

Louisiana Diocese

Bishop Orders End To Discrimination

ALEXANDRIA, La. — (NC) — Bishop Charles P. Greco of Alexandria has called for an end to discriminatory practices in Catholic Churches under his jurisdiction and announced that Catholic schools in some areas will be desegregated in September.

In a letter released to the press three days before and then read at Masses in churches and chapels serving the 89,000 Catholics of the northern Louisiana diocese, Bishop Greco reiterated an appeal in a previous letter that Catholics "cast off the yoke of prejudices and willingly and calmly accept desegregation, out of love of God and in conformity with the requirements of good citizenship."

Elaborating on the injunction "to discontinue discrimination in our churches," the statement referred to segregated seating and segregated procedures for receiving Holy Communion which, though discontinued in some churches, still exist in others.

"If we hope to live as brothers

of Christ, we must be willing to pray to Him as brothers of one another," the letter stated.

DISCRIMINATION "IN education, housing, voting, job opportunity and public accommodations" does not "conform to God's law of justice and love," the Bishop pointed out.

Announcement of desegregation of Catholic schools was expected in view of several court suits introduced in various parts of the diocese to desegregate public schools.

"Because of the closely knit method of operation of our Catholic schools with the public schools, in most parts of our diocese, it will be our policy beginning with the 1965-66 school year, to desegregate some of our Catholic schools as the public schools desegregate, according to a pattern which we will shortly announce," the letter said.

THE POLICY of desegregating Catholic schools in conjunction with court orders desegregating public school facilities has been followed by many Southern dioceses. The Diocese of Alexandria is the last diocese in the South to have public schools within its borders desegregated.

Of his approach to racial matters, Bishop Greco observed: "We have prayed for God's light and guidance and have taken counsel with clergy and laity and have endeavored to act when and how the cause of God, of His Church and of His people of all races would best be served, always bearing in mind that the good of souls must be the supreme law."

Previous pastoral statements on racial matters were issued by Bishop Greco in July 1963, and, together with other Louisiana prelates, in July 1964.

Pope Sends Lion Cubs To Brescia

Rome, Italy — (NC) — Because Vatican City suffers from a lack of lion cages and keepers, Pope Paul VI has sent two lion cubs to his home town of Brescia. The cubs were a goodwill gift from the Indian state of Gujarat.

The Pope made the gift to Mayor Bruno Boni of Brescia in a special ceremony in the Vatican's Consistorial Hall attended by a delegation from Brescia, by members of Rome's Indian community, and the cubs themselves.

At the end of the audience the cubs were taken in tow by the director of the Brescia zoo, Giuseppe Riccarand.



UNITED CHURCH OF CHRIST'S Eden Seminary, Webster Groves, Mo., conferred honorary degrees (June 4) on Joseph Cardinal Ritter of St. Louis and two ministers of the church, Rev. Roland H. Pantermuehl of New Orleans (left), and Rev. Hartland H. Helmich of New York City. Cardinal Ritter also delivered the main address, perhaps the first time a U.S. Cardinal has been honored in this fashion by a Protestant seminary.

Pope Urges World to Accept Faith

PISA, Italy — (NC) — Speaking to a world dazzled by the exploits of science, Pope Paul VI challenged it to accept on faith the doctrine of the Eucharist, surpassing the capabilities of the scientific mind.

His platform was Italy's National Eucharistic Congress, whose theme—God with Us—he transformed into an eloquent discourse on the mystery of Christ's presence in the Blessed Sacrament.

His stage was this ancient city of Pisa, renowned for its scholars and scientists, among them the celebrated Galileo, to whom the Pope paid public tribute.

With deliberate gravity, Pope


Paul bore witness to the doctrine of Christ's real presence in the Eucharist with "the complete assurance which our apostolic teaching office authorizes us to profess—in fact, obliges us."

He did this, he said, "to strengthen the practice of this authentic devotion, nourished by the Gospel and theological doctrine . . . and to dissipate a few uncertainties which have arisen in recent times from the attempt to give an elusive interpretation to

the traditional and authoritative doctrine of the Church concerning a matter of such importance."

The Pope's almost ominous phrasing suggested his preoccupation with the danger of heresy in the area of Eucharistic theology. Though he did not specify, some observers felt it was a reference to recent efforts—many by competent theologians—to conform the phrasing of doctrine with new scientific interpretations of substances such as bread and wine.

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