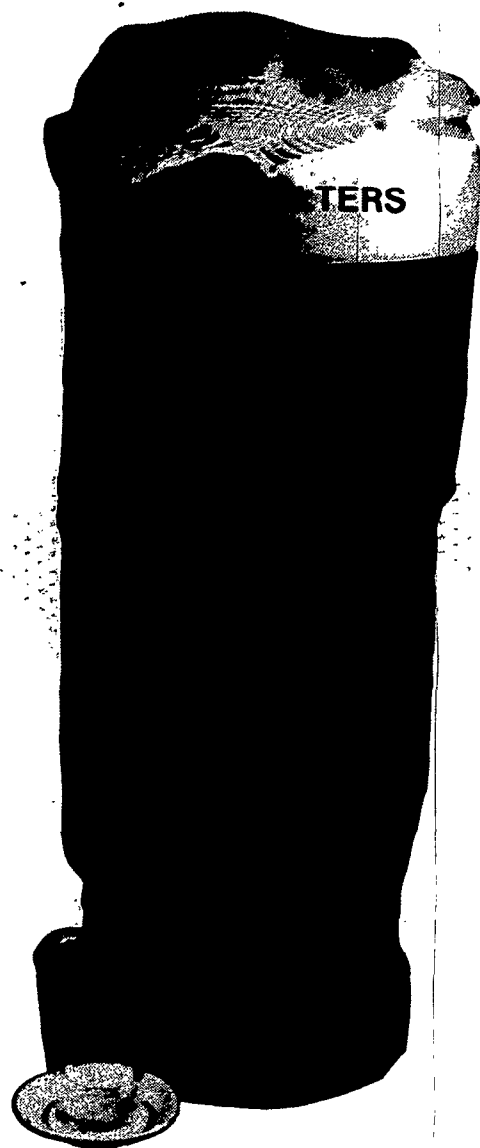


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THE CATHOLIC JOURNAL



Filter Fund Nears Goal

The Courier-Journal filter campaign is quickly moving toward its goal of helping 1,800 families in Vila Bella, Brazil. As of press time, \$16,230, enough to help 1,623 families, had been sent in by diocesans touched by the plight of their impoverished Brazilian brothers and sisters.

The campaign aims at purchasing water filters for needy families in Brazil. The filters cost \$10 apiece.

In Vila Bella families get

their drinking water from communal, outdoor spigots. The filters will enable them to run the water through the mechanism thus clearing the water of worm organisms which constitute the most prevalent disease among children in the area.

Sister Katherine, SSJ, a Rochester missionary in Brazil will supervise distribution of the filters. Recipients will be required to attend three classes on their use and on other aspects of personal hygiene before acquiring the filters.

Busing Solved . . . Temporarily

BY JOAN M. SMITH

Like a hurricane suddenly soothed, the parochial/private school busing crisis was averted on June 13 when the Rochester City School Board received new money in the sum of \$1.4 million and restored the busing funds to the 1977-78 educational budget.

The storm had been brewing since April when the school board announced its dropping funds for transporting parochial and private school students outside the city. The new funds, however, which according to reports were received from a budget surplus, unexpected state aid for handicapped students and new federal aid based on the unem-

ployment rate allowed \$448,359 to be reinstated for transportation.

"It wasn't a complete surprise," stated Sister Roberta Tierney, superintendent of the Rochester Diocesan Schools. "They (the city school board members) were concerned about the issue and were looking for other funds." But she emphasized that the united efforts of the concerned people who protested against such a cut "had a definite effect," making the board look a little harder for alternate money.

Though the turn of events is gratifying, the issue is far from settled. The newly acquired money is for the 1977-78 school year only,

and unless drastic changes in certain areas can be managed, confrontations will continue to arise at budget time.

According to Sister, the diocesan office doesn't intend sitting back and waiting to see what happens next year. "We will definitely be seeking advice from state legislators."

"Areas to be probed will be the possibility of having the city receive its busing reimbursement during the current operating year. Also, there will be a look into the mandatory law which governs suburban district busing, and the possibility of changing it to encompass city school districts. As Sister pointed out, New York State cities tend to have

educational budget confrontation because of the state formats under which city school districts operate.

