardinal Conway said he saw "no simple solution" to the raging conflict.

At the same time, the cardinal warned Catholics against letting their emotions, "however natural and however strong," lead them into courses of action, which, he said, "can very often result in serious injury or death."

The prelate was interviewed on the radio at the height of the recent outbreak of rioting that, many observers fear, has brought the British province to the brink of civil war.

At least 26 persons, including a Catholic priest administering the last rites, have been killed and scores injured in Belfast and other parts of Northern Ireland since Aug. 8.

In the radio interview, Cardinal Conway said, "I fully understand the deep emotion and frustration and to some extent foreboding which exists among the Catholic population as a whole at the present time."

"But," he added, "I think that at a time like this one ought to be careful not to let emotion, however natural and however strong, lead one into situations or courses of action which are in fact foolish and which can very often result in serious injury or death."

"I can understand the emotion," he repeated. "I feel it to some extent myself. I am aware of this conflict within myself, and I think one has to be on one's guard not to allow emotion to lead one into foolish actions, which can have very terrible results for oneself and for people generally."

The WCC offer of meditation came hard on the heels of an outbreak of the most devastating violence to convulse Northern Ireland in half a century.

More than 300 suspected IRA terrorists have been interned without trial or held for questioning under a Special Powers Act. The move is generally interpreted as being aimed primarily against the extremist "Provisional" wing of the IRA, which seeks to force the reunification of predominately Protestant Ulster with the independent, predominately Catholic, Irish Republic in the south.

The internment order was invoked as a response to violence that blazed forth over the weekend of Aug. 8-9, when a Roman Catholic truck driver was killed by British soldiers, who, reportedly, mistook the vehicle's backfiring for rifle shots.

Reports from Dublin said that some 1,000 refugees had crossed the border from Northern Ireland and were being cared for in camps set up by the Irish Army.

New Stamp

Historic San Xavier del Bac Mission near Tucson, Ariz., is featured on one of the new Historic Preservation commemorative stamps to be issued Oct. 29. The stamps were designed by Melbourne Brindle. The mission was established in 1962 by Padre Eusebio Francisco Kino, and is registered as an Historic Landmark. (RNS).

NEWS DEADLINE

A reminder that Courier-Journal news deadline is noon Thursday for the following Wednesday's newspaper.

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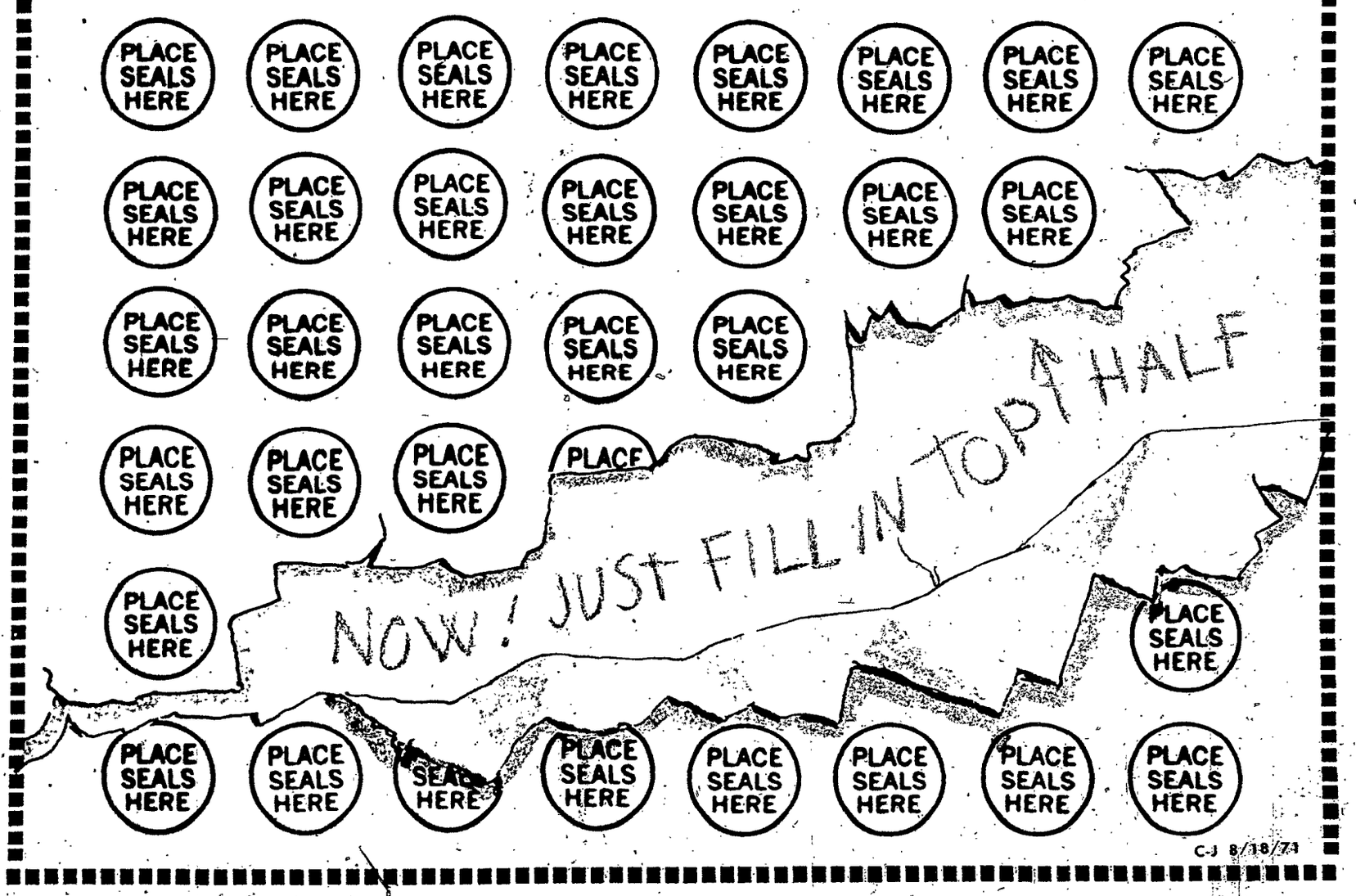

Ex-Auburnian Pronounces Vows

Auburn — Sister Catherine Paul, a native of Auburn, pronounced her perpetual vows as a Sister of St. Joseph of Carondelet, recently in Troy.

Sister was a member of Holy Family parish here before moving to Syracuse.

During her training as a sister she studied at the College of St. Rose in Albany. Prior to her assignment in Troy, Sister taught at St. Columba's school in Schenectady.