

December 12, 1960

**Roman Catholics Worry
About Public Image**

By W. Barry Garrett

WASHINGTON--(BP)--Roman Catholics are so concerned about "the image of the church, the way the Catholic Church appears to the general public," that they are being advised to do something about it the next four years and beyond.

In an article on "Lessons from the Election" in Our Sunday Visitor, National Catholic Action weekly, Donald J. Thorman said, "More than one American Catholic was jolted out of his complacency during the past few months. Somehow since 1928 many of us have gotten the idea that our non-Catholic neighbors all see the church as we do--a spiritual organization concerned with the salvation of souls and not a political power group seeking dominance over the government of the United States."

One of the lessons from the campaign, bemoaned the article, is the fact that the Roman Catholic Church has "failed to project the true image of the Church to a large segment of our fellow Americans." A large part of the blame, according to Thorman, lies at the feet of Catholic laymen who have not interpreted their church to their neighbors as they should and who have failed to understand what they have been told by the Pope and their bishops.

Analysing the situation further, the article said that the reason the Catholic laymen are not projecting the true image of their Church to the public is that "most Catholics simply do not know what the Church is. . . . The average layman has failed to grasp the total picture of the Church himself; therefore, he cannot project the real image of the Church because he does not have it."

Two major steps to correct the situation for the Catholic laymen are suggested: (1) The Church must impart the true image of the Church to all Catholics, especially those out of school, and (2) The adult Catholic must make use of many sources of information available to him to fill in the empty spots in his knowledge of the Church.

"Our work is cut out for us at least during the next four years--and beyond," the article concluded. "We must first of all learn for ourselves what the Church is. And then we must communicate this image to our non-Catholic friends."

The article in Our Sunday Visitor is only one of several appearing in the post-election Catholic press dealing with the problem of the "Catholic image" in America.

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**Panamanians Appointed
To New York Ministry**

(12-12-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--The Southern Baptist Home Mission Board has appointed missionaries to work with Panamanians in New York City, according to Loyd Corder of Atlanta. Corder is secretary of the board's language groups ministries.

A Central-American couple, David and Eileen Morgan, of Panama, will begin work Jan. 1. The Morgans have served as home missionaries in Cristobal, Canal Zone, for almost seven years.

The congregation in Brooklyn--a borough of New York City--is composed of about 40 Panamanians of West Indian and Jamaican extraction. The group has held fellowship meetings for about a year under the leadership of Basil Hewitt, a Panamanian layman, and a Southern Baptist chaplain in the area, Corder said. Using the Y M C A for services, the Brooklyn chapel is sponsored by Manhattan Baptist Church of New York City.

"It is expected that the congregation will develop to full self-support within a period of three years," said Corder.

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Morgan, born in Corn Island, Nicaragua, is a graduate of both Calabar College and Theological Seminary. He served as pastor at Corn Island, in Jamaica, and of Bethany Baptist Church at Rainbow City, Cristobal.

Mrs. Morgan was born in Kingston, Jamaica, of British descent. A graduate of Bethlehem Teachers' College, she attended Hunter College in New York. She taught school in Jamaica for 15 years.

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Baptists Using \$10,000
For Miami Latin Relief

(12-12-60)

ATLANTA--(BP)--Needy Latin-Americans in Miami, fleeing turbulent conditions at home, will receive \$10,000 in relief from the Southern Baptist Home Mission Board.

"More than 300 Latin-Americans reach Miami each week," said Courts Redford of Atlanta, executive secretary of the mission board. "The Spanish population in Miami has jumped from 60,000 five years ago to 135,000 today.

"Our missionaries report that doctors, lawyers, and trained technicians would be happy to find a job washing dishes or mopping floors, but most of these people do not speak English, and even under normal circumstances would have difficulty in finding work."

Central Baptist Church of Miami has offered a building, and most of the \$10,000 will go directly into food and supplies. Some of the money will be used to pick up donated supplies and pay for their distribution.

"Spanish pastors and members are helping to meet the need," according to Milton Leach, Jr., missionary to the Spanish-speaking in Miami. "One family reported they were caring for 12 refugees."

"I know of one apartment house that has 50 people in it and none has work. Another has 26 people, and only three are working," he said.

The funds will be administered by the Miami Baptist Association of which J. Ray Dobbins is superintendent.

Redford emphasized that this was not a permanent relief or mission center. He said that if necessary additional workers would be transferred to Miami for the emergency.

Other relief has been furnished by Methodists, Catholics, and government agencies, according to Leach.

The missionary expects these results from the funds: 1) To help many of the needy, 2) To win many as Christians, and 3) To establish good-will with them that will help mission causes in their respective countries.

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Colorado Considering
New Denver Location

(12-12-60)

DENVER, Colo--(BP)--Leaders of the Colorado Baptist General Convention plan to move their state offices in about a year.

The executive board of the convention voted here to seek "adequate property" and favored a site in a large shopping center in the southeast part of Denver. The center is about two miles from the present offices.

The present staff offices are housed in a residence next door to Virginia Park Baptist Church. The church needs to buy or lease the residence to take care of its growing membership. It will need the building in about a year.

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No decision has been made about the cost of the new building, but convention leaders tentatively spoke of a four-story one.

The executive board voted to issue another \$1 million in bonds. These will help its affiliated churches in Colorado, the Dakotas, western Nebraska, Montana, and Wyoming to expand and to improve their plants.

The board endorsed an invitation by Baptists of Denver for the Southern Baptist Convention to meet in Denver in 1966. Local church leaders feel they have the motel and hotel space, and the auditorium seating, required by the S B C.

The Southern Baptist Convention has never met in Denver. Seattle, Wash., also has invited the S B C for the 1966 meeting.

Colorado board made a slight downward revision in the new state Baptist budget, from \$397,000 to \$390,000.