Along this line and in face of the disagreements between City Council and the school board, officials have suggested changes in the school board's status; to have the board completely under city government with its members appointed by the city or have it separated from the government, like suburban districts, which would open to resident voting the proposed budgets.

Sister said she would like to see more study and debate on both these alternatives before any changes were made.

We Have a New Saint

John Nepomucene Neumann, fourth bishop of Philadelphia, was proclaimed a saint last Sunday in a ceremony in St. Peter's Square. Joining Pope Paul VI in the rites were the bishops of several Eastern United States dioceses where this first American male saint worked in the middle decades of the 19th century.

Cardinal Frantisek Tomasek of Prague, Czechoslovakia, represented the naturalized American's homeland. Also concelebrating with the Pope was Father Joseph Pfab, CSSR, superior general of the Redemptorist Order which Bishop Neumann had joined after some years in the secular priesthood.

When the outdoor canonization rites ended, Masses were celebrated in three of the Eternal City's basilicas that St. John Neumann had visited in 1854.

Across the sea, many more Masses were offered in places associated with the life history of the new saint. In the Rochester diocese, where the newly-ordained Father Neumann stopped for a week in 1836, on his way to the Niagara Frontier, and where he first exercised his priestly functions, Masses were celebrated at Sacred Heart Cathedral and at the Redemptorists' Canandaigua retreat house. In Philadelphia, three sites sacred to his memory were the scenes of celebration — the motherhouse of a Franciscan community of nuns he founded, his tomb at St. Peter's Church and the Cathedral Basilica of St. Peter and Paul, the construction of which he supervised.

Among the Philadelphia celebrants was the Apostolic Delegate, Archbishop Jean Jadot. Cardinal John Krol, a successor of Bishop Neumann, was in Rome to take part in the

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An outdoor procession opened the Cathedral celebration last Sunday afternoon of the canonization of St. John Neumann. Walking ahead of Bishop John E. McCafferty is Father James May, CSSR, of Our Lady of Victory/St. Joseph's, representing the order to which Bishop Neumann belonged.

Guatemala Bishops Split with Prelate

Guatemala City (RNS) — A split in Guatemala's Catholic Church leadership has been widened by a statement by the bishops of the country which contradicts a recent directive by Cardinal Mario Casariego of Guatemala City ordering his clergy to avoid political involvement.

During their recent regular meeting, the 10 bishops — excluding the cardinal — declared that communism and class warfare are not caused by clergy promoting human rights.

The bishops said that violence and repression are caused instead by the "ongoing abysmal inequalities (in society) and the absence of daring and urgent reforms."

The statements of the bishops, which clearly contradicted earlier stands taken by Cardinal Casariego, closely resembled the positions taken by the Confederation of Religious of Guatemala which objected to the cardinal's call for "silence" in the face of injustice.

In July 1976, Cardinal Casariego disavowed a pastoral letter by the other bishops which called for a fairer distribution of land and wealth among the nation's poor farmers and for an end to unjust social structures.

The bishops, whose president is Bishop Juan Gerardi Condera of Santa Cruz de Quiche, made no mention of the cardinal's position in their statement. But they expressed their concern over the lack of

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A Last Visit

Just one day before he died, Bishop Casey was visited by two old friends. He had heard from his secretary that Bishop John McCafferty, pastor of Sacred Heart Cathedral, and Father James Marvin, pastor of St. Ambrose and former associate pastor at Sacred Heart, were attending a meeting in New York City and wondered if they could visit him. "I'd like to see those guys," he said. He did.

Father Marvin said that the bishop was calm and serene. He had just announced his retirement as Bishop of Paterson Diocese and that "he was at peace with himself."

"The bishop told us that he had always asked people who could no longer perform their duties to step

down. He always worried about whether or not he'd be able to practice what he preached," Father Marvin said.

"He felt at peace because he had indeed resigned and both Bishop McCafferty and I gave Bishop Casey a lot of credit for following his own beliefs," Father Marvin said.

Bishop Casey joked with his two friends saying he "hoped the great Personnel Director would be kind to him," and "Thank God, no more meetings."

Father Marvin reported that the bishop was quite lucid, that he remembered many names and asked about many of the people he had known and worked with during his years in Rochester.