



Double Winners

In above photo, Aquinas graduates Ted Mooney class of '50 and Paul Tuttle, '52, are being congratulated by Father Thomas Miller, Alumni coordinator, for their class efforts in the 1977 Alumni Appeal Fund Drive. Their respective classes were declared double winners as they were separated by only \$19 in total proceeds.

Vorster Triumphs In South Africa

Johannesburg — Prime Minister John Vorster's ruling National Party was returned to power in national elections with a larger majority than it received three years ago.

The party received approximately 70 per cent of the votes of 1.2 million voters, up from its 1974 total of 55 per cent. South Africa's 18.6 million blacks do not have the right to vote.

Early returns indicated that the National Party had been given 107 seats in the 165-seat Parliament, 12 of them won from opposition parties. The Progressive-Federal Party had 16, the

New Republic Party 7, and the South African Party 3.

Radclyffe Cadman, leader of the New Republic Party, was defeated by his Durban constituents, but Colin Eglin, leader of the Progressive-Federal Party, won in his Capetown district. He now is the official leader of the parliamentary opposition.

Also reelected was the Progressive-Federal Party's veteran member of Parliament, Helen Suzman of Johannesburg, who has been a leading critic of the government's race policies.

In June, the United Party, traditionally the party of English-speaking voters,

disbanded. The opposition since then had been divided between the New Republic and Progressive-Federal Parties. The latter now has replaced the United Party as the leading opposition party.

In a television interview, Prime Minister Vorster said, "I think that the electorate has spoken louder than any men could have spoken. I think people will take note not only of the resistance as far as South Africans are concerned, but of the determination with which South Africa will resist if attacked under any circumstances."

The Post, a black newspaper, had told its readers that it would not report the vote. In an election day editorial Dec. 1, the Post said, "We don't believe you're interested. We certainly aren't. For blacks of this country the election must surely rate as the non-event of the year."

Pope Hails Ties With Poland

Vatican City (RNS) — In his unprecedented meeting with Edward Gierek, Poland's Communist leader, Pope Paul strongly affirmed the Church's significant role in the history of Poland and declared that the Church is still making "positive contributions to the educational and moral values of the country."

The pontiff also stressed that the "Catholic Church does not ask privileges for itself, but only wants to be free and to be allowed to carry out the mission which is properly its own — to proclaim the Gospel of Jesus Christ."

Following private talks that included several Polish government and Vatican dignitaries, the pope reminded Gierek that from its very beginning, Poland has been "impregnated with Christianity" and has constantly maintained close ties with the Vatican.

"Still today, one of the characteristics of Polish life is its relationship with the Catholic Church and the Holy See," the pontiff noted. "We believe we can calmly affirm that the Catholic Church has acted in a positive way in the interest and not only the religious interest, of all the Polish people."

Gierek was the first leader of Poland's Communist regime to meet with a pope.

Lourdes Hall Open House Set Dec. 11

Lourdes Hall, the new infirmary of the Sisters of Mercy will open its doors to the general public from 2 to 5 p.m. on Sunday, Dec. 11.

The sisters for whom the infirmary was built will move into their new quarters the day following.

According to Sister Jean Marie Kearse, chairperson of the open house, Lourdes Hall will be dedicated and blessed in a private ceremony by Father Robert Kennedy earlier that day.

The fund drive which the sisters conducted this past

spring and summer, gathered \$457,000 in pledges, according to the general chairman of the drive, Mrs. Philip Fitzsimmons.

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