

Ray turned gospel song into seminal 1955 R&B classic

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which has an exhibit called "I Can't Stop Loving You: Ray Charles and Country Music." "Before 'I Got a Woman' there had never been so direct and blatant a transcription of an actual gospel song," Guralnick said.

Charles' R&B smash was seen as a sacrilege by some, with preachers denouncing it from the pulpit. But Guralnick said it opened the doors for gospel-based soul singers like Otis Redding and Wilson Pickett and the Motown sound. While Charles, who died in

2004, is widely regarded an R&B legend, his lengthy legacy also extends into jazz, pop and country. As for Charles borrowing so generously from the song, Guralnick shrugged. "I wouldn't accuse Ray Charles of theft. You have to see that this stuff is out there, and it's the way



Foxx

in which it's used that gives it its originality," said Guralnick, who is a visiting professor at Vanderbilt University in Nashville. Charles' song also

was recycled. A variation of "I've Got a Woman"—sung by Jamie Foxx, who starred as Charles in the 2004 biopic movie "Ray"—starts off the 2005 hit song "Gold Digger" by Kanye West.

Church-run discount store draws bargain hunters

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store's stock is donated by big companies such as Drug Mart, Giant Eagle, American Greetings and Pat Catan's.

The mart, which has little curb appeal, opened 17 years ago in this hillside section of the industrial Flats. The neighborhood is a mix of machine shops, saloons and poor people living under bridges or in nearby public housing projects.

But a recent building boom of upscale apartments and condominiums around the ruins of an old viaduct has drawn yuppies and well-to-do baby boomers to the area.

In the face of fatter wallets, Malachi Mart has begun expanding. In January, the mart rented a warehouse next door for storage space, which will allow for expansion of its retail area.

"We want to appeal to a broader market," said store manager Roger Deike. "We want these newcomers to be our customers as well."

The mart keeps a list of 500 preferred customers, who get advance notice about special sales. But some regulars come nearly every day. "They say it's like coming to a treasure hunt," said Oglesby.

Every two weeks, Drug Mart unloads 10 skids,

stacked 6 feet high with donated stuff. The drug chain recently donated 20,000 items of name-brand makeup—eyeliner, lip gloss and nail polish.

"It's quite a laborious process, sorting through all this stuff, box by box, piece by piece," Deike said.

Much of the work is done by volunteers and young people working through job-training programs. Only four people are on the payroll. The mart last year turned over \$17,000 to the Malachi Center.

"We had a lady who came in here the other day and spent \$89 on foot scrub, makeup and school supplies," said Deike. "Another

woman recently spent \$139, mostly on food items."

Regular customers Tom and Melody Brennan of Lakewood stop in about once a week. "You never know what you're going to find," said Melody Brennan, running her hand over a fluffy bath mat. "Sometimes you see deals on perfume. I wear Halston and I found some Halston here for \$5. In other stores, it's like \$40."

Another regular is Pam Hodge, who uses the mart as sort of a wholesale supplier for her street-vending operation. She once bought a case of Cleveland Browns caps and resold them—at a

markup—outside Cleveland Browns Stadium. Last week, it was vases for her upcoming Mother's Day sale at a gas station.

"I come here all the time," she said. "I get everything I need."

On a recent day, customer Bonnie Gridley clutched a \$10 bill and watched the cash register as Deike rang up her toys and school sup-

plies. "I can't go over \$10," she said as the till hit \$8.45. Seeing she wasn't going to make it, Deike said, "I'll tell you what. We'll magically ring it up at \$10 and call the rest part of the deal."

Said Gridley, handing over the \$10: "Works for me."

After decades of decline, some Catholic convents see increase in nuns

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MIAMI—Twenty young women who want to become nuns will arrive this fall at the Dominican Sisters of Mary, Mother of the Eucharist in Michigan—so many candidates that there aren't enough beds.

Helped by aggressive marketing and a new generation of conservative Roman Catholics, convents around the country say they are experiencing an increase in applicants for the first time in decades. The women are inspired by Pope John Paul II and his defense of Catholic orthodoxy, and are seeking a life that draws them closer to God.

Anecdotal evidence about the increase has convinced the Center for Applied Research in the Apostolate, which analyzes church trends, that it should start a formal study of the growth.

"It's not a huge increase, but for a while there was hardly anybody and now there are some, so something is going on," said Mary Bendyna, executive director of CARA, based at Georgetown University.

The number of U.S. nuns dropped dramatically since its peak of about 180,000 in 1965 to 66,600 in 2006, according to CARA. The numbers will continue to decline as older nuns die, even with a recruiting surge—but the decrease could slow.

Sister Jeana Visel, a 27-year-old who joined the Sisters of St. Benedict in Ferdinand, Ind., said, "There is a real yearning for a sense of community these days among people in general," Visel says. "We're very separated from each other for all the communication devices we have."

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