

New Bishop Sees Role To Encourage Blacks

Washington, D.C. [RNS] — The country's third black Catholic bishop — and the nation's capital's first — declared that while he hopes to be a "source of encouragement" to black Catholics here, "I hope more importantly that the needs of black Catholics will be better known" and the Church will respond more effectively to them.

Bishop-designate Eugene A. Marino, SSJ, one of two newly-appointed Auxiliaries to Archbishop William W. Baum of Washington, spoke during a press conference at which he was asked how his appointment will affect the area's 70,000 black Catholics.

The black Catholic community has been demanding a black bishop for several years.

He also expressed hope that his appointment and the responsibility he will assume will aid the Church in responding in preaching the message of Christ to the entire black community of Washington.

The new prelate, who has been serving as Vicar General of the Josephite Fathers in Baltimore since 1971, joined Msgr. Thomas W. Lyons, archdiocesan secretary for Christian Education and pastor of St. Thomas the Apostle parish, as the newest members of the U.S. hierarchy.

Asked if there are any "special needs" and interests of black Catholics in Washington, Bishop-designate Marino pointed out that he had not been in the archdiocese for three years and would

have to spend "a great deal of time" establishing communication with the black Catholic community.

Noting that it will be his role to serve "all of the Catholics" in the archdiocese, the 40-year-old bishop said "I certainly expect there will be certain unique needs Washington has," noting that the capital has a "significant number of black Catholics and other minorities."

"I think we will want to become aware of all the minority communities as well as the majority community and serve all the needs of God's people as best we can," he said.

Three years ago, Bishop-designate Marion became the first black priest to hold the office of vicar general with a religious order in the U.S. He was one of 10 black priests named by the National Catholic Lay Caucus in 1971 as desirable choices for the post of Archbishop of Washington.

Archbishop Baum, who has been without auxiliary bishops since 1973 when Auxiliary Bishop Edward Herrmann was named to the Columbus (Ohio) see, conceded that Bishop-designate Marino's appointment had racial significance. But he said both new prelates will serve all Washington Catholics without regard to race.

Msgr. Lyons, who has served in educational posts with the archdiocese for 20 years, has been pastor at St. Thomas parish since 1966. The 50-year-old prelate told the press conference that the

greatest needs of the archdiocese in education are the coordination of various educational efforts and added attention to all the facets of education, from elementary to adult education.

Plans for the ordination of the two prelates have not been completed, Archbishop Baum said, but are tentatively set for Sept. 11.

Parish Seeks Coordinator

Dansville — A full-time coordinator of religious education should be hired at St. Mary's, the parish council decided at its July meeting. The decision followed a report from Ralph Domescek, education chairman, on a questionnaire sent to 14 parishes that have coordinators and on a random survey of 120 St. Mary's families.

The council endorsed the U.S. Bishops' stand on the side of the California farm workers engaged in a labor dispute.

Rose Hayes was elected president; Richard Wirth, vice president, and Christian Sauerbier, secretary. Wirth is one of the new members elected by the parish. The others are Tony Caito, Edward Acomb and John Hammond.

PENANCE SERVICE

Naples — On the First Friday of August there will be a Penance Service at St. Januarius, together with a First Friday Mass. Several priests will attend to hear confessions and if the program is well attended the Penance Service will be a monthly event.

BARBECUE

Port Byron — The annual chicken barbecue and bazaar at St. John's will be held Saturday, Aug. 3, 4-7 p.m. in the church hall. Father Robert Kress will celebrate Mass afterward, at 7:30 Tom McDuffie and Sharon Seamans head the committee.

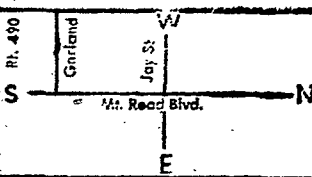
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THE OPEN WINDOW

Father Louis Holman

Dear Father Holman,

Recently I received the enclosed letter, and while I don't believe in such things, I must admit that it disturbed me somewhat. Would I be very wrong in not taking a chance and following the instructions in the letter?

THINK A PRAYER

"Trust in the Lord with all your heart and all will acknowledge Him and He will light your way."

This prayer has been sent to you for good luck. The original copy came from the Netherlands. It has been around the world nine times. The luck has now been sent to you. You are to receive good luck within four days after receiving this letter. It is no joke. You will receive it in the mail. Send 20 copies of this letter to whom you think needs good luck. Please do not send money. Do not keep this letter. It must leave within 96 hours after you receive it. A U.S. officer received \$7,000. Don Elliot received \$60,000 but lost it because he broke the chain. While in the Philippines, Gen. Walsh lost his life six days after he received this letter. He failed to circulate the prayer. However, before his death he received \$775,000.

Please send 20 copies and after you do, see what happens to you on the fourth day.

Sincerely,
Regular Reader

You would be very wrong in continuing such a chain letter. It not only degrades God and religion but plays upon people's fears. Could you imagine Jesus

SUN IS THEIR UNDOING

Skin cancer, the most common cancer, is caused mostly by overexposure to sunlight. So, sun worshippers, if you are under the sun for long periods, use protective creams on exposed skin; and if you work outdoors, wear a hat and protective clothing as well. This way you can prevent skin cancer, says the American Cancer Society.

Christ dealing with such a thing? Tear it up and forget it.

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ALL IN THE FAMILY

Sarah Child

Ever since I was 12 or 13, on the threshold of womanhood so to speak, one of my very favorite gospels has been the story of Martha and Mary according to St. Luke.

The gospel, just recently read, tells of Jesus entering a certain village to be met by Martha who welcomed Him to her house.

Her sister Mary, instead of helping Martha who was scurrying about doing all the things that need doing when a guest arrives, sat down at the Lord's feet and listened to His word.

Martha was understandably irked. Enough so to come up to Jesus and say to her, "Lord is it no concern of mine that my sister has left me to serve alone? Tell her therefore to help me."

Jesus answered, "Martha, Martha, thou art anxious and troubled about many things; and yet only one thing is needful. Mary has chosen the best part, and it will not be taken away from her."

As a young girl who felt household chores were necessary evils, I didn't have to be told that Mary had chosen the best part.

There she was using her mind, her heart and her soul. And there was old drudge Martha making sure there were no crumbs under the table and no nasty water spots on the cups so that her Guest might not find her inadequate as a hostess.


Listening to the words of the gospel I was sure that Jesus was endorsing a kind of women's lib. After all He had said that only one thing was needful and that one thing definitely wasn't puttering around the kitchen.

In the ensuing years I have mellowed and have come to feel a little more compassion for Martha. After all, somebody had to offer the Guest some bread, to make certain the wine was not too warm.

And I have come to understand that the phrase, "the best part" which Jesus used, referred to Mary's listening to the Word of the Lord and not simply to the turning away from menial labor.

Still, as I listened to St. Luke's words for the umpteenth time on a recent Sunday I tried as usual to analyze the message contained therein as it pertains to a woman's role in life.

And I took comfort once more that it was Mary's listening, the exercise of her mental faculties, that pleased Our Lord most.



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