Sister Bowman Tells Life Story As Black Spokesperson For Catholics

of Sister Thea Bowman will be the focus of a one-hour documentary to air Sunday, June 14, at noon on NBC-TV. "Sr. Thea: Her Own Story" relates how the only child of a phyisician and a teacher from Mississippi grew up to become an inspirational, renowned spokesperson for African-American Catholics and the power of the individual.

"You have a gift. You have a talent. Find your gift. Find your talent. And use it. You can make life better in this world, just by letting your light shine and by doing your part," Sr. Thea urges her audience.

A teacher, lecturer, and singer of tranditional gospel songs and spirituals, Sr. Thea Bowman brought the joy of life to schools, seminars, and congregations across the country. Her message was clear: Become fully who you are as a child of God. And it was a message wellreceived regardless of the ethnic, racial, or cultural background of the audience.

She was treated for breast cancer in 1984, but by then the disease had spread to her bones. The tall, commanding nun continued to teach and give workshops with vibrancy and energy, drawing capacity crowds. She was also a liturgist, writer on spirituality, and an artist.

During the last two years of her life, she was confined to a

American Red Cross President

Elizabeth Dole (center) accepts a gift

from recording artist Cissy Houston

and Phil Wild of Arista Records. The

gift is a combined contribution from

the Whitney Houston Foundation for

Children, Inc., Arista and BMG

Distribution to support the Red Cross

Gulf Crisis Fund, which is still pro-

viding aid to U.S. military personnel

and their families as well as war vic-

tims in the region. The Foundation,

Arista and BMG have donated to the

fund all of their royalties and profits

from the sale of recordings and the

WASHINGTON, D.C.—The life wheelchair., It was during this time that she "electrified the bishops of the United States," according to Cardinal Bernard Law, Archbishop of Boston, at their 1989 meeting at Seton Hall University. The final minutes of the program show her rousing the bishops to clasp arms and sing "We Shall Overcome." Cardinal Law described her as "the authentic face of reconciling love."

Through interviews with Sr. Thea as well as the wide range of people who knew her. "Sr. Thea: Her Own Story" celebrates the richness of cultural heritage as well as the gift of individuality. She describes her own ministry as "a bridge over troubled waters,' a link between McAllister cultures and communities.

Produced by Oblate Media and Communication Corp. of St. Louis, "Sr. Thea: Her Own Story" was funded by the Catholic Communication Campaign. Edward J. Murray of Oblate Media and Rev. Clarence Williams of the Black Televangelist Network are executive producers.

The Catholic Communication Campaign, an office of the United States Catholic Conference, was founded by the U.S. bishops in 1978 to spread the Gospel through the media and to support valuesoriented projects in television, radio and print. Projects are funded by an annual collection taken up in Catholic parishes around the

IN PICTURES

Spangled Banner." Whitney, unable

to join her mother for the check pre-

sentation in the nation's capital

because she is in Los Angeles shoot-

ing her first movie, said: "The

Whitney Houston Foundation is

proud to have been able to make this

contribution to the American Red

Cross. It is always a privilege for me

to sing our national anthem and be

able to do so and raise money for

such a worthwhile cause is a special

and personal honor." For further

information about the Whitney

Houston Foundation, please contact:

Red Cross Gets Major Gift

"Sr. Thea: Her Own Story" is part of an interfaith series, "Horizons of the Spirit," sponsored by the Interfaith Broadcasting Commission, Inc. Members of the IBC are the Jewish Theological Seminary of America, the National Council of Churches, the Southern Baptist Convention, and the United States Catholic Conference. The IBC has produced documentaries for NBC-TV since 1988.

Smith Temple Hears Rev.

Services began at Smith Temple Freewill Baptist Church on Sunday, April 26, with the pastor, Rev. Theodore McAllister, Jr., giving the call to worship. The Voices of Faith marched in singing "God Will Take Care of You." Following the invocation, the choir sang, "Praise Him." Ms. Attiya Taylor led the responsive reading and the affirmation of faith. The next song was "Perfect Praise," more commonly referred to as "O Lord! How Excellent." Ms. Nakeisha Spearman read I Peter 2:20-25 for the morning scripture lesson. Michael Brown led the morning

The Youth Ushers lifted the mission offering as the choir sang "I Found the Answer." Ms. Marilyn More read the church announcements and recognition of visitors. Rev. McAllister assembled the children of the church at the altar for Bible verses. During the general and building fund offerings, the choir sang, "For the Rest of My Life" and "Old Revival." Deacon William Canady led the offertory prayer. The pastor led the altar prayer. The choir sang "When the Praises Go Up, the Blessings Come Down."

Rev. McAllister's sermon asked the question, "Are You Really in Christ?" His text was taken from II Corinthians 5:17. He spoke of how union with Christ makes us new beings, and we should have a new outlook on life. We should have a changed presence and be united in a new world.

