



Toy Drive

Through the efforts of Mrs. Jackie Tubbs of Auburn and the Auburn Red Star Express, a successful toy drive for the children of Corning this Christmas was launched. Loading up the Red Star Express "sleigh" are (l-r) Barbara Schmucker, Edward Gleason, Sister Ellen Ward, Cathy Morris, and Mrs. Tubbs.



A Birthday Party

Singing "Happy Birthday, Dear Jesus" and cutting a birthday cake were featured with the traditional nativity scene presentation during Mrs. John Ransick's 2nd grade CCD class at Auburn's Holy Family pre-Christmas festivities. Mrs. Ransick explained the celebration of a birthday re-emphasizes the true meaning of Christmas.

Sister Walter Anne Named New Principal

Auburn — Sister Walter Anne, principal of St. Alphonsus, will become principal of the new Catholic elementary school to open in September as a result of the merger of Sacred Heart, Holy Family and St. Alphonsus Schools.

Included in an announcement recently read at the three parishes, was the statement that the unification of the three schools will be a new beginning for Catholic elementary education in Auburn. The unified school should permit more comprehensive education with the emphasis on Christian teachings. School officials indicated they have been advised that no sisters will be lost because of this unification.

An open house will be held at

St. Alphonsus School on Jan. 4 with Father Daniel Brent, school superintendent for the diocese in attendance to discuss the advantages of unification. The newly elected school board will be available to answer questions.

Registration for the new school will be held Jan. 8 — 12 from 9 a.m. to 7:30 p.m.

Officers for the new school board include Martin Fanning from Sacred Heart, president; Mrs. James Cuddy, Holy Family, vice-president; and Mrs. Frederick Kruger, Holy Family, secretary.

The statement read at the three parishes also indicated the pupil teacher ratio will not exceed 35 to 1 and in most classes will be less than 35.

Rabbi Heschel Dead at 65

New York (RNS) — Rabbi Abraham Joshua Heschel, one of the 20th Century's foremost Jewish theologians, died here at the age of 65.

Although Rabbi Heschel was primarily known for his scholarly writings, he was also a prominent figure in social-action movements of the 1960s, including the civil rights and anti-war campaigns.

At a Vatican meeting with Pope Paul VI in 1964, he urged that the Second Vatican Council, then in session, issue a strong declaration of the Jews. The Council, later passed a resolution repudiating the concept of Jewish guilt for the crucifixion of Christ.

He was a visiting professor at Union Theological Seminary, 1965-66, the first rabbi ever appointed to the seminary's faculty, and he drew more students than any previous visiting professor in the school's history.

Rabbi Heschel was born in Warsaw 1907, the descendant of seven generations of Hassidic rabbis, and was educated in Berlin.

He fled Nazi Germany in 1938, returning to Warsaw to teach. When Poland was invaded, he went to London, where he founded the Institute for Jewish Learning in 1940, and then went on to the United States. In 1945, he joined the faculty of Jewish Theological Seminary here, the major institution of American Conservative Judaism, and was still on its faculty at the time of his death.

In 1965, Rabbi Heschel marched alongside the late Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., in the historic Selma-to-Montgomery civil rights march in which hundreds of other clergy took part. He was one of the first religious figures to speak out against the war in Vietnam.

Pope Forms New Diocese In Oklahoma

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — Pope Paul, in a series of actions affecting the U.S. Catholic Church, has established a new ecclesiastical province, split the statewide diocese of Oklahoma City-Tulsa, and named two bishops.

In conjunction with the division of the Oklahoma See into the Archdiocese of Oklahoma City and the Diocese of Tulsa, Oklahoma City becomes a metropolitan see, with Tulsa and Little Rock, Ark., as suffragan sees.

Bishop John R. Quinn of Oklahoma City-Tulsa becomes the first archbishop of Oklahoma City, and Msgr. Bernard J. Ganter, chancellor of the Galveston-Houston, Tex., diocese becomes the first bishop of Tulsa.

In addition, Pope Paul named Msgr. John J. Snyder, secretary to Bishop Francis J. Mugavero of Brooklyn, N.Y., an auxiliary to the Brooklyn prelate.

Polish Primate Asks U.S. Bishops To Try to End War

Warsaw — Cardinal Stefan Wyszynski, primate of Poland, told his people on Christmas Day that he hoped the United States bishops would try to stop the bloodshed in Vietnam.

The bishops are in a position, he said, "to fight today for freedom of all peoples, especially for the freedom of those who are now suffering the consequences of an unjust war."

In his sermon in Warsaw's Cathedral of St. John, the 71-year-old prelate also scored the "atheistic doctrine" of Polish Communist authorities and urged them to "put people before industrial production."

"Man answers to God," he said, "not to the policy of a militia."

India Honors St. Thomas

New Delhi (RNS) — India's Prime Minister Indira Gandhi praised the work of Christian missionaries in India, saying they had led and encouraged leaders of other religions to work among the people.

"She said Indian Christians had been 'great nationalists.'"

Mrs. Gandhi spoke at a massive public ceremony that closed a year-long observance of the 19th centenary of the martyrdom of St. Thomas the Apostle.

Known as the "Apostle of India," St. Thomas, one of the 12 apostles of Jesus, came to India in 52 A.D., according to a long-

cherished tradition, and planted the seed of Christianity. He is said to have been martyred for the faith in 72 A.D.

The saint has become a national bond of unity among Indian Christians of all denominations.

WORKSHOPS SET

West Elmira — Our Lady of Lourdes Church will host a series of Creative Workshops in Religious Education, open to all catechists and religious educators in the Elmira area beginning Jan. 15 from 7:30-9 p.m. The first workshop will be titled "Problems and All the Possibilities." The program will be conducted in the church hall.

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