

WHAT PRICE NEW CATHOLIC CHURCH?

In The Carolina Times, issue of September 11, we published an editorial in which we charged that "there is something rotten in the Catholic Church in Durham. At the time we felt that in view of the Pastoral Letter, issued by Bishop Vincent S. Waters on June 12, 1953, in which he declared that, "There is no segregation of races to be tolerated in any Catholic Church in the Diocese of Raleigh," that the Catholic Church in Durham was a rebellious unit, defying the orders of its Bishop to abolish segregation in the Churches of the Diocese of Raleigh. We thought that Father Charles J. O'Conner, pastor of the Immaculate Conception Catholic Church, of this city might be one of those rare individuals who, possessing a conviction, is willing to pay whatever the price to stand by it, and that in spite of Bishop Waters' letter he (Father O'Conner) would admit no Negro children, Catholic or non-Catholic, to the Immaculate School in Durham. We therefore, expected by this time that the heavy hand of the Bishop would have been laid on Father O'Conner for deliberately disobeying the orders of his superior.

For all of these blunders we wish to apologize to our readers. We were wrong, as wrong as we have ever been in diagnosing a case of this sort. Father O'Conner is not a rebellious sort, he is not defying the Bishop nor is he out of line with past Catholic procedure in matters of this kind. On the other hand, Father O'Conner and Bishop Waters are playing in perfect style the ancient role of the Catholic Church as it pertains to Negroes. For one needs only to go back in history to discover that the Catholic Church per se has done little or nothing to advance the cause of the Negro

as a free man in the United States or anywhere else. Like the white Protestant church, then and now, it has stood idly by, winking at "wrongs perpetrated against Negroes, as in the case of Bishop Cirillo, of the Catholic church, referred to in a letter to the editor, published in the September 18 issue of this newspaper. It was this high official of the Catholic Church who in 1874 raised not one finger against the execution of Negro slaves, even Catholic ones, who were courageous enough to strike blows for their own freedom. Only about in spots and in a few isolated cases has the white church, Catholic or Protestant, ever raised a feeble finger in protest against slavery, segregation or any other wrongs perpetrated against Negroes.

So the pastoral letter of Bishop Waters, hailed by Negroes, as a kind of second Declaration of Human Rights, so far as Durham Negroes both Catholic and non-Catholic are concerned, turns out to be just so much sounding brass and tinkling cymbals. Bishop Waters may not have feet of clay but the big toe that sticks through his ragged Catholic sock into Durham is one of mud.

This newspaper has a well-founded suspicion that the Bishop of the Diocese of Raleigh has capitulated to the Church of the Immaculate Conception in Durham. For it would not be unlike certain of its members, we know, to threaten to withdraw their children if in the name of Christianity, or Catholicism, human brotherhood is practiced by admitting Negro children to the Immaculate School. It would not be unlike them to refuse to contribute to the effort now going on to raise \$150,000 to erect a new Catholic church edifice in Durham.

Thus it now appears that to make safe the \$150,000 goal the Diocese of Raleigh has set up an oasis of segregation in Durham where business as usual will be done at the same old stand and where Negro Catholic children will be sold down the river for a new \$150,000 church structure. Like the Roman soldiers of old who cast lots for the coat of Jesus, these Roman Catholic soldiers of now are gambling with their souls for \$150,000. In the game they are playing, they cannot have both. For in the end, if they achieve the \$150,000 goal, at the sacrifice of standing up for the brotherhood of man, they are bound to lose their souls and if they chose brotherhood, they are bound to lose the \$150,000. BEFORE, ETERNAL GOD THE Y CANNOT HAVE BOTH.

Deep, deep are the roots of race hatred, of white supremacy, deeper than the roots of Catholicism or Christianity in the most of our white folks. So we see at the Church of the Immaculate Conception and at that monstrous enigma, the Holy Cross mission on Alston avenue, a joining of hands by Father O'Conner and that notorious apostle of white supremacy, Father John A. Risacher, in an unholy covenant to keep Negroes out of the Immaculate School in Durham.

Just how long the several upright Negro Catholics in this city can stomach this rotten condition, we do not know. We do know, however, that their present plight is no different from that of others of their race in the past who have usually found that the Catholic church is not the wealthiest church in the world by divine ordination, but because its high church officials are more often hungrier for the flesh pots than they are for the spirit.

