

'No Miracle,' Vatican Rules In Jesuit Case

Memphis (RNS)— The restoration of partial sight to an American Jesuit was rejected by the Vatican as a possible "first class miracle" attributed to the intercession of a Mohawk Indian girl who is a candidate for sainthood.

Father Walter M. Abbott, SJ, a Bible scholar in Rome, said the medical board of the Vatican Congregation for the Causes of Saints concluded that his case could not be presented at this time as a miracle for the beatification of Kateri Tekakwitha, although other physicians had said there was no medical explanation for what happened. The congregation's specialists ruled that "the cure is not complete and moreover not of such nature that a preternatural intervention of God must, of necessity, be assumed," the Jesuit

wrote in a letter to Common Sense, newsweekly of the Memphis diocese.

Father Abbott, a native of Boston, is Pope Paul's representative in all Catholic efforts on behalf of common Bible development. He said that, according to three specialists who examined him, the optic nerve was completely destroyed when he fell down a marble staircase in June 1975.

The 53-year-old priest attributed the return of about three-fourths of his sight in the damaged eye to Kateri Tekakwitha, the so-called Lily of the Mohawks, who died in Canada almost 300 years ago. Father Abbott said he suddenly regained partial sight in his left eye after he and some friends had prayed for more than a year for a miracle.

Institutes in Spanish Set for Summer

The Northeast Regional Pastoral Center for Hispanics has announced its Summer Institutes for pastoral personnel of the Spanish Speaking Apostolates of the Northeast Dioceses. The institutes will be conducted at Cathedral College, Douglaston (Queens), New York.

An Intensive Language Immersion Institute to be offered from June 27 through Aug. 5 will prepare future personnel in the Spanish language. At the same time it will offer the necessary pastoral and liturgical preparation for the carrying out of ministry with Hispanics at a local level. An optional field work program for the last three weeks of August in Puerto Rico and within a parish setting will offer supervised training in Hispanic ministry.

A Pastoral Institute is planned for four separate weeks from July 11 to Aug. 5 for personnel presently engaged in the Hispanic Apostolates of the Northeast. The courses will cover Hispanic culture, history, customs, traditions, popular religious practices

and pastoral challenges and also will include courses in liturgy, Sacred Scripture, catechesis, sociology, political reality and pastoral planning. The courses are as follows:

- July 11-15, Contemporary Hispanic Ministry.
- July 18-22, The Church and the Puerto Rican.
- July 25-29, Formation and Christian Leadership.
- Aug. 1-5, Course for Catechists.

The Northeast Regional Pastoral Center for Hispanics was formed as a result of a regional "encuentro" of the Hispanic Apostolates of 36 northeastern dioceses. Its purpose is to offer service to member dioceses and coordinate apostolic responsibilities.

Mario J. Paredes is executive director of the center. Anyone wishing more information should contact the Northeast Regional Pastoral Center for Hispanics, 487 Park Ave., New York, N.Y. 10022, (212) 751-7045.



'No, No, Nanette'

Students at Blessed Trinity School, Auburn, scored a success when they presented the 1920 musical "No, No, Nanette" on March 29 and 30 at the Cayuga County Community College. The cast included Maureen Fitzgerald, Melinda Muldoon, Martha Morabito, James Sharples, Mark Oropallo, John Welch, Kathleen Rice, Mary Beth Evans, Christina Bauso, Susan Palombella, Roger Valentino, Rose Lisano and Jill Losani.

Corpus Christi Back in Action

The school whose closing was predicted two weeks ago is registering for its Fall semester next week. Corpus Christi School, now under the fiscal management of a group of parents whose children attend, will be open for registration April 20 through 22, during the school hours. According to Mrs. Phil Malone, secretary at the school and wife of the man who heads the parents' group, parents who cannot register their children during school hours may call for an evening appointment.

Late last week Phil Malone sounded like a happy man. He has been trying for the past several weeks to keep the school from closing — and it looks like he might be winning that battle.

Last week he met with Msgr. George Cocuzzi to present a plan whereby Corpus Christi would no

longer be a parish school, but a private school incorporated within the Diocese of Rochester. Catholic doctrine will be taught and Sisters of St. Joseph will help staff the institution. It also will operate under the direction of the diocese.

Msgr. Cocuzzi accepted the plan. Now it's up to Malone and his group of parents to provide the funds to make it work.

In a telephone interview, Malone spoke of a number of plans to raise funds for the maintenance of the school properties, including a general appeal to all Corpus Christi alumni to send in one dollar. These plans are being discussed this week and next as Malone convenes meetings and describes to other parents the burdens placed upon them by the new arrangements.



Spring Party in Offing

The Parents Association of Our Lady of Mercy High School will hold their annual Spring Card Party on Thursday, April 28 from 11-3 p.m. in the high school gym. Tickets are \$2.50 per person with a special rate of \$2 for senior citizens. The price includes a luncheon. Tickets may be obtained by calling 288-7100, or purchased at the door.

O'Hair Petition Does NOT Exist

Washington, D.C. (RNS) — The Federal Communications Commission has been getting lots of mail for some two years — more than 5 million letters at the rate of 8,000 a day — mostly in reference to a non-existent petition supposedly submitted to the FCC to ban religious programs and stations.

The FCC mailroom gets bags and bags of letters from people asking the FCC to keep this "Atheist, Madalyn Murray O'Hair" from her allegedly "devious scheme" of eliminating religion from America's airwaves.

Mrs. O'Hair has NOT — repeat NOT — done any such thing. She never did file a petition with the FCC to prevent religious broadcasting or preaching over the radio.

Still the letters keep coming, day after day, week after week. And nothing so far has been successful in stopping the deluge. The story has been debunked many times — unsuccessfully.

Actually the FCC did receive a petition filed by others in December 1974 but it denied the petition unanimously in August 1975 after being flooded with by for the largest outpouring of mail on an FCC proceeding in its history on the petition which actually only proposed curtailing further assignments of FM educational frequencies to religious radio stations. The petition did not attempt to prohibit religious programming.

And Madalyn Murray O'Hair had nothing to do with it.

Richard E. Wiley, FCC chairman, estimates that some \$600,000 in postage

has been spent on sending the mail to the FCC. At first the FCC responded with a form letter but it has long ceased doing that except for "sporadically answering some of the letters, as required," said the spokesman.

"It's absolutely the most frustrating thing that's ever happened here," Wiley said. "If you can do anything to help, we'd just be ever so grateful."

COMMUNION BREAKFAST

The Monroe County Chapter of the Catholic War Veterans and Auxiliary will hold its 30th annual Mass and Communion Breakfast on Sunday, April 24, according to County Commander Ralph Edwards. Mass at 9:15 a.m. at St. Jerome's Church will be followed by breakfast in the Town and Country Dinner Theater. Tickets for the breakfast are available by calling Norbert Frumusa at 586-3385 before April 17.

ARMS CONTROL

U.S. Secretary of Defense Harold Brown, winner of the 1976 Joseph C. Wilson award for achievement in international affairs, will speak at 8 tonight in the Eastman Theatre on nuclear arms control. The public is invited, free of charge. The announcement from the University of Rochester describes the talk as "major."

FASHION SHOW

Fashions for men and women will be shown at 8 p.m. Monday, April 18, at St. Jude's parish hall, under the auspices of the Marian League. Television's Ron De France will be commentator.

MISSION GUILD

The Catholic Mission Guild has scheduled a luncheon card party for 12:30 p.m. April 13 at the Knights of Columbus clubrooms, Thurston Road at Brooks.

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