We must acknowledge God in all things and stand firm on Christ, the Solid Rock. Let go of the old. Always act spiritually and be sure we are in unity with the Spirit. Walk in the light of God's love and He will make

The invitation to Christian discipleship was extended as the choir sang "Jesus is a Way-Maker." The benediction was given.

Michael W. Brown is church re-

Church Aids In Sexism In Community

BUFFALO, N.Y.-Religion and the black community have long been intertwined in this country. With the recent trial and conviction of Mike Tyson, a disturbing aspect of this relationship has become prevalent-that aspect being religiously inspired sexism among black men.

In the recent issue of the AAH Examiner, the official newsletter of African-Americans for Humanism. AAH Executive Director Norm R. Allen, Jr. examines this critical issue in the light of the Mike Tyson and Clarence Thomas incidents.

"According to many blacks," Allen writes, "Tyson's and Thomas' accusers were simply vindictive women who were 'trying to bring a brother down."

As black religious leaders rushed to the defense of Tyson and Thomas, the seriousness of the accusations were ignored. "In the case of Tyson many influential religious leaders hurried to his defense ... and the leader of the National Baptist Convention asked Desiree Washington-the complainantnot to hurt Tyson."

This lack of concern for the rights of women, Allen suggests, stems largely from the religious influence in the black community based on a literal interpretation of the Bible. "Religious fundamentalism and sexism fit together perfectly. And because religion is so influential in the black community, it should not be surprising that black religionists have steadfastly defended black men accused of committing crimes

"The Bible." Allen continues, "is a ghly revered religious text among - religious leaders And the

against black women.



or Thea: Her Own Story," a one-hour de on June 14 on MBC-TV at noon. The program is funded by the Catholic

De Klerk **Pays Visit** To Nigeria

ABUJA, Nigeria (AP)-South Africa's president ended a milestone visit to Nigeria last month with a promise to continue "without delay" the dismantling of white rule in his

Although no major announcements emerged from President F. W. de Klerk's overnight visit, it was a significant step toward ending South Africa's isolation. Nigeria is black Africa's most influential country and has been one of the firmest opponents of apartheid.

"Hopefully, the stage has been set for continued contact and communication and expanded relations," de Klerk said after two hours of talks with Nigeria's president, Gen. Ibrahim Baban-

De Klerk, the first South African leader to visit Nigeria, received an extraordinarily warm welcome.

At a state dinner, Babangida said de Klerk's reforms earned the white leader a place alongside Nelson Mandela and other prominent black opponents of the apartheid system of racial segregation and white domination.

De Klerk promised at African-America farewell news conference those reforms would continue and that an interim government to oversee the transition to democracy would be installed as soon as a plan could be reached with the black

Proposed Medicaid Cuts Would Hurt Blacks Who Need Medical Help Most

BOSTON, Mass. (AP)-Black health emergency, particularly in residents of Massachusetts will be the hardest-hit by the Weld administration's cuts in Medicaid and proposed scrapping of the provides health and community universal health insurance program, according to critics.

The comments came after the state Department of Public Health released a report showing that the state's minority residents are worse off than whites in most medical categories from AIDS to substance abuse and strokes to heart disease.

"This is an administration that eliminated Medicaid for 18- to 21year-olds," said Rob Restuccia, executive director of Health Care for All, a Boston-based consumer advocacy group. "This administration has proposed repeal of universal health care. All of those things will have a disproportionate impact on people of color," Restuccia

Christopher Christian, a former state employee who wrote the health department report, said the state postponed releasing the document and toned down certain passages. He said the delay and editing indicate officials view the situation as less than urgent.

"The department does a terrific job of trying, but is it cutting it?" Christian asked.

"At one point, you have to say, 'No more cuts. We can't work with all the limitations that have been imposed on us federally and

State officials denied changing the report's contents or deferring its release.

They also called minority health issues a continuing priority.

They cited a proposed \$19 million increase in the next fiscal year in community health programs for AIDS, teenage health and family planning.

The money will come from savings from closing state public health hospitals next year.

"I am not asking anyone to put a rosy spin on data that is not rosy," said state Public Health Commissioner David Mulligan. "This is tragic data."

"The situation calls for a declaration of a state of public

Bible is full of sexist teachings. Indeed, the 'fall of man' in the mythical Garden of Eden was blamed on a woman."

When sexism has such deep roots in fundamentalist teachings of black religious leaders, it becomes "extremely difficult to combat," Allen concludes. "As long as religious fundamentalism continues to be a force in the world, women will continue to be victimized by double standards in the name of a supposedly immutable God."

Attend The Church Of Your Choice!

Boston's Roxbury section. areas like Roxbury and Dorchester,"

Mulligan agreed an emergency should be declared. "I'm the one who called for this report to be developed. Clearly there is major work to be done," Mulligan said.

