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Committee to Examine IHM Dispute

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Vatican City — (NC) — The Congregation for Religious and Secular Institutes has designated a special committee to examine the issues affecting the Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, Los Angeles.

The Immaculate Heart Sisters were recently told by the congregation to drop several parts of their renewal program. The congregation's ruling stopped action on changes from religious to lay clothes, the elimination of set community prayers and the de-emphasis of the order's teaching apostolate.

The members of the new committee are: Archbishop James V. Casey of Denver, president; Bishop Thomas A. Donellan of Ogdensburg, N.Y.; Auxiliary Bishop Joseph Breitenbeck of Detroit, and Father Thomas R. Gallagher, O.P., consultor of the Congregation of Religious and secretary at the apostolic delegation in the United States.

Diocese Signs Teacher Wage Contract

Cleveland — (NC) — The Cleveland diocesan board of education has agreed to a starting pay of \$5,800 for high school teachers with bachelor degrees.

The wage scale agreement — first of its kind in the diocese — was announced by Msgr. Richard E. McHale, superintendent of schools; Msgr. William N. Novicky, assistant superintendent in charge of high schools, and Patrick J. Bruening, president of Cleveland High School and Academy Lay Teachers Association (CHALTA).

The agreement covers 188 lay teachers in 13 high schools for which the diocese is responsible. CHALTA will now begin negotiations for lay teachers at 23 independent schools which are operated by religious orders.

Episcopal Bishop Urges Rome Meeting

San Francisco—(NC)—An Episcopal bishop has proposed that the leaders of all Christian faiths meet at the Vatican this summer to deal with mankind's four major problems — war, poverty, racism and unbridled technology.

Bishop C. Kilmer Myers of California asked for a merger of the scheduled summer meetings of the Lambeth Conference of Anglican bishops and the World Council of Churches. He urged that the two groups meet at the Vatican — instead of the planned sites of London for the Anglicans and Uppsala, Sweden for the WCC—and confer with Pope Paul VI and bishops of the Roman Catholic Church.

Plan National Lay-Religious Group

St. Louis — (NC) — The possible formation of a national coalition of concerned Catholics will be discussed at a meeting here by some 100 laymen, Religious and priests representing various national organizations and fields of scholarship.

The meeting — planned by the National Committee on Catholic Concerns — will open April 25, the day on which the U.S. Catholic bishops will conclude a national meeting here.

Among organizers of the meeting are Matthew Ahmann, National Catholic Conference for Interracial Justice; James Colaianni, the Liturgical Conference; Thomas Cornell, Catholic Peace Fellowship; Mr. and Mrs. Patrick Crowley, Christian Family Movement; Robert Duggan, National Association for Pastoral Renewal; Dennis Landis; National Association of Laymen; Msgr. John Tracy Ellis, University of San Francisco, and Sister Mary Luke Tobin, Sisters of Loretto.

School Board to Hire Sisters

Wabasha, Minn. — (NC) — The Wabasha school board has offered contracts to three School Sisters of Notre Dame to teach in the city's public school system next year.

The offer followed an announcement that grades seven to 12 of St. Felix school here will close. Some 280 students will be affected. The Wabasha board also signed a leasing

The Wabasha board also signed a leasing agreement of more than \$51,000 to use the facilities of St. Felix school and gymnasium.

If the nuns sign the teaching contracts, they will not be allowed to wear their religious habits while teaching.

The Sisters' contracts offer them salaries the same as those of other teachers. The district offers holders of bachelor degrees at a \$6,000 base salary, and teachers with master degrees a \$6,600 base.

Poll on Church and Politics

Princeton, N.J. — (NC) — Fifty-three percent of persons interviewed in a recent Gallup poll said that churches should avoid involvement in political and social issues.

Forty-percent felt that the churches should express views on social and political issues and 7 percent had no opinion.

It was found that more Catholics than Protestants think the churches should not become involved with social and political issues and more men than women hold this view.



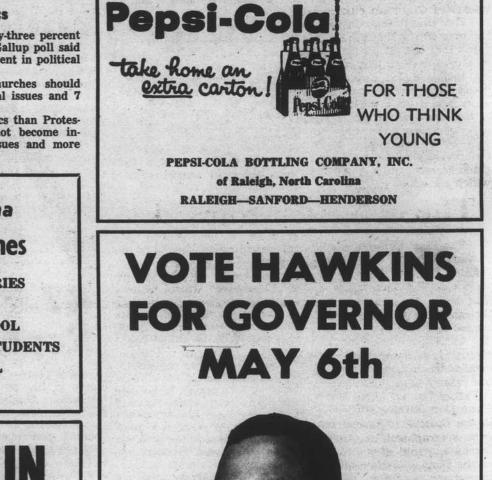
Bishop Sydney M. Metzger of El Paso, Texas, led more than 1,000 Mexican-American residents of El Paso's southside district in a Palm Sunday procession through the tenement area, following a Mass to ask God's guidance on the people's efforts to gain employment and better housing. (NC Photo)

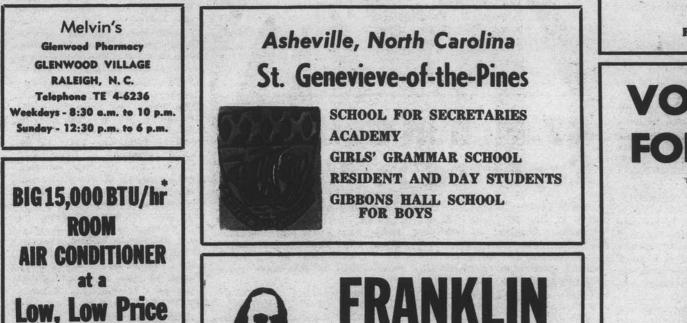
Archbishop Regrets Priest Suspension

San Francisco — (NC) — Archbishop Joseph T. McGucken of San Francisco has expressed regret over an incident involving the suspension of Father John Maguire, a 27-year-old former assistant pastor.

"I hated to suspend him," the archbishop said. "He is the first priest I have had to suspend in my seven years in San Francisco. ... I'm still hoping that he will change his views." Father Maguire expressed views seemingly not in harmony with traditional Church teaching on such matters as the physical resurrection of Christ, the Real Presence, and the virgin birth. He also officiated without permission at a wedding at the Lutheran Church of the Messiah.

"Permission for this could have been worked out — if it had been arranged properly," Archbishop McGucken stated.







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