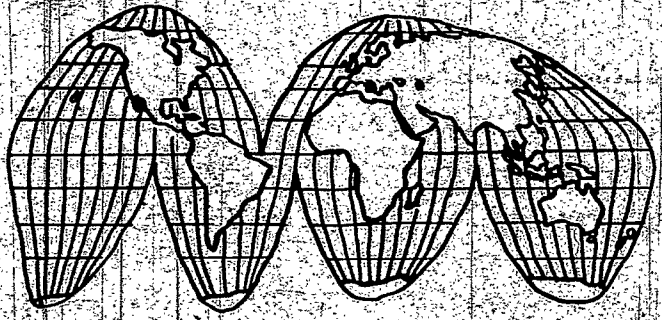




### Inner City Visit

Archbishop Jean Jadot, the apostolic delegate to the U.S., exchanges the sign of peace with parishioners (top photo) during a visit to St. Augustine's Roman Catholic Church in the Southeast Bronx, one of the most poverty stricken areas of New York City. Below, the congregation participates in Gospel singing during the Mass. The church is in a predominately black and Hispanic section of New York and the liturgy featured prayers in both English and Spanish and music provided by the church's three Gospel Choirs and Spanish Choir. Archbishop Jadot was principal concelebrant and delivered the homily. RNS Photo (Editor's note: The Rochester diocesan Office of Black Ministries has a 'black liturgy.' Mass available to other parishes. The contact person is Norma Holmes, who can be reached through 889-1832, or by writing to the Black Ministries Church Worship Committee, 1150 Buffalo Road, Rochester, N.Y. 14624.)

### The nation and ...



Ecumenical cooperation: Anglican Archbishop Donald Coggan of Canterbury is supporting a Roman Catholic-sponsored week of prayer and repentance in England and Wales to mark the millionth abortion since the 1967 Abortion Act went into effect. Abortion also is making news in West Germany where Cardinal Julius Döpfner of Munich has strongly condemned a proposed West German law permitting abortions in special circumstances. The bill would permit abortions during the first three months of pregnancy in cases of rape, of serious danger to the mother's health, when there is a prospect that the child would be born deformed, and when the birth would cause "grave hardship." A Welsh archbishop has castigated criticism of Vatican pronouncements by "Catholic intellectuals" as a "new fungus of private judgment, falsely claiming lineage from Vatican II creeping all over the authentic teaching of the Church and questioning its authority."

In LaPaz, Bolivia, where members of the Rochester diocese helped establish San Jose Obrero parish, two Jesuit priests are reaching thousands of Aymara and Quecha Indians daily with, believe it or not, radio soap opera. The "soaps" deal with fictional Indian communities and how they deal with everyday problems and with presenting a positive view of Indian culture. Cardinal Valerian Gracias of Bombay has personally protested to officials proposed legislation which would make sterilization compulsory in the case of married couples who have more than three children. And speaking on the subject of India's overpopulation, Dr. Catherine Bernard, a sister of the Holy Cross and physician, said over Vatican Radio that the Billings method of natural birth control would be ideal for the people of India. Dr. Bernard is a native of that country.

A pair of appointments — Pope Paul VI has named Msgr. Clemente Faccani of the Vatican diplomatic corps special assistant to the Apostolic Delegation in the United States. He also has named Archbishop Ernesto Corripio Ahumada ordinary of Puebla de los Angeles, Mexico.

## Out of Body Experiences Related by 'Dead' Persons

Orinda, Calif. [RNS] — Scholars and health-care professionals who took part here in a national conference on "death, dying, and beyond" found a remarkable unanimity in accounts of "out-of-body" experiences by persons who were clinically dead and later revived.

Overflow crowds of some 1,000 persons attended the sessions at the University of California, Berkeley, and here at John F. Kennedy University.

A panel of persons who had experienced "death" and returned to tell about it found surprising similarities in the details. Each person told of looking down on his or her own body and on other persons in the operating or resuscitation room.

Dr. Elizabeth Kubler-Ross, noted for her pioneering studies on death and dying, said, "We are not talking about a scattered few instances, but hundreds upon hundreds of cases. It's not a rare thing at all."

She declared that "hundreds of cases of this kind have now been scientifically verified. We've just been afraid to admit it. These people — including one man who brought me his death certificate, signed by a doctor, report in the minutest detail who came into the resuscitation room after they were dead, how they looked, what they wore, what they did, what they said."

According to Dr. Kubler-Ross, "all of the reports

we know of, no matter how remote, have the identical themes, and confirm the same stages of consciousness. When they float out of their bodies, they are totally without pain. They are soaring, light and surprised. They have a feeling of physical wholeness — even if they've been blinded or lost a leg. They are not afraid, nor are they ever afraid again when they return."

Dr. Raymond Moody, a researcher at the University of Virginia, described the "after-death stages." They include a buzz or ring at the moment of death, followed by rapid progression through an enclosure or tunnel toward the light. There is surprise at being outside the body. Next comes a panoramic review of one's life.

No matter what a person's religious beliefs may be, Dr. Moody said, a religious figure always appears in the "after-death" experience. This is true even for atheists, he asserted.

After the conference, Dr. Kubler-Ross told a reporter that her own findings are identical with those of Dr. Moody, who had interviewed more than 200 persons. "We now have factual support," Dr. Kubler-Ross said, "replicated again and again, in hundreds of cases by different people. For me, there's no longer a shadow of a doubt."

"I used to say, 'I believe in life after death,'" she commented. "Now I know."

### Ghana Fair Displays Work Of the Church

Accra, Ghana. — One of the major attractions at the third International Trade Fair held here early last month was a pavilion which displayed the work of the Church. The display drew "hundreds of visitors each day," according to Rochester native Father Charles Erb, SVD.

The theme of the government sponsored fair was "Food for the Millions." Father Erb noted that the Church exhibition emphasized "Jesus Christ as true food for the millions."

"He said the pavilion's popularity was due to its featuring 'the biggest and best product of all' —

Among those whose work was featured at the display was Sister Jane Lefrois, SSPS, also a native Rochesterian. Sister Jane's work

with lepers in Weija, a town near Accra, was promoted by the Diocese of Accra.

### Fairporter Wins Sewing Contest

Eileen Brasley, a member of Assumption of Our Lady Parish in Fairport, won first prize in the fashion sewing contest sponsored by the Women's Club of Rochester with her entry of a tailored navy and grey checked wool pantsuit and coordinated blouse. She is 17 years old and a senior at Fairport

High School.

The event was part of a statewide sewing contest sponsored by the State Federation of Women's Clubs to foster a deeper appreciation of homemaking skills. Twenty girls from the Metropolitan Rochester area participated.

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