WORK FOR McCARTHY AND HIS COMMITTEE

You read in this newspaper last week that students and other young people of Asia are keeping a close watch on the efforts of the southern states of this country to defy the Supreme Court's ruling on segregation in public schools. You read later in the daily press that several of the southern states will fight to the bitter end to maintain segregation and that the state of Georgia, under the leadership of Governor Herman Talmadge, spitting defiance at the Supreme Court of the United States, will abolish public schools in that state rather than obey its orders. You also read that Louisiana will attempt to disbar NAACP lawyers representing 39 Negroes who attempted to register at a white school in that state and that Mississippi ended a special session of its legislature at which a constitutional amendment was passed which will allow the legislature to abolish public schools in that state, provided the voters will approve the measure on December 21.

You also read in these columns a few weeks ago that Mrs. Annie Lee Moss, a former Durham woman, working for the U. S. Government in Washington has been suspended from her job and dragged into court a second time under very questionable evidence charging her with having been at one time connected with communism. You will recall that Mrs. Moss is one of several victims of Senator Joseph R. McCarthy, whose job it is to run down any and all disloyal persons in this country.

When you read of how diligent and aggressive Senator

McCarthy and his committee have been in pursuing their work you will then wonder how in the name of high heaven they have allowed men like Governor Talmadge, Governor Byrnes and other high officials of southern states to escape. They are not only defying the highest court in the land but are furnishing the communist and the colored peoples of the world with first hand information about what southern states are doing to uphold white supremacy and prevent equality and human dignity from becoming the right of 15 million non-white Americans in the United States. If the action of these high official in southern states is not giving aid to the enemy then we would like to know what is?

As the line is drawn tighter and tighter between peoples of the free world and those of the communist world, and millions of colored people in Asia, Africa and South America sit on the fence watching developments, we need not wonder if communism is chosen by them as their way of life instead of democracy. For one thing is certain we in this country may as well come face to face with the fact that we cannot have white supremacy in the southern states and at the same time influence to our side badly needed allies in Asia, Africa and South America. We cannot "have our cake and eat it too."

If communism is ever stopped, as much as many southern hate to admit, it will be because of the influence of organizations like the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People that are insisting that we in the United States practice

what we preach about democracy. It will not be because of men like Talmadge, Byrnes and others who are insisting that democracy exclude 15 million Americans of color.

We think there is work here in the South for McCarthy and his committee and for the Federal Bureau of Investigation to do if the federal government is sincere about its efforts to implement democracy in the United States. For as long as men like Talmadge and Byrnes are allowed to roam at large and spit defiance in the face of the Constitution and the Supreme Court on the matter of equality for all men without regard to race, color or creed, this country may as well resolve itself unto the fate of being without outside friends and with being outnumbered in a world that is now choosing sides for a third world war that apparently many southern leaders would rather encounter than extend full citizenship to American Negro citizens.



Be which soweth sparingly shall reap also sparingly; and he which soweth bountifully shall reap also bountifully.—(II Corinthians 9, 6.)

The man or woman who is blessed with, or who develops, the quality of out-going, giving in love and helpfulness to others, never will lack good friends or the joy of achievement. The selfish person can blame but himself for his lonely unhappiness.

LETTER TO THE EDITOR

The Editor
The Carolina Times
Durham, North Carolina

Dear Sir:

In reply to a letter edited in The Carolina Times on September 18, 1954 by one J. J. Walsh, I would like to make the following commitments:

To begin with his reference to what occurred regarding the Negro slaves back in 1784 should have positively no bearing on our present day situation. Primarily, because it holds no solution to our current problems. Secondly, slavery was abolished in the year 1862 and we are now living in the ultra-modern 20th Century of Progress. Also, it is well to remember, Negroes did not enslave themselves; they were enslaved solely at the hands of the white man! Had they been accorded equal opportunities to learn and find themselves useful (to say nothing of competitive) places in this tumultuous world, I say without the slightest fear of successful contradiction, that they would not have been classified or referred to as "Savages". It is indeed unfortunate that the stigma of slavery has been carried over to our present day intelligent Negroes and rendered itself poisonous to the minds of the white population.

To get to the core of the problem maybe difficult for some, because it conflicts with their mode of living, thinking and social conduct. However, it is founded on the divine teachings of Jesus Christ himself. To ignore this fact would be to violate and defeat the whole purpose for which the Catholic church was founded.

The word Catholic means "universal" and it is under a universal theory that we are instructed explicitly these words—"One flock, one shepherd." We might assume that all Catholics unanimously agree on this fundamental truth. Meanwhile, this same thought has been established and perpetrated throughout all Catholic churches since time immemorial. But, does this mean, ironically, "one flock, one shepherd, as long as you are within the walls of the Catholic church but on departing, kindly deposit this theory on the front steps as you leave; above all, do not let it carry over into your school system and other communicable enterprises?" If this be the case, then many of us; I dare say have been pitifully and falsely instructed.

