



The report that Sister Lucia of the Immaculate Heart, the only surviving witness to the 1917 apparitions of Fatim, has been transferred from Portugal to a convent in Spain, has been labeled a "false report" by a priest-writer who recently interviewed the bishop of Fatima. Father Robert J. Fox wrote in the National Catholic Register that Bishop Joao Venacio said of the report "That is not true. They have published that without verification. The truth is the Sister Lucia did not leave the convent." ... The Pope has created four new dioceses in Angola, transferring three resident bishops and naming three new ones in the Portuguese territory that is slated for independence in November.

The text used for the passion play in Oberammergau, Germany, which many consider to be anti-Semitic will be changed for the 1980 performance. The revised wording will fix the blame for the crucifixion on Lucifer rather than on the Jews.

Two Minnesota counties must pay for abortions for women eligible for medical aid from their welfare departments, U.S. District Judge Earl R. Larson has ruled. The judge said the policies of Carver and Anoka counties of not paying for non-therapeutic abortions for welfare recipients violate the equal protection clause of the U.S. Constitution.

The U.S. Catholic Conference has called on Congress to approve a proposal that would maintain the current 80 per cent federal share of community action programs through 1977, particularly in light of the economic crisis when "our efforts to assist those most severely affected must increase." The bill, H.R. 8578 would reverse the 1974 Community Services Act which reduced the federal share of support for anti-poverty action programs over a period of three years.



Bishop Leo T. Maher of San Diego is the principal celebrant at the closing Mass of the West Coast regional charismatic conference, attended by some 3,500 persons. On the bishop's right is Father Ronald Mendonca, Bishop Maher's special liaison with charismatic communities in the diocese, and on his left is Father Don Gelpi, SJ, who gave the homily at the Mass. (RNS)

### Beware of Fundamentalists, Charismatics Warned

San Diego [RNS] — A Jesuit theologian called on Roman Catholic charismatics to beware of "fundamentalists" who are "filled with anger, fire and brimstone," and are preoccupied with the demonic and rigid interpretations of scripture.

But, he added, "these people need our help and love, not our judgment."

Father Donald Gelpi, of the Jesuit School of Theology, Berkeley, Calif., and the author of "Pentecostals: A Theological Viewpoint," was one of several speakers and workshop leaders taking part in the West Coast Catholic Charismatic Renewal here. The weekend conference drew 3,500 persons from 20 states, including Alaska and Hawaii, and five foreign countries.

Hosted by San Diego area charismatic communities, the conference was sponsored by the Catholic Charismatic Renewal Services, Inc., of Notre Dame, Ind. The theme was "God Is Restoring His Kingdom."

Bishop Leo T. Maher of San Diego was the principal celebrant of the conference's closing Mass and he was joined

on the altar by 35 priests and deacons. He told the congregation: "All your relationships with God are summed up in prayer. The Spirit has taught you how to communicate with God."

Father Gelpi, who preached at the concluding Mass, said those in the charismatic renewal are being called by God to renew the Church. "He doesn't want prayer groups. He wants Christian communities."

"We are to reappropriate the rich spiritual heritage that is ours in the Church," he added.

It was during an earlier workshop session that the Jesuit warned participants to beware of "fundamentalists" whom he described as those who "want to be told what to do and who will submit blindly to authority." He said the Catholic bishops have warned about the dangers of fundamentalism.

"Often the religious rhetoric of fundamentalists is filled with anger, fire and brimstone. Too often they are preoccupied with the demonic and they tend to adhere rigidly to one interpretation of scripture," he stated.

## Tenants Rights Bill Becomes State Law

By KATHLEEN POWERS  
Capitol Correspondent

A watered down version of warrant of habitability legislation which passed the State Legislature this session, after several years of attempts has been signed into law by Gov. Carey. Because the law merely defines a landlord's responsibilities but does not spell out any action tenants may take against unwilling landlords, the new law's effectiveness will not be known until it is tested in the courts.

The final form of the bill does not include earlier provisions which would have allowed tenants to withhold rents if the landlord failed to live up to the warrant.

It is not known whether the bill will protect tenants who withhold rents. When tenants bring landlords to court for failing to live up to the law, that part of the law will have to be defined by court interpretation.

In past years, the bill failed to pass, because enforcement provisions could not be agreed upon by the legislators and lobbying groups. This year all enforcement provisions were dropped from the bill so it could be passed.

The new law goes into effect immediately, replacing a law which demanded that landlords provide only four walls and a roof: "We think landlords have more obligations than that," said Jan Farr earlier this spring. Farr is director and counsel to the State Senate Select Committee on Housing and Urban Development which drafted the new law. "Tenants shouldn't have to live in places hazardous to health and safety. If they do, they should have recourse in the law," he added.

### Principal

Continued from Page 1

of Mercy High School for 12 years and department chairman for 6 years. She also taught at St. James and St. Louis grammar schools in Rochester.

She has been a general councilor on the Executive Council of the Sisters of Mercy since 1970.

Sister Walter holds a bachelor's degree from Siena Heights College, Adrian, Mich., and an M.A. in history from Catholic University, Washington, D.C. She has also attended Nazareth College and Rensselaer Polytechnic Institute.

She entered the Mercy Congregation in 1953 after graduation from Our Lady of Mercy High School.

Sister Walter is the daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Walter B.D. Hickey, Rochester.

Notre Dame is under the auspices of the Sisters of Mercy, whose executive council was responsible for the selection of the new principal, and which is now in the process of selecting an assistant principal for the school.

### LAY PARTICIPATION

Vatican City [RNS] — Pope Paul has exhorted Holy Year pilgrims to maintain their "spiritual contact with God" through prayer and the liturgy and declared that the People of God must participate actively in liturgical reform, a high priority of Vatican II.

### STATE AID

Harrisburg, Pa. [RNS] — A program of state aid to Pennsylvania's parochial and other non-public schools, estimated at \$31 million for the 1975-76 school year, has been signed into law by Gov. Milton J. Shapp.

Until this new law was signed, tenants who did not pay their rent because their landlords did not fix broken heaters or bad plumbing or some other basic service, could be evicted if the landlord took the tenant to court. Some tenants groups fear judges might interpret the new law similarly, since enforcement provisions are not spelled out. Other tenant groups believe the courts will favor the tenant under the intent of the law.

The bill requires that landlords make repairs when damages are not caused by tenants.

Many tenant groups have been working for warrant of habitability legislation for years. Passage of some form of this legislation was backed earlier this year by more than 50 representatives of Catholic Charities groups at a statewide meeting on housing.

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