



Thou Shalt Watch Thy Parking

The Downtown Baptist church in Alexandria, Va., gives this warning to non-churchgoers. (RNS)

Black Catholic Office Makes Fund Appeal

Washington, D.C. — Brother Joseph Davis, director of the National Office For Black Catholics, said last week that the office is seeking emergency funds to continue operating a number of programs in the areas of education and liturgy.

"We are facing a serious financial crisis at this time," Brother Davis said. "There is no danger of our folding our tent and silently stealing away if we don't get immediate financial help. However, we will have to cut back some programs which are of real importance not only to the Black Catholic community but to the total Church."

Brother Davis said the national office had made an appeal for interim financial help from the United States Catholic Conference but were informed that there were no emergency funds available.

He said that he also had appealed to a number of religious

orders of men for emergency help but that the lack of response to date led him to believe they were either unable or unwilling to help. Currently he is investigating the possibility of obtaining some financial help from the Negro and Indian Mission Collection.

"Hopefully, 'Black Catholics Concerned' Sunday, Oct. 8, will solve our financial problems but we are faced with the problem of what to do until then," Brother Davis said. "On Oct. 8, we are appealing to the nation's one million Black Catholics and as many others as are interested and willing to join us for financial help."

"We are putting all of our efforts into making this appeal for support a success because it will mean that we will be no longer a mission church but rather a contributing member in good standing of the total American Catholic community."

Private School Enrollment Dip Continues

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A federal government report released here stated that enrollment in the nation's private and parochial schools decreased by 8.1 per cent during the 1961-1971 period, with the bulk of the decline in Roman Catholic elementary and secondary schools.

The Office of Education of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare said Catholic school enrollment dropped 17 per cent during the 10-year period.

Other private and church-related schools increased by 66 per cent during the same ten years — reportedly through the establishment of racially segregated private schools in the South — but they only represent just over 19 per cent of the non-public school sector. There are 5,271,718 now enrolled in non-public schools.

The NCEA report also said that the "one-a-day" closing of Catholic schools has continued.

'Grow Spiritually' Theme Of Christian Education Week

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — A special "Christian Education Week," sponsored Sept. 17 to 24 by two national Catholic educational agencies, will attempt to stimulate support for religious education opportunities in Catholic parishes and communities and "encourage parents to use these opportunities."

Under the theme, "Grow Spiritually," the week-long observance is, in effect, an extension of the traditional Catechetical Sunday "to include the total (religious) educational mission of the Church," said Father Olin J. Murdick, secretary to the U.S. Catholic Conference's Education Department here.

The USCC department is co-sponsor with the National Catholic Educational Association of the Christian Education Week activities. The two agencies are also cooperating with the Reli-

gious Educational Association of America in its observance of Sept. 24 to 30 as Religious Education Week.

Father C. Albert Koob, O. Praem., president of the NCEA, said that while Catholic education is going through a period of change "it is not disappearing by any means . . . It is important to note that Catholic schools have never been finer than they are today. The education they offer, both sacred and secular, is very much needed by this nation and should be appreciated by all citizens."

Father Joseph Collins of the USCC, commenting on the week-long observance, said: "It is a time when we commit ourselves to the importance of Christian education not only for our public school youngsters, but also for our teachers, parents, and all the People of God, young and old."

New York in 1971: 262,807 Abortions

Albany, N.Y. (RNS) — Induced abortions performed in New York state during 1971 — the first full year under the liberalized law passed in 1970 — reached a total of 262,807, the state health department reported.

Of these, 60.9 per cent were performed on out-of-state residents and 206,673 were carried out in New York City. The latter statistic gave the city a ration of 517 abortions per 1,000 live births.

New York's current liberalized abortion law allows virtually unrestricted abortions up to 24 weeks of pregnancy. Prior to July 1970, abortions were legal only if the life of the mother was in danger.

(A bill calling for a return to the former law was passed by the New York legislature this year, but vetoed by Gov. Nelson Rockefeller.)

State Health Commissioner Dr. Hollis S. Ingraham, reporting the statistics, said 49 live births resulted from the abortion operations and 16 maternal deaths were recorded.

He noted that the ratio of abortion to live births has been rising steadily since the present law was passed in 1970.

During the first full year, he said, a ratio of 278 abortions per 1,000 live births was reported; during 1971, the overall rate was 360 per 1,000 statewide and 517 per 1,000 in New York City.

Almost 80 per cent of the induced abortions were performed during the first three months of pregnancy, Dr. Ingraham re-

ported, and the majority of abortions, 165,466, were performed on women below age 25. A total of 72,400 of that number were under 20.

During 1971, abortions were performed in New York state on women from every state except Hawaii and New Mexico. Women from Canada and states surrounding New York accounted for 44 per cent of the abortions.

Memorial Service Today at Attica

Attica, N.Y. (RNS) — Just one year after the horrendous Attica State Prison rebellion that took 43 lives, inmates, prison employees and administrators, and chaplains will take part in a general memorial service approved by the prison's inmate liaison committee.

Scheduled for today — the anniversary of the day police stormed the prison — the service will be held in the prison auditorium and will be open to all inmates. Sept. 13 is a "non-work day" for the prisoners.

The interreligious service will feature an invocation by a prison correctional officer, prayers, Scripture readings and hymns by the chaplains and inmates, according to Father Eugene V. Marcinkiewicz, Catholic chaplain at the prison facility.

Besides Father Marcinkiewicz, those taking part include Dr. Eligius Rainer, Protestant chaplain at the prison; Dr. Shaheen La Nakeed, a Black Muslim leader from Buffalo, and Rabbi Kermit Kerman of Buffalo who is a part-time chaplain at Attica.

Father Marcinkiewicz said that the memorial service was developed and approved by the inmate liaison committee at Attica and by the prison administration, and is being held principally for the inmates.

He noted that since the abortive rebellion last September there are more than 1,000 less inmates at the Attica correctional facility. He said there were 2,300 at the time of the outbreak but only about 1,200 at the present time. Two cell blocks are now empty.

Asked if conditions had changed since the rebellion, the Catholic chaplain said that "every effort is being made to develop and maintain good relationships" and "there are constant improvements being made." But he added that it is "not an easy thing" to change an entire prison system.

Since the tragic incident took place, there have been calls for sweeping reforms not only in the New York State prison system but in federal and state prison systems across the land.

Dr. Blake Asks Justice In Rhodesia

Geneva — (RNS) — Dr. Eugene Carson Blake, general secretary of the World Council of Churches, has asked white Christians in Europe and North America to support "unequivocally" the leaders of "responsible" organizations in Rhodesia seeking justice for the black majority.

The appeal was issued in response to news from Salisbury that the white-minority regime of Ian Smith had cancelled the passport of the Rev. Cnaan Banana just before the black clergyman was to depart for a WCC-sponsored consultation on violence and non-violence in Wales.

Dr. Blake also asked the British Council of Churches to protest a new Rhodesian law which gives the government power to prevent the departure of any person from the breakaway British colony.