Prejudice and bigotry are against the teachings of the Divine Master as plainly illustrated in numerous ways during his sojourn here on earth. What kind of Catholicism is this we practise that permits us to love God and at the same time withdraw from our brother because he is dark in complexion or for various other intolerable excuses?

There are many white Catho-

lics and Protestants who for fear of ostracism and persecution shy away from human fellowship with the Negro. But did not Christ himself tell us the way was not an easy one? There are many obstacles to be overcome, needless to say, however, all this having been accomplished, many of us will never witness the dawn of a new Kingdom because of hatred, enmity, malice and yes, stubbornness that we harbor within the confines of our hearts: God, beyond all reasonable shadows of doubt is an ocean of mercy to tolerate, endure and forgive mity, malice and, yes, stubborn such miserable, blundering as we.

Sincerely yours,
J. J.
From another J. J.

Box 1248,
Durham, N. C.
September 24, 1954

The Editor
Carolina Times

Dear Sir:

The Durham Herald of last Saturday carried an article headed "White Christians Wrestling with Their Souls"

In this article, having to do with the attitude of the various church bodies toward the matter of de-segregation, or rather integration, of the whites and the Negroes in the churches and their various institutions, such as schools, etc., the author, Ben Price, made the statement that "The position of the Catholic Church is simple: There is no segregation before God. There shall be none in the church."

This sounds fine, but the question is, does this attitude reflect the attitude of the same church through the ages. The church claims that its head is infallible and that he, the Pope, cannot err in matters of faith and morals, when he speaks, ex cathedra, or officially from the chair of St. Peter. This church is claimed to be an unchanging church, a perfect society, and therefore, whatever has been its policy in the past, would be its policy today under like and similar circumstances.

An official Catholic Historian named Giled once wrote a book, approved by the church's proper authorities called "Catholics of the Civil War", and on page 25 thereof he says that "Bishop Martin of Natchitoches (Alexandria), a Frenchman by birth, in his letter on war dated August 12, 1861, declared that the whites as more privileged members of the human family were not only to be masters of the blacks, but also their pastors."

It seems that this was segregation of the worst order, and this is from an officially approved Catholic History. I wonder how this might be explained away by the Church's casuists.

Truly yours,
J. J. Walsh
JJW/R

"Will Not Be Stopped By Such Obstructions."



Spiritual Insight

"FAITH GIVES THE VICTORY"

BY REVEREND HAROLD ROLAND
Pastor, Mount Gilead Baptist Church



"Faith is the substance of things hoped for...the evidence of things not seen".... Hebrew 11:12.

How can you make it in a world of difficulties, failures, disappointments, tribulations, sickness, sorrow, and problems without faith? You need the inward certainty, sureness, confidence and strong conviction inspired by Faith in God. Such a faith is spiritual energy that supplements human weakness. The great souls of the ages have been under the influence of Divine power of Faith in God. It has swept great movements to success, in spite of great and difficult odds. It has moved great moral reformers, spiritual seers, scientists, medical scientists, and ordinary people who fight their battles in life's great warfare.

Faith is the power of every-day living that gives the victory amid trials and great tribulations.

A great faith gives victory in every realm of human endeavor. What would life be without faith in mother, father, sister,

brother, doctor, pharmacist, banker, and insurance man? When you take the medicine, because you have faith in the doctor who wrote the prescription and the druggist on the corner who fills it. What would life be without faith?

Faith is the power that keeps us fighting in the battles of life's warfare for our hopes, ideals, dreams and goals. Faith moves us to carry on in spite of disappointments, heartaches, sorrows and wounded souls. Faith enables us to build again above broken lives and homes. Faith keeps us fighting on in the face of great odds. Faith means that we are confident of what we hope for... "Faith is the power that enables us to make the visible out of the invisible!"

Faith keeps us fighting when we cannot see the outcome. Truly we need such a power. It keeps us fighting for our dreams and goals. We have to fight hard battles for a long time. The odds and discouragements may be great—Fight On! Men will try to block you—Fight on! Great souls have fought

through the ages to win the victory against great odds. Be not discouraged. Fight On! God will give you the victory. Say with Paul as he stood with his back against the wall in a dark hour... "I can do all things through Christ which strengthens me." My soul was stirred by the great battle of a great soul who rose above the poverty of the slums to the heights of success. How and why? This person had a vision plus faith in God. That's all you need—A dream plus Faith in God!

This should inspire struggling youths, as they go back to college to try to get ready for the realization of a dream. With health, a dream and faith in God, you can do anything.

Faith in God can lead you from the darkest depths to the highest heights of success. Remember, faith in God gave us victory on May seventeenth, after ninety years of hard, difficult battles. Faith means, we are...convinced of what we do not see... "Faith gives the victory!"

