

### Gives Blessing



**POPE PAUL VI** bestows his blessing from a window of his study in the Apostolic Palace (Dec. 10) in Vatican City on a throng gathered in St. Peter's Square despite cold, rainy weather. (NC Photos)

### Medical Course At Sacred Heart Held Superior

Belmont — The American Association of Medical Assistants, Inc., with headquarters in Chicago, has listed Sacred Heart College among those whose courses in the training of medical assistants are superior.

The AAMA is engaged in a long-range endeavor to establish an approval program for the training of medical assistants.

A set of minimum essentials will probably be presented to the AMA Council on Medical Education next year. Aiding in this effort are Ralph Kuhl, head of AMA's Department of Allied Medical Professions and Services, and Dr. Kenneth Skaggs of the American Association of Junior Colleges.

This project is being carried on as a means of helping the nation's overburdened physicians obtain competent and efficient medical assistants.

Representatives of the National Advisory Board and of the Certifying Board plan to survey the work at Sacred Heart College in a two-day visit scheduled in the near future.



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### Pope Urges

## Remember the Poor At Christmas

Vatican City — (NC) — Pope Paul VI has urged Christians to avoid making Christmas too luxurious this year and forgetting the needs of the poor.

The Pope appeared at his studio window above St. Peter's Square for his usual Sunday noon blessing despite the rain and a cold wave. His Sunday talk was a bit longer than usual and was devoted to the observance of Christmas.

While appreciating the exchange of gifts "on this unique and great day of Christmas which marks the decisive date for the salvation of the world and for each one of us," the Pope also called his listeners' attention to other aspects of the feast day.

## Invites Pilgrims To Israel Shrines

Jerusalem, Israel — In spite of threats by Arab terrorist groups, the Franciscan custody of the Holy Land still encourages pilgrims to come to the holy places under Israeli control.

The Arab guerrilla organization, Al Fatah, issued a warning in early December that foreigners were risking their lives if they visited holy places in Israeli-occupied Jordan.

The organization's statement, published in Beirut, Lebanon, newspapers said that Al Fatah would attempt to spare the holy places from damage, but warned that "the safety of individuals will not be secure."

The Franciscan custody of the Holy Land, which has the task of preserving the faith and guarding the holy places, regards the threats as propaganda. No special difficulty for pilgrims to the holy places is anticipated. Various border incidents do not affect visits to holy places around Jerusalem, Bethlehem and Nazareth. Incidents always seem more serious abroad, especially since people do not distinguish between Suez and Jerusalem, or the Syrian border and Bethlehem, which are far apart. Even across the River

"Permit us to recall to you," the Pope said, "two things most beloved sons and daughters: First, do not let Christmas be too luxurious and only an external holiday, an occasion of immoderate dissipation or of wasteful luxury and superfluous vanity enjoyed at the expense of others. Let us recall that the true richness of Christmas is an interior and religious one.

"And, secondly, let us remember on Christmas the needs of our neighbors. Let no one forget the poor on the day of the poverty of Christ, but let each search out and find a means of doing some good deed on this holy and most human holiday. Mary is watching us."

After his talk the Pope led the crowd in the recitation of the Angelus. In all, he was at the window for 10 minutes and lingered to acknowledge with raised hands the cheers and applause of those in the square below.

Jordan, incidents are in more remote places north of Jericho. When danger exists, the public is forbidden access to the river.

## DIOCESAN NEWS BRIEFS

### Committee Work on Senate

Raleigh — Six members of the Priest's Senate met informally here last week to formulate the recommendations made to established committees in view of the formal Senate meeting scheduled at the Bishops residence on next Thursday afternoon, December 21. Work was done on the Clergy Personnel Committee; Committee on Clerical In-Training Education; Clergy Assistance and Retirement and a proposed guideline for the organization. The following were in attendance: The Very Rev. Michael A. Carey, V.F., The Very Rev. Charles J. O'Connor and the Rev's H. Charles Mulholland, J. Paul Byron, Donald F. Staib and Frederick A. Koch.

### Parish Benefits by Concert

Millbrook — A Christmas Concert of sacred music was heard at St. Raphael's church here last week. The program was directed by Mr. Al Ruocchio and donations were used toward the improvement of the kneeling benches. The C.F.M. couples of the parish also recently held an open house for newcomers to the parish. Sponsoring couples were: The Clark Edwards, William Shields, Harry Bowmans, Ernie Costas, Keith Benbows and the James Loftus.

### Parishioners Donate Clothing

Wake Forest — Seventeen cartons of clothing in good repair were shipped to the Catholic Relief Services by the women of this parish in cooperation with women of the Methodist church in the community. Mdmes Orah Lee Gill, Sue Byrne, Imogene Giresiedeck and Beven Anderson, packed and forwarded the cartons. The parish also collected twenty-five dollars toward shipping expenses.

### Raleigh Parish Sends Aid

Raleigh — Over 500 pounds of clothing was sorted and forwarded to Catholic Relief Services from Our Lady of Lourdes parish here. The work was largely the efforts of Mr. and Mrs. Lawrence Mahinske and volunteer efforts on the part of individual women.

### Mountain Area Teenagers Meet

Sylva — Forty-three teenagers took part in a day of "renewal" held at St. Marys church here. It was the largest senior high school group to assemble for such a program in the western area of the diocese. A discussion period led by Sister Miriam and Kathleen of St. John's school in Waynesville, also involved the young people. The Reverend Frank Korzinek, pastor, and the Reverend Joseph Bumann, were present. Other parishes represented by the young people were: Murphy, Franklin, Bryson City and Andrews.

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