RALEIDOSCOPE

BY RUTH HEINER

said Luis Prado, executive director

of La Alianza Hispana, a group that

services to Latinos and is hased in

"A year in advance a lady sent for tickets to a special Broadway hit as the tickets were hard to get. The night of the show, she was sitting in the theater with an empty seat next to her. A man seated behind her said, Excuse me, lady. Why is that seat next to you empty?" "Well,' she answered, I wrote a year ago for the tickets for my husband and myself, but unfortunately he died.' T'm sorry to hear that, but didn't you have any friends you could give the ticket to? The lady answered, Yes, but they're all at the funeral."

We enjoy a good joke, and laughter is good for us. Laughter sets the world right when things are very serious and tense.

In earlier times when the royalty was the order of the day, the kings and queens had court jesters to give them entertainment and happy jokes to make their life pleasant, and also to ease their problems.

Each year on April 1, we either get tricked or are able to inflict a joke and laugh at the other fellow. An old tradition with a history.

The Hebrew calendar which began with the moment of creation and was used until Julius Caesar changed it to realign the seasons to the calendar, which under his decree placed 445 days in the year 46

The Romans called it the year of confusion. The Julian calendar was 11 minutes and 14 seconds longer than the solar year. By the year 1690 the spring equinox fell on March 11, 10 days early.

Pope Gregory then changed the calendar by dropping 10 days from October for one year, and 26 minutes per year.

Until the adoption of the Gregorian Calendar, New Year's was celebrated in France on March 21 to April 1. Then it was changed to Jan.

Most people changed their calendar to Jan. 1, but some refused to change, and continued to celebrate New Year's Day on April 1. Beacuse they refused to change when change was indicated and accepted by most, those who would not change became known as "April fools"... even until

We can liken ourselves to those dar when the rest of the known physical change.

of a candy wrapper. Supposedly with God."

they had not heard what they were asked to do, but the sound of the opening of goodies can be heard away down in the basement.

Do we hear what we want to hear? Do we refuse to change when the change would make our lives better, and when we can align ourselves with our Maker?

We are living in perilous times then many of the social diseases are a plague in our nation, and yes, even

How kind our Heavenly Father was to give us a plan that would ect us from the evils of sin, and Satan. To every people in every dispensation His laws were given for the growth and protection of those who love and listen to Him. He clearly stated the Ten Commandments which have never been re-

Thou shalt have no other gods before me. Thou shalt not make unto thee any graven image. Thou shalt not take the name of the Lord thy God in vain. Remember the Sabbath Day and keep it holy. Honor thy father and thy mother. Thou shalt not kill. Thou shalt not commit adultery. Thou shalt not steal. Thou shalt not bear false witness. Thou shalt not covet.

As we examine our own lives are we just a little guilty of one or more of these? The statistics around the world show that the social diseases are rampant, and the plague of sexual disease is moving like the plague in ancient Egypt in the time of

Jokes are great fun and we need them in our lives. However, we also need to not play the fool, and fool around with things that the Lord has forbidden. This would be a spiritual change. His Gospel and laws are the same today as they were in each dispensation of time since Adam. God destroyed the wicked in the days of Noah. Are we beginning to ripen for destruction?

The message from the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints is the same, as are the warnings which the Lord has given in us in all the

Let us not be foolish! Accept the warning signs all around us and "Choose ye this day to serve the who would not change their calen- Lord." Let us all make the changes we need to make in our lives. God's world did to the changes we need to promise is that if we repent and make in our own lives. This was a overcome, His atonement would cover those sins, and He would "I'm too old to change," you often plead our cause with God the Fahear. It is much like we see the ther. "Spend 30 minutes with Jesus children when they hear the sound Christ, and you will spend eternity

video of Whitney Houston's Super Phil Fried at the Dilenschneider Bowl XXV rendition of "The Star Group-212-922-0900.

"A STONE OF STUMBLING"

Some thirty years after the death and resurrection of Christ, St. Peter wrote to the believers of the Jewish dispersion:

"Unto you therefore which believe He is precious, but unto them which be disobedient, the Stone which the builders disallowed, the same is made the head of the corner. And a stone of stumbling, and a rock of offence, even to them which stumble at the Word, being disobedient. . " (I Pet. 2:7,8).

It is true that Israel's builders, 1900 years ago, "disallowed" Christ as the cornerstone for their building, and that when He became "the Head of the corner," according to Psalm 118:22, it was for them an occasion for stumbling and embarrassment.

But Christ is "a stone of stumbling" to all who reject Him. In Romans 9:33 St. Paul quotes from several Old Testament passages:

"As it is written, Behold. I lay in Sion a stumblingstone and rock of offence: and whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed.'

In Peter's day and in Paul's, those who looked upon Christ as their Cornerstone were never given cause to be ashamed. It was those who disallowed and refused Him who kept stumbling over Him and were constantly embarrassed by

So today, those who put their trust in the crucified. risen Christ are eternally secure and will never be put to shame for having done so. But those who reject Christ keep forever stumbling over Him. They hear Him preached over the radio, they see Him of-fered as the One who died for their sins, they are constantly confronted with His claims and they are embarrassed. They keep forever

stumbling over Him. Moral: Trust Him now as your personal Savior. for "whosoever believeth on Him shall not be ashamed."