STRAIGHT AHEAD—By Olive A. Adams

NEW YORK

These few words are in defense of a universally maligned group of people—New York subway riders. It is an unsolicited testimonial to the fact that they are, contrary to popular belief, human beings. These people are depicted as something rather sub-human, and they are accused of putting on masks—the minute they start down the subway steps, not to remove them until they emerge into the sunlight again. The subways themselves are often spoken of in the same breath with the "Black Hole of Calcutta" and out-of-townners often approach them with dread.

By the time I gave up my job as escort, the children were long since able to make the trip alone. I think I gave it up regretfully, because one of my acquaintances whose name I did not know, was going through a harrowing experience with her young sisters who had been blinded by an accident and was scheduled soon for an operation which, it was hoped, would restore her sight. I have often wondered how it all came out, but now I shall never know.

it ended in eighth grade or went through graduate school. After that, the conversation developed into the back fence variety. We would hear about jobs, mean bosses, operations, family ills, and accounts of vacation trips. During the four years, I learned a lot of personal history and made the happy discovery that my children would be safe in the company of these humans who knew their "stops" as well as I did, and would help them off if necessary.

But anybody who has nothing but disparaging remarks to make about the New York subway rider simply does not have the one magic thing that can transform an otherwise grouchy subway rider into a human being—that "thing" is a child or two. Having gone up and down the 8th Avenue subway line twice a day for four long years, escorting the two lights of my life to school, I can make this report with authority.

UNITED NATIONS NOTES

By JAMES E. LAWSON
(Accredited UN Correspondent)

UNITED NATIONS, N.Y. AFRICAN DELEGATION TO THE UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY: From Ethiopia comes H. E. Yilma Deressa, Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Court of St. James, Chairman of the Delegation; J. Dudley Lawrence, Cecil D. B. King, Angie E. Brooks, W. Fred Gibson, Charles T. Bailey, B. H. Roberts and Mrs. Mae Ball. H. E. Roland, H. Cooper, Envoys Extraordinary and Minister Plenipotentiary to the Federal Republic of Germany, and George B. Stevenson will join the delegation in ten days.

The Egyptian Delegation is the Permanent Delegation, with the exception of General Mahmoud Riad, Director of the Foreign Office and Abdel Ghania, Press Officer, Egyptian Office. However, Maj. Salah Salem, Minister of Sudan Affairs, is expected to join the Delegation later.

Naturally I believed some of the myth surrounding the New York subways, and I launched upon the venture with misgivings. I was certain my children would be torn apart the first day. Imagine my astonishment when, in the midst of the mad scramble, two people stepped aside and let the children on first! We soon discovered that many of the same people catch the same train every morning, and before long they would strike up a conversation. It always started, nostalgically, with talk of school days from first grade to the bitter end, whether

WASHINGTON A
"SMALL BUSINESS"
By C. WILSON HARDER

Some Congressmen privately say one of the discouraging facets of their job is fact there is too little tendency for independent businessmen to stand on their own feet; too much dependence upon Congress acting on every situation.

It is impossible, they say, for Congress to legislate for every abuse that crops up. There should be more action along old-fashioned "The Lord helps those that help themselves."

Illustrative is present growth of discount sales clubs formed for distribution and sale of their own products. Yet, they will cut throats of retailers to "improve public relations."

In addition, manufacturers depending on retailers, are aggressively selling these discount clubs, wondering why their legitimate retail volume falls off.

"There's something wrong with the system" they say, ignoring the fact they are actively wrecking the system.

Congress has also been asked to step into chaotic auto situation to stop "bootlegging" new cars as used cars.

Franchise dealers of Big Autos have little, or nothing to say, about how many cars they will take from the factory.

But major makers racing to drive others out of business are paying little attention to the needs of the market.

Result has been that new car dealers to avoid drowning in sea of cars forced on them, wholesale to used car dealers. This practice is not a remedy; merely postpones day of reckoning.

It is understood factories have made veiled threats to remove new car advertising from newspapers not making certain classified ads for used cars are bona fide used cars.

Yet it is not duty of a newspaper to police handling of products. And there is something smacking of Kremlin methods in threats of reprisals for not conforming.

So many Congressmen would like to see both Federal Trade Commission and Justice Department knotted under with requests to enforce anti-trust laws quickly, effectively.

In addition, many in Washington feel it is high time for some agency, against which reprisals cannot be launched, to give adequate publicity to the firms who depend on retailers, yet encourage employee discount club, and on firms who depend on retailers, yet sell discount houses.

While the principle of the "blacklist" is not an American one, it has already been demonstrated that some neo-monopolistic corporations do not hesitate to employ tactics of Kremlin. This poses a moral question. "Is it better to slowly starve as gentlemen, or fight fire with fire?"

National Federation of Independent Business

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