



Photos by Laurence E. Keefe
Father Robert Hammond blesses James Murphy, 10 weeks old, after giving his mother, Mrs. Alice Murphy, Communion at Family Retreat Mass at Camp Stella Maris last Thursday.



Retreatants link arms and sway in time to rhythm of hymn during Mass by Bishop Joseph L. Hogan at Family Retreat last week at Camp Stella Maris.



Mrs. Max Russer, 83, whose husband donated the land for Camp Stella Maris to the diocese, laughs with Bishop Hogan over his present to her of a skull cap which he wore at Mass for Family Retreatants.

'Word of God' Congress Opens in Washington

from Courier-Journal Services

Washington — The National Congress on the Word of God opened at the National Shrine of the Immaculate Conception here yesterday (Sept. 5) and will run through tomorrow.

Purpose of the congress is to accomplish a renewal in preaching with the thrust reaffirming a biblical foundation.

Thrust of the congress will be "towards a theology of biblical preaching — preaching which is rooted not in human rhetoric, however interesting or socially useful, but in revealed truths personally experienced by the preacher, the man, par excellence, of the Bible. For it is only the believer who can truly speak of Jesus Christ."

Among the principal speakers at the congress is Archbishop Fulton J. Sheen, former bishop of Rochester, who will speak on the topic "Preaching as a Saving Event."

In it he will stress that preaching is an event which brings salvation to both preacher and listener: it constitutes the principal work of the Church and her priests.

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Other main speakers are Father Barnabas M. Ahern, CP, professor of Sacred Scripture at the Gregorian University in Rome, "The Faith Experience of the Preacher", and Father Eugene H. Maly, homilist, "Jesus, Servant and Lord."

Imamu Baraka Addresses Nuns

Louisville, Ky. (RNS) — Imamu Amiri Baraka, the black poet and playwright, urged the National Black Sisters Conference here to adopt his "black value system" to achieve liberation for Afro-Americans.

Baraka, held that "it's not enough that we are black people by color. We must also have consciousness of this color. Black means color, culture and consciousness."

Some 150 black Roman Catholic nuns from across the nation attended the week-long conference here, which dealt mainly with the role and experiences of black Americans in education, the U.S. penal system and political activism.

The "black value system" advocated by Baraka included these major points and their Swahili meaning: Umeja — unity of the family, community and na-

In addition to the speakers, a program of conferences will explore in detail the relationship of preaching to their specialized professional activities "in the light of the present crisis in faith," according to the congress program.

tion but, above all, of black people. Ujima — collective work and responsibility and maintaining the black community through a joint effort.

Also Ujamaa — cooperative economics which involves controlling all the stores, shops and other businesses in the black community. Nia — making the building and developing of the black community the vocation and sole purpose of all black people to restore them to their "traditional greatness." Kuumba — being creative and doing as much as black people can to maintain the beauty of the black community. Imani — believing that black people can be victorious in the struggle for liberation.

Mr. Baraka called on the black people to rid themselves of the "white oriented" value system, which he described as "the most debased system in the world."

Wednesday, September 6, 1972

Change Anti-Religion Tactics, Lithuanian Paper Advises

Moscow (RNS) — Communist Party workers in Lithuania have been warned against causing "irreparable damage" with excessively crude attacks on religion.

Sovetskaya Litva, the Russian-language Lithuanian newspaper, reminded the party faithful that "fanaticism" could only be intensified by "wrong methods of combating religion" that were insulting to believers.

The article was seen by observers as tacit acknowledgement that the authorities were meeting difficulties in checking a surge of religious and nationalist sentiments in the predominantly Roman Catholic Soviet republic that was annexed to the USSR in 1940, along with Estonia and Latvia.

Last March, 17,000 Lithuanian Catholics sent a petition to U.N. Secretary-General Kurt Waldheim for transmission to Soviet leaders, protesting that Catholics, who number 3.5 million in the republic, were being denied freedom of worship.

Their petition said that since 1940, many Catholic institutions had been shut down, priests had been jailed for giving religious instruction to children, and Catholic children were being forced to study atheism in school. The petition also alleged that freedom to print Catholic publications, catechism, and prayer-books was denied.

Subsequently, three Lithuanian men burned themselves to death. A funeral May 18 for the first suicide touched off two days of rioting by thousands of youths in Kaunas, Lithuania's second largest city. It has been reported

by dissidents that these acts were motivated primarily by nationalist sentiment; but, in Lithuania, nationalist and religious sentiment often overlap.

The article stressed persuasion rather than forceful suppression. "It is no fault of (believers), but a misfortune that they turned up captives of religious prejudices," the article declared. "To help them liberate themselves from the influence of religious ideology is possible only by means of persistent, systematic atheist propaganda."

Must Preserve Private Schools McGovern Says

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — The nation's parochial school system must be "preserved," Sen. George McGovern, the Democratic candidate for the Presidency, said in a statement released here.

"Non-public schools are closing at a rate of 6 per cent per year, and if that trend continues unabated, fully 65 per cent of these schools will be closed by 1980," he said. "This sad trend must be stopped."

The Senator said he is exploring means by which the federal government can help parochial schools "with aid distributed either directly or through the tax structure."

He said that he believes a constitutional means can be found for such aid, adding: "The framers of our Constitution desired and encouraged the diversity of intellectual, cultural and religious belief which has contributed so much to America's